

DONCASTER GOLF CLUB

125 YEARS

1894 – 2019



**For all the Members of Doncaster Golf Club
Past, Present and Future**



***The Club Captain, Allan Beaumont, Drives In Year 125
with Lady Captain Carole O'Neill watching on.***

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FOREWORD

It scarcely seems credible that 25 years have elapsed since we were celebrating the Centenary of Doncaster Golf Club. Since 1994 many new members have joined us, but many stalwarts still remain. The Yorkshire Golf Union was formed in the same year.

So what is the purpose of publishing this booklet? Well, at the beginning of Centenary Year the club published a book which I had researched and prepared over a three year period prior to that time. Many of the existing membership featured in it and many could remember some of the earlier members who had long since departed. The club proved to have had an eventful history which, to my mind, was well worth recording as a tribute to those who have contributed to it. It may sound trite, but we are not where we are today without the efforts of those who have gone before.

The history of the club was followed by a booklet which recorded the events which took place during the Centenary Year.

Subsequently, all the copies of these two publications have been distributed. Direct reprints are not possible because printing methods have changed radically over the intervening years. The original work was accomplished by cutting and pasting the typewritten text and photocopied pictures into position and leaving the publisher to produce it. Now I can type this digitally in whatever format I please, straight into a computer. However, should you wish to read the originals, there are copies in the local authority archives.

On Easter Monday, 1909, the first nine holes at this our third and final location were opened for play. The members who took part in the first competition held on that day are now long gone. We should recognise the significance of this because we are the beneficiaries of the foresight, energy and dedication of those founder members who made the decision to move from Town Moor to our present location.

In the following pages I have undertaken to summarise the significant milestones in the history of the club and record subsequent events over the last 25 years.

In conclusion, may I say that it is a privilege to be a member of a club which has such a long history. One can only hope that the problems which beset the club in the past are never repeated. But we can take heart from the faith and commitment shown by those who have gone before. We, the present members, are part of a continuum, a fellowship of golfers.

David Horncastle

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

1894

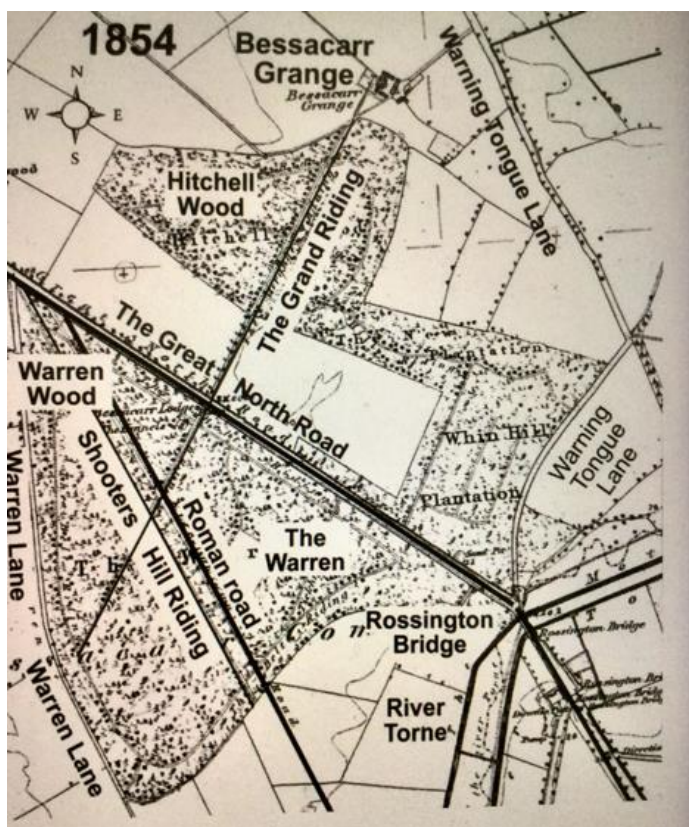
Doncaster Golf Club was formed and for a few months played on Cockill's Park, Greenhouse Estate off Armthorpe Road (now known as Wheatley Hills) opposite what is now Doncaster Royal Infirmary. The Club is one of many that were formed during the rapid growth of interest in the game which took place during the latter part of Queen Victoria's reign.

1895

The club moved onto Town Moor. Under the captaincy of H Cockill, nine holes are laid out on what proves to be a very public location.

1897

The Hon Rupert Beckett became President. He was member of the family which privately owned the Leeds based Beckett's Bank, which was eventually to become the Westminster Bank. The National Westminster Bank (formed after a subsequent amalgamation with the National Provincial Bank) still occupies the same premises on High Street, Doncaster. He remained in this office until 1918. In Centenary Year the Bank presented the club with a copy of his portrait which now hangs in the Committee Room.



1907

Doncaster Golf Company formed and shares issued to enable the Club to move onto its present site.

Known as 'The Warren'; the course is laid out on heathland rented from the Jarratt Estate.

Historically, it is interesting to note that heathland was created from woodland by the felling of trees in times past for timber and fuel. Subsequently the owner could utilise it for grazing deer and the breeding of rabbits. Rabbits were introduced to this country by the Romans but were not established in the wild until the end of the 12th century. The soil is acidic and naturally supports the growth of the heather species (*calluna vulgaris*), gorse and various indigenous tree species such as silver birch, scots pine and scrub

oak. However other species may intrude and hence the need to continually manage the heath for whatever purpose it is to be put. Heathland is *per se*, a man-made environment. It was certainly not a desolate place of no particular use. This map shows the line of the Roman road which ran across the whole length of what is now the golf course. This, together with the presence of rabbits, would seem to indicate that the site was not developed in any other way than a heathland in ancient times until its use as a golf course became apparent.

The first Annual Dinner was held at the luncheon room in the Grandstand at the Racecourse.

1908

Membership now stands at 100 Gentlemen and 60 ladies.

The Ladies Section becomes affiliated to the LGU.

1909

Easter Monday – the first nine holes opened for play at the new links.

The first Air Display in the country took place on the Race Common.

1910

The Hon Rupert Becket was elected President of the Yorkshire Union (which was also founded in 1894).

Members were currently able to play nine holes on both locations, but the decision was made to offer the course on the Race Common to the Doncaster Corporation to run as municipal links. When the Corporation turned this down in 1911, those members wishing to remain on the site closer to Doncaster formed Doncaster Town Moor Golf Club. The club decided to proceed with the building of a club house on the new site.

Designed by Morris Thompson ARIBA of Printing Office Street in the style of pavilions used by sports clubs the length and breadth of the country, it was built by Messrs Harold Arnold for £449 and furnished for £50. Finance was provided by the forming of a company and the issue of shares to members only.



The original club house painted by former member Lyn Crawford

1911

The Bessacarr Halt was built on the Lincoln line, to enable members to travel to the course by train from Doncaster. This was used until 1924 when the development of Rossington Colliery led to a bus service being provided along the Great North Road (now the A638).

1912

Suffragettes thought to be responsible for damage on the course. Ladies did not get equal rights at the Club until 2000.

1913

Dr Alistair Mackenzie inspected the course and made a report which has recently come to light in its entirety (see Appendix).

First Annual Ball held at the Mansion House.

Wheatley Park Golf Club formed and, until 1930, played on land now occupied by the Wheatley Park Estate.

1914

The full 18 holes are now in play.

1914-18

The Great War. All members who fought for King and Country were made Honorary Members for the duration. Unfortunately we do not have any records for this.

1919

Edward Ray and Abe Mitchell visited the club to play exhibition matches with prominent members and Club Professionals James Scarth (Doncaster) and J. W. Fotheringham (Wheatley Park). This event is commemorated on a photograph currently on display in the Committee Room.

1920

N W (Dicky) Dunn joined the club. The son of Willie Dunn, the winner of the first American Open (played as match play) in 1894, Dicky enjoyed a distinguished amateur career, becoming a regular member of the Yorkshire County team and in 1928 represented England in a match against Ireland in Dublin.

The 1920s were the heyday of the railway engineers at the Doncaster Plant Works and the club included as active members such eminent men as Sir Nigel Gresley who designed Flying Scotsman, O V Bulleid, A H Peppercorn and E Thompson among its members.

1926

Robin Hood became the Club Professional

1930

For tax reasons, the club changed its status from a Company to that of Unincorporated Association. ***Note that this is the reason why the AGMs are counted from this year rather than 1894.***

1935

The 3 guineas entry fee was abolished on account of the Depression. The economic situation made it difficult for many people to remain members, some of whom resigned temporarily and subsequently rejoined.

The first competition for veterans took place and 40 gentlemen over the age of 50 took part.

1938

Maurice Birkett came from Town Moor to become assistant to Robin Hood. Duncan Macphee (senior) was employed by the club from Lochgilphead Golf Club in Scotland to take over the role of Head Greenkeeper.

The course suffered from a drought so severe that it was closed for 4 days every week.

1939-45

Second World War.

Robin Hood, Maurice Birkett and Duncan Macphee were called up for military service. The club was fortunate in respect that the land was deemed unfit to grow crops thus enabling golf to be played throughout the war.

Membership of the club was opened to the Officers Mess at nearby RAF Finningley (now the Robin Hood Airport).

1945

Robert Kinnear retired after 37 years on the committee.
Entry fee reinstated. The subscription was now 5 guineas.

1948

Maurice Birkett left to become professional at Leamington Spa. He returned in 1950 as 'playing professional' ie to play tournaments, and became Club Professional in 1954 when Robin Hood died.

1954

A postal match with Doncaster Golf Club, Australia inaugurated. This aroused a good deal of interest and on the 18 June an article about this appeared in the Yorkshire Evening Post.

1957 First Invitation Day, supported by 40 members and their guests.

1958

Mrs McFarlane White became the first lady to be made an Honorary Member. She had looked after the juniors for 20 years.

1959

A severe drought led to a fire on the course which destroyed 10 acres.

1962

A sliding scale of subscription was introduced to accommodate young people up to the age of 25. This was to allow for the increasing number of youngsters studying for higher qualifications.

The Club's lease on the course was due to terminate in 1980 and a Sinking Fund of £350 per annum was established to provide for the future.

1963

Maurice Birkett qualified for the Open.

Club hosted the first Yorkshire County match v Derbyshire.

1966

The course was purchased for £17,000. This was made possible because the estate of the late Miss Jarratt of Elmfield House owed £90,000 in death duties. The purchase was assisted by the generosity of Mrs E Woodhouse of Manor House, Hexthorpe. A member of the club for 50 years, Mrs Woodhouse loaned the club £12000 at 6½% free of repayment for 5 years.

These fortuitous events appeared to remove all worries about the future of the club – but this was short-lived, for in this year, the first intimation of a threat from the M18 was received.

The subscription rose from 14 guineas to £21.

The premature death of John Hann-Smith, aged 27. An optician by profession and single figure handicap golfer, the club was left £1000 from his estate and this generous bequest was used to help refurnish the club house.

Hollywood Star Bing Crosby played the course on a visit to Doncaster during Race Week.

The Danum Cup (an annual match between Wheatley, Doncaster Town Moor and ourselves) inaugurated.

1968

Yorkshire Ladies Championship held at the club – won by 16 year old Kathy Phillips (Bradford G C).

1970

It was announced that the line of the M18 will pass through Potteric Carr (designated a Nature Reserve in 1968) and will follow the Dinnington to Kirk Sandal branch railway line via Cantley Bridge. This was a very unpopular proposal and ran into much opposition from local residents.

1971

Decimalization

1972

A Public Enquiry endorsed the proposed line of the M18.

1973

In an extraordinary *volte face*, the Road Construction Unit announced that the Warren route, ie through Doncaster Golf Club, was now the preferred line for the M18! The club decided to accept compensation rather than fight the proposal. Changes to the layout result in a radical reconstruction of what was considered by golf course architects, Hawtree & Son, to be ‘a gem of a course’.

1975

Duncan Macphee appointed Clerk of Works to develop holes on the newly acquired land which replaced that lost to the M18.

Mrs F Walters relinquished the post of Ladies Treasurer after 30 years.

1976

Construction of the new holes on the back nine continued through the hottest summer in living memory. There was no automatic watering system. The greens were watered during the day using movable sprinklers, the fairways were burned to a crisp.

1977

Junior Danum Cup inaugurated.

1978

Duncan Macphee retired after 40 years of service.

The M18 Motorway finally completed.

A Public Enquiry retained the existing line of the footpath across the back nine instead of rerouting it round the course.

Club member Frank Wilson sponsored a Pro-Am to open the new layout.

This prestigious event was supported by the professional tour and was won by Howard Clark with a 66. Nick Faldo carded a 72.

Later in the year, Haydn Green set an amateur course record of 66.

1979

Haydn Green won the SUGC Stroke play Championship and played for England v Scotland.

Chris Bassett (aged 15) won the Crookhill Future Masters Tournament

1980

Duncan Macphee (senior) died, ending his association of 42 years with the club continued by his sons Malcolm and Duncan, grandson Stuart and great grandson Rhys.

Ladies Darley Trophy inaugurated and competed for by ourselves, Wheatley and Town Moor.

1982

Compensation is finally paid and the club's accounts were at last clear of M18 considerations.

Haydn Green turned professional.

1983

The idea of replacing the ageing clubhouse is now under active consideration. An application to the council to sell the land bordering the 1st Hole alongside the A638 was rejected and Mr C E Buck's plan to build around the existing wooden structure was not taken up.

Chris Bassett was awarded the George Henriques Trophy for the best performance by a golfer under 21 in the English Amateur Championship. Representative golf took him from schoolboy to England Youths and the Yorkshire County First Team before he became Club Professional at Wath Golf Club.

1984

Death of Mrs R C Davies. Known to everyone as 'Con', Mrs Davies had joined the club in 1935. She became Assistant Secretary of the Ladies Section in 1940 and Secretary in 1946. She retained this position for the next 38 years during which time she advanced through the ranks of County and Regional golf to become Chairman of the LGU (the highest office in ladies golf) in 1972.

The Yorkshire Ladies Championship was held for the second time at the club and was won by Alison Nicholas.

First Summer Ball held; also the first New Year's Eve Party.

1985

102 acres of farmland adjacent to the course purchased.

1987

Maurice Birkett retired and was succeeded by Steve Fox.

3000 new trees planted.

1988

A proposal to build 3 new holes on the recently acquired land on the right of the 12th fairway was rejected by the membership.

The Hon Secretary and Treasurer were relocated to a Portacabin beside the first tee. A computer system was introduced to assist the management of the club. Competition results were computerised – initially, the Competition sub committee took on the mammoth task of manually entering every card!

1990

Steve Fox moved to Wheatley Golf Club and Graham Bailey (Town Moor Golf Club), became Club Professional.

This year a unique match was played between the Club and a combined RAF and US Air Force Tactical Air Command team. Organised by Mike Cummins 68 played and the match ended in a draw! The visitor's captain was Air Chief Marshal Paddy Hine who had won the Brabazon Trophy (now the English Amateur Stroke play Championship) at the age of 16. He was to command the British Forces in the Gulf War. The club's connection with RAF ceased in 1996 when RAF Finningley (opened in 1915) closed

1992

A 3 year drought ended. The need for a better watering system was evident. A new club house was built. New members should note that the putting green in front of the places in the car park, currently reserved for the committee, now occupies the site of the wooden pavilion which had been there for 82 years. An account of how the finance for the Club House Development Project was arranged follows later under the heading 'Administration'.

1993

The old outbuildings in the middle of the car park were removed.

Mens sub: £517.14

Ladies sub: £282.90

Publication of the Centenary Book

1994

CENTENARY YEAR

Under the captaincy of Bob Smith, many celebratory events were held including a Men's Dinner which was attended by the President of the Yorkshire Union and representatives of local clubs along with Alwoodley Golf Club (with whom we had a connection through the Hon Rupert Becket and Dr Alistair Mackenzie), a Mixed Dinner, a Garden Party and a Ball at the Mansion House. The RAF membership celebrated the occasion by organising a flypast by the Red Arrows Formation Team which took place on 24th June. The events of the year were celebrated in a special Centenary Souvenir.

Automatic sprinklers were installed on the greens (which meant they could be watered overnight). Discussions were held regarding the possibility of the club being allowed to extract water from the Mother Drain (note that the water purity from the sewage station is treated to a sufficiently high quality to fill the lagoons on Potteric Carr Nature Reserve).

The old Gamekeeper's Lodge was renovated; this was a self-financing project inasmuch as its use was changed from a private house to an office first rented by the LHL Group, whose Managing Director was member, Ken Hawley. During the renovation, a 1912 Fixture Card was discovered lodged behind a mantelpiece.

The club won the Danum Cup.

Graeme Clark (then aged 17) won the Sheffield District Amateur Championship.

The following year, a Centenary Supplement to the formal history of the club was published celebrating all the events which took place in the year.

RECENT HISTORY

This is chronicled in the minutes of the club and in the minds of many of the members who were closely involved with them. However, I hope it will be of some interest to new members and certainly to subsequent archivists if I give a summary of the important events of the last 25 years. I have done this purely on a factual basis – it is for future generations to form judgments. For the sake of continuity, I have opted to do this under relevant subject headings.

THE COURSE

That the layout and presentation of the course is a prerequisite for a successful golf club is an axiom with which no one can disagree. It has already been pointed out that our course was originally laid out on heathland. It was first visited by the well-known course architect Dr Alistair Mackenzie in 1911 and again in 1913 when he wrote a very illuminating report which emphasised that *‘Rossington (sic) has more the character of the real seaside Links among the sand dunes than any inland course I am acquainted with. The Links are even sandier than Ganton, the sand extends 20 feet deep in places, and the course is the only one I know, where it has been necessary to put up wattles to prevent the sand from blowing.’* He goes on to say that, *‘the land suffers from the same disadvantage common among the sandiest of seaside links, namely that in places there is a certain amount of difficulty in getting sufficient amount of turf on it....’* Subsequent photographs showing the construction of the bridge over the M18 confirmed the depth of the sand layer.

Messrs James Carter’s (later known as Carter’s Seeds) report of 1912 comments on *‘the barrenness of the soil and thin, patchy growth of the turf as a whole’*.

And therein lies the problem. Over the years, droughts of varying severity have occurred culminating in the 3 year drought which concluded in early 1990’s. These have played havoc with the fairways, although complete recovery always followed when it rained again.

Changes were afoot. When Tony Jacklin won the Open in 1969, there was an explosion of interest in the game. New courses were constructed and existing courses were modified to imitate the American system of heavily watered greens, manicured fairways and graded rough. The use of pop up sprinklers became widespread. As playing pressure increased, all clubs became aware of the financial benefit to be gained from running open days, corporate days and society outings. There was a demand for courses which were marketable as suitable for these needs as well as the expectation of the membership.

The clamour for a completely American style comprehensive watering system embracing both greens and fairways became louder after the three year drought from 1988 to 1991 concluded with the possibility of having to reseed several apparently ruined fairways. This extreme measure was never implemented and, as has already been pointed out, when rainfall resumed the course made an excellent recovery.

The first green, which used to be flat, suffered problems with the incursion of root growth from the surrounding trees and in 1993, the decision was made to reconstruct it in its present elevated form.

An automated sprinkler system to water the greens (introduced in 1994) was followed by the decision to extend it to tees and fairways in 1996 when Kevin Kelsall arrived as Head Greenkeeper. However, although it falls free from the sky, water is expensive to distribute and the club has been fortunate to be allowed to take it free from the Mother Drain in the winter months and ultimately (in 2005) store enough in reservoir ponds near the 12th hole in order to water the course during a full summer of drought. In effect, we are allowed to take what is not needed by the Potteric Carr Nature Reserve and would otherwise drain to the River Idle and on to the Trent. The final project to construct the facility was funded by a bank overdraft and was completed in 1997.

Year 2002 saw the building of the bridge, sponsored by Year 2000 Captain, Arthur Tighe, over the ditch by the left hand side of the 12th green.

The summer of 2004 was so wet that unprecedented course closures took place on several days in July and August disrupting open and club golf competitions. The former bunker in the centre of the 9th fairway was reinstated. A compressed air shoe cleaner was installed outside the professional's shop and proved its worth in terms of keeping the patio and changing rooms clean and tidy. Sponsored yardage markers were introduced on each hole along with additional ball washers and litter bins. Prior to this, sponsored advertising had never been allowed.

The introduction of a fully computerised system of control of the watering system was completed in 2005. An extension to the storage pond and the construction of an additional water feature beside the 12th green reduced the stroke index of this par 5 from 14 to 6 on the men's card.

For some years now, the issue of Climate Change has led to much discussion about its long term effect. During a very hot July in 2006, the watering system proved its worth, but the next two summers ie 2007 and 2008 were very wet indeed, giving rise to the speculation that, in future, more extremes of weather may be anticipated and this has indeed proved to be the case.

The year 2006 saw the introduction of different coloured flags on the greens to indicate the hole position.

The overall effect of the aforementioned irrigation policies resulted in the gradual change in the nature of the course from the original heathland (as so graphically described in Alistair Mackenzie's report) to parkland. This was notable in the reduction of wispy rough, loss of heather and the appearance of non-indigenous trees. Remnants of heather and gorse remained here and there but by and large the transformation was now complete.

New sheds for the greens staff were erected in 2001. A toilet block was added onto the halfway house in 2003.

Practice nets were introduced in 2003 beside the putting green beyond the professional's shop. The 18th hole was lengthened by some 15 yards by the construction of a new medal tee.

In 1988 we recorded the construction of a green alongside the existing 16th tee, designated 15b. This was in consideration of a proposal to lengthen the 15th to add a par 5 to the card. However, this project did not meet with members' approval and for many years the green was used to provide a short hole to replace the 6th in winter. Green 15b has now been abandoned in favour of

the provision, in 2003, of a practice hole in the copse between the 10th tee and 18th fairway which serves the same purpose.

Over the years, a major concern has been the state of the bunkers. Because of the sandy nature of the soil, rabbits abound and their continual burrowing into the faces of the bunkers is very destructive. Heavy rain pounds the sand flat and flooding frequently occurs. The onset of disease has made rabbit meat unattractive. A major proposal was made in 2003 to address these problems by engaging a contractor with a project to reconstruct all the bunkers during the winter months. This was turned down by the membership at an EGM in favour of allowing the greens staff to do the work as part of ongoing winter schedules.

Early in 2007 many trees were destroyed in a severe storm which swept across the course and some 50 to 60 tractor loads of debris had to be removed.

In 2008, the landmark oak tree on the immediate left of the 1st fairway came to the end of its life. Our late professional, Maurice Birkett had given many of his lessons in the vicinity of the original tree and his ashes were spread beneath it when he died in 2004. A copse was planted to the left of the 14th green in memory of the late committee member, Ian Dickinson.

In 2011 artificial paths were laid down from Nos 1 and 10. This followed on from the construction of the highly satisfactory path along the left hand side of the 11th tee.

The decision was made to employ Jonathan Gaunt of Gaunt Golf Course Designs to advise on course and practice improvements and utilisation of the spare land. The remit was to restore the environment from parkland to heathland. This would entail the removal of non-indigenous trees such as Leylandii (some of which had grown to giant proportions) the growth of wispy grass in the rough, and the regeneration of heather of which only remnants remained. The bunkers were to be lined with blinders and reshaped.

Head Greenkeeper Kevin Kelsall left the club and his work was covered by deputy Billy Cooke until Roger Myatt arrived to take over on the 7th September. Greens Chairman Arthur Tighe reported that he had been selected from 80 applicants and had extensive knowledge of managing heathland courses. Since his arrival, Roger has worked steadily year by year to implement the plan to improve the bunkers and restore the course to its original heathland character.



2nd Hole 2011

ENVIRONMENT

The land occupied by the club, although separated from Potteric Carr by the railway and Mother Drain can be considered to be complementary to it. From the development aspect, in 1995 representatives from the DMBC informed the club that our site is officially classed as green belt land.

Apart from extensive tree planting in the recent past, the club has within its boundary woodland which is classified as Ancient Woodland. (ie trees present since 1600). This is in fact half the area of this habitat in Doncaster. A sub committee, known as the 'Woodland Group' was formed and was to work with DMBC to produce a management plan.

Along with stoats in pursuit of the ubiquitous rabbits, and the ever present grey squirrels, wildlife abounds on the land owned by the club. In recent years, members have been delighted by the spectacle of roe deer bounding across the course. Bird life is extensive, most common birds being seen and heard. Spring is greeted by the persistent call of the Chiffchaff followed by the plaintive diminuendo of the Willow Warbler singing alongside the 12th, where the increasingly rare Yellow Hammer is still to be heard in summer. Whitethroats add their accompaniment and the Green Woodpecker (or Yaffle) is often to be heard expressing its harsh disapproval just as you are about to play a shot. A Nuthatch may be heard in the woods and Pied Wagtails nested in the ivy round the pillars of the club house before it was removed. We have always had a small population of Pheasants and a covey of Red-legged Partridge has been seen.

In 2006, a proposal, eventually to be known as the Finningley and Rossington Regeneration Route Scheme (FARRRS), was made to link the M18 with the Robin Hood Airport by constructing a road which would pass across land owned by the club and not currently used for golf. A Land Issues sub committee, under the chairmanship of the late Ian Dickinson, was set up to deal with all aspects relating to land owned by the club including possible compulsory purchase for the FARRRS project. The land required for FARRRS had originally been purchased with intention of developing a further nine holes to give us a 27 hole complex but this plan had been put on hold when the building of a new Clubhouse was prioritised. The course development was to take place after all repayment of loans received from members to construct the new Clubhouse had been paid. However, once the decision was made to go ahead with the FARRRS project, the course development project was no longer possible, and after much patient negotiation over several years, an agreement was finally reached and the road, officially known as 'The Great Yorkshire Way' was opened in 2016. The compensation since received has placed the club in a sound financial position and is enabling all the currently desired improvements to the course and clubhouse to be made.

The opening of the new road has placed the club at the heart of the development south of Doncaster. At the time of writing, The Yorkshire Wildlife Park is preparing to spend £50 million on its development. There is no further news regarding the R & A's proposal to build a golfing complex based on Rossington Hall.

ADMINISTRATION

After much deliberation, the new club house, which was built in 1992, marked the passing of the club into the modern era. The Club House Development Project, under the management of Messrs W Miller and D B Booth, was initially financed by personal interest free loans from the members, the National Westminster Bank and the Mansfield Brewery. The new building was designed by Husband & Co and built by Clayfield Construction.

In view of the nature of the present historically record low interest rates, it is worth noting that the initial bank loan was on a fixed interest of 12.25% to mature in 2012. However, over the years, this rate was renegotiated on three occasions as the financial situation changed.

A financial complication akin to a nightmare was to arise over the members' loans. At this time, subscriptions were liable to VAT. Customs and Excise insisted that VAT on notional interest on member's loans must be paid. Their justification for this was that if members had simply paid a subscription increase rather than a loan, then VAT would have been paid on it. In short, neither putting the money in as a loan nor even donating the money was going to be a way of avoiding VAT. However, in 1994, the government finally conceded that it had been wrong to claim VAT on members' subscriptions to sports clubs. A claim was put in for a refund and the decision was made to return all the amount received proportionately to the members.

Incoming members were required to pay the original club house loan but in 1996 an option was given to pay a levy in lieu. All members were entitled to repayment of their loan on leaving the club.

The members' interest free loans were originally scheduled for repayment in 1999, but at an EGM in 1996 it was decided that, because of serious concerns over interest charges on the corporate loans, the repayment to members would be deferred and reviewed no later than 2004.

The car park was surfaced in 1998. The cost was partly financed by an increase in the interest free Brewery Loan. CCTV was installed and improved security measures were taken to protect the halfway house.

Issues over the introduction of the Minimum Wage had to be taken on board in 1999.

At an EGM in October 1999, the post of Hon Treasurer was abolished and the position of Chairman of Finance was created. The Hon Secretary was to take over some of the day to day financial controls. The Chairman of Finance was to be an Officer of the club.

Swipe Cards were introduced in 2003. This had the dual purpose of improving club house security and enabled members to receive a discount over the bar.

In 2004, a dedicated Loan Repayment Scheme was formulated. It was to mature on or before 2012 by which time all relevant members should have been repaid. All joining fees and all levies would continue to be credited to the scheme. To implement this equitably, a levy was set for all new members who had not advanced a loan to the club and also to those who wanted their loan to be repaid immediately.

David Green retired as Chairman of Finance in 2006 and was replaced by Past Captain Barrie Booth. David had been in charge of the Club's finances since 1993 apart from a two year break in 1997-98 when he was vice-Captain & Captain. Barrie had been involved with the Clubhouse Development Project in the early nineties.

In December 2008, it was decided to take a loan from the bank to repay all outstanding members' loans and to pay the interest using new members' entry fees. This repayment has been made and ensured that every member was now on an equal footing in respect of this issue.

2009 was a seminal year inasmuch as at a Special General Meeting the decision was made to make fundamental changes in the administration of the club. A sub-committee had been set up to look at this in 2008. Since 1930, the Captain had shouldered the dual responsibility of chairing the committee meetings and representing the club. It was thought that the development of the club since the new clubhouse had placed too much responsibility on the Captain and that the workload could be spread by appointing a Chairman. In future the Committee would consist of the Captain, Vice-Captain, Chairman, Chairman of Administration (formerly the Hon Secretary) and the Chairman of Finance as the Officers along with the respective Chairmen of Golf, House & Social, Greens and Membership.

The Committee was thus slimmed down to 9 from the previous 16. Each Chairman would be elected for an initial 3 year term followed by one more before standing down from the committee. They can be opposed at any stage (at the 2018 AGM, for continuity, it was resolved that the holders of the posts of Chairman of Administration and Finance could continue beyond 6 years, if they so wished). The other major change was that each chairman had the authority to choose their own sub-committee from a cross-section of the membership to assist them. One of the committee's tasks is to produce a forward plan every three years. As in the past, four Trustees were to be appointed to be responsible for the property and cash assets held by the club. Trustees can serve for ten years.

Under the previous form of management the final list since 1994 is shown as follows.

Hon Secretary:

1993 A E Shaw; 1994 R Collingwood; 1995 T M Cummins; 1996 – 98 R J Perkins; 1999-2002 D R Barton; 2003-2005 G J Needham; 2006 R H. Black; 2007 P R Linter; 2008 – 2009 D E James

Hon Treasurer:

1993 – 1997 D A Green; 1998 – 1999 D Thompson.

Chairman of Finance:

2000 – 2006 D A Green; 2007 D B Booth

The first Committee to serve in the new format in 2010 was:

Officers

Captain: I T Machin

Vice-Captain: A W Leach

Chairman: K E Hawley

Chairman of Administration: M R Macphee

Chairman of Finance: D B Booth

Committee

Chair of Golf: Mrs J McGarvie

Chairman of Greens: C A Tighe

Chairman of House & Social: G J Needham

Chairman of Membership: J Whiteley

Subsequently holders of office have been:

Chairman: 2017 D R Cunliffe; 2018 – J Whiteley

Chairman of Administration: 2010 – 2011 M Macphee; 2012 D James/G J Needham; 2013 I T Machin; 2014 – D S Macphee

Chairman of Finance: 2010 – 2016 D B Booth; 2017 – G Garton

NEW TROPHIES

Former Captain and Treasurer, G Halstead presented the Halstead Stableford Challenge Trophy in 1995.

In 1998, Austin Finegan donated a trophy for Golfer of the Year. The Graeme Clark Trophy was donated by Graeme in 2001. This is awarded to the player who achieves the lowest gross score in the final round of the Hann Smith Salver. Needham's Stableford Cup was donated by Graham Needham, during his captaincy in 2006. In 2011 a trophy in memory of the late Ray Markham was awarded to the winners of an annual match between Captain's v vice-Captain's teams. Annie's Salver donated by Annie Morris, daughter of Rick, currently Chairman of Greens, in 2017 is competed for annually in a 4 ball match between the Captain's and Junior's teams. The funds raised from this are to be spent on the course.

In the Ladies Section, the Rosemary Wagstaff Trophy awarded to the winner of the past captain's competition was presented in her memory by husband John in 2001. Rosemary was Lady Captain in 1983. The Phyllis Waddington Trophy was donated in her memory by her daughter in 2005. In 2008 the Anniversary Waltz Trophy was donated by retiring members of the committee, Mrs C Ellis, Mrs T A Whiteley and Mrs J Straw to commemorate 100 years of affiliation of the section to the LGU.

The Harold Graham Mixed Trophy was donated in his memory in 2006 by his wife, Joan.

The Julie Horncastle Trophy was presented in 2012 for matchplay between ladies whose handicaps are between 30 and 36 (now 54).

HONORARY MEMBERS

Since 1993, the following have been granted the status of Honorary Member:

1996 Mrs J Bell

2000 G A Clark

2001 Mrs D J Page

2008 R W Smith

R. W. 'Bob' Smith, who was Captain for Centenary Year, served on the committee for 19 years during which time he made a major contribution in running domestic competitions, membership recruitment and the annual charity fund-raising event.



Bob Smith (Captain)) with Graeme Clark at the Charity Presentation Evening in 1994.

In 1995 former Captain, Hon Secretary and Greens Chairman, T. M. (Mike) Cummins became President of the Sheffield Union. A competent single figure golfer, Mike represented the club in the Danum Cup and in Sheffield Union matches and for many years undertook the management of these teams. He was also very involved in the running of domestic competitions. Mike was first elected onto the committee in 1981. Although in retirement since 2005, he continued to run the Bridge Club for several years.

In 1995, the past Captains' photographs were reorganised and presented in the Mixed Lounge on boards constructed by past captain Bill Miller.

Mr and Mrs Bradley took over the organisation of the Bar and Catering services at the club in 1996. When Mrs Bradley retired in January 2017, Mr Gavin Pickering took over her duties as Chef.

In 2007, former Hon Secretary, Graham Needham became Secretary of the Sheffield Union following his Captaincy of the club in 2006.

In Year 2000, government legislation was introduced which made it necessary for the club to introduce equality of membership. Ladies were currently paying 63% of the men's subscription with restrictions on play at weekends. At an EGM held in November, it was decided that the ladies' subscription was to be increased annually over and above the inflation rate by 5% until it reached 90% of the men's. This would allow for certain restrictions on play when there was large entry for a men only competition. Ladies were now able to vote and to stand for the committee. The first lady to do so was Mrs S Leach who was elected in 2002. She was followed by Mrs P Cuschieri. Mrs J McGarvie was elected Chair of Golf under the new constitution in 2010. Mrs P J Leach (Cilla) served as Chair of Membership 2013/14. There has never been more than one lady on the committee and currently none at all.

In 2005 under the supervision of Duncan Hughes, a major refurbishment of the 19th hole was implemented.

In 2007, a professionally designed website was introduced by past Captain and former Chairman of Finance, David Green. This has since been updated in 2010 and 2014 as technology progressed.

On the 1 July, 2007, the government ban on smoking anywhere in the clubhouse was implemented.

Health & Safety issues now had to be taken on board and since 2008 professional advice and assistance has been sought on all aspects of this subject.

In 2011, following a programme of redecoration, new names were allocated to the rooms in the club house. The Mixed Lounge was named after Con Davies, the Gentlemen's Room after former Professional Maurice Birkett and the Ladies Room after former Head Greenkeeper, Duncan Macphee. In 2012 major refurbishment of the locker rooms was undertaken.

A new clock was installed on the club house in 2014.

In 2015, Susan Withington retired after 30 years of service with the club. Tracey Robinson and Christine O'Hara are currently members of staff employed in the administration of the club.

During this period many members have extended their playing lives well into their eighties and nineties. Mrs Maureen Appleyard (Lady Captain 1990), is currently the longest serving playing member, having joined the club in 1949. Her parents were members and her mother, Mrs H. Hunt, was Lady Captain in 1960. John Wagstaff, who joined in 1954 is the longest serving male player. Mrs G Legard and D Claybourn who both joined in 1953 are now non - playing members.

GOLF

Prestigious events held at the club since 1994 have been a Yorkshire County Match v Cheshire in 2005 and the Yorkshire Ladies Championship in May 2006 (for the third time). The latter was won by Rachel Bell of Ganton who defeated Kieron Mathieu in the final. Naomi Edwards also of Ganton created a ladies course record – 67 in a qualifying round. On 2 July 2011, the Club hosted a county match between the girls of Yorkshire and Lancashire. In 2010 the Club hosted the Sheffield Union and Yorkshire Union Team Championships and won the Sheffield Union Centenary Plate.

After success in the Centenary Year, the Club retained the Danum Cup at Town Moor in 1995, but did not win it again until 2003 when the Club Captain Steve Griffiths led his team (Andrew Bradley, Michael Beck, Michael Hempstock, Brian Leach, Simon Fearn, Maurice Savage, Stuart Eland) to victory.

The Club won the Danum Cup again in 2006 (Stuart Livingstone, Steve Griffiths, Paul Elliott, Mark Smith, Craig Atkinson, David Lowther, Peter France & Rick Morris) and retained it in 2007 (James Walker, Steve Griffiths, Paul Elliott, Carlo Ciullo, David Lowther, Bob Rawson, Scott Freeman & Derek Robinson). Success was not to come again for ten years.

Past Captain the late John Glasbey, proved that age is no barrier when, in 2000, at the age of 77, he won the club's Annual Medal which incorporated the EGU Gold Medal. He also won the Super Vets Cup.

Former England International and Doncaster Rovers manager, the late Stan Anderson won the Sheffield Union Veterans title in 2004.

Success in the Sheffield Union League tends to fluctuate with the passage of good young players through the amateur ranks and Graeme Clark kept the ball rolling when he won the Sheffield Union Amateur Championship in 1994 at the age of 17, repeating this performance in 1998. Graeme had joined the club from Austerfield Park at the age of 15 and was selected to play for the Yorkshire Boys team.

Subsequently in 1995 the Club team won the 4th Division of the Sheffield Union, the 3rd Division title in 1997 and the 2nd Division in 1998. Promotion to the 1st Division came in 2001.

In 1998 Graeme Clark played for Yorkshire and in 20 matches at club, district & county level he won all but 2, drawing 1 and halving 1. Graeme & Martin Hayward won the Yorkshire Union Inter-club Foursomes. He went on to represent Yorkshire 49 times. Graeme, partnered with Andrew Bradley won the Sheffield Union Inter-club Foursomes title. Martin Hayward, who was ultimately to make his career as a green keeper, won the Executive Trophy for the lowest score in the Sheffield Union Team Championship. Graeme won the Sheffield Union Amateur Championship for the second time and also Sheffield Union Tee Up Trophy awarded to Golfer of the Year.

The following year (1999) Graeme won the Yorkshire Amateur Championship at Fulford and was invited to join the England squad. He headed the Yorkshire Order of Merit. Andrew Bradley,

son of Steward and Stewardess Ray and Jane Bradley, made his mark winning the Sheffield Union Champion of Champions title.

In 2000, the club won the Sheffield Union Team Championship (Graeme Clark, Andrew Bradley, Michael Beck & David Sandercock) by 15 shots from Hillsborough. Graeme Clark won the Executive Trophy shooting 65/68 round Wheatley. He also represented England in a three man team event in France, finishing runner up in the individual event and helped the team to victory. Graeme reached the semi-final of the Yorkshire Match Play and was joint winner of the Yorkshire Amateur Stroke Play Championship. He won the Yorkshire Order of Merit title and gained selection for the England squad for 2011.

In recognition of his achievements, Graeme was made an Honorary Member in 2000.

Andrew Bradley successfully defended his Sheffield Union Junior Champion of Champions Title.

In 2001 Graeme won his first England cap against Spain. He led the England team as no 1 in the Home Internationals and, partnered by Gary Wolstenholme, won the World Pairs Championship in Venezuela. Graeme also won the Sheffield Union Stroke Play Championship and also led Yorkshire to victory in the Inter-County Championship. Graeme finished the season on +4 handicap and became an established member of the England Elite Squad and went on to represent his country 32 times. Graeme took part in the Home Internationals, played for Great Britain & Ireland v Europe (St Andrew's Trophy) and became a member of the Walker Cup Squad. Andrew Bradley won the Pannal Rose Bowl, became a scratch golfer and a member of the Yorkshire County Squad. He was runner up to Graeme Clarke in the Alvin Trophy and finished 4th in the Yorkshire Order of Merit. Michael Beck lost at the final hurdle in the Sheffield Union Match Play Championship.

In 2002 Graeme & Andrew retained their Yorkshire Inter-Club Foursomes Title for the third time in 5 years.

The only cloud in an otherwise totally blue sky was the club's demotion back to the Sheffield Union 2nd Division. This was undoubtedly due to the unavailability of star players who were otherwise engaged.

In the less heady realms of club golf, Ian Storey won the Page Salver and managed to reduced his handicap by 10 shots during the course of the season.

In 2003, under the leadership of the Club Captain (Steve Griffiths), the club returned to the 1st Division of the Sheffield Union

.



The Sheffield Union Team 2003 – left to right Graeme Clark, Andrew Bradley, Michael Beck, Michael Hempstock

Graeme Clark won the Yorkshire Amateur Championship for the second time. Andrew Bradley won the Sheffield Union Open & Stroke Play Championships and, partnered by Graeme, won the Sheffield Union Foursomes yet again.

Michael Hempstock who had joined the club at the age of 13, won the YUGC under 16 title, played for the Yorkshire U16s against Wales and gained selection for the England Boys team. He was selected to play for the club's Sheffield Union Team at the age of 15.

At the end of the season, after a very successful amateur career, Graeme Clark turned professional and joined the Europro Tour.

The club retained its place in the Sheffield Union 1st Division in 2004. Andrew Bradley became an automatic choice for the Yorkshire County team. Michael Hempstock played for Yorkshire Boys when they won the National Final. He played in the Sheffield Union team and regularly for the club team.

Andrew Bradley continued his amateur career with the County team in 2005 and won the Pannal Rose Bowl. Michael Beck left the amateur ranks to become assistant to Club Professional Graham Bailey. Michael Hempstock entered his last year as a junior golfer.

By 2006 Graeme Clark had become an established member of the Europro Tour. He made a breakthrough as a professional in 2007 by winning the Europro Tour Order of Merit. This enabled him to move on to the Challenge Tour. Andrew Bradley left the amateur ranks and won the Tamsel Tour.

Graeme Clark competed on the Challenge Tour in 2008 but in his own words was 'very much on a learning curve'. There is no doubt, that for many players, the gulf that must be crossed from the amateur to the professional ranks is immense. The tournaments for the Challenge and Europro tours are held in different countries and the expense incurred both in travel and entry fees to take part in them is considerable. Competition is fierce and financial security is only

achieved by a small number of entrants. In consideration of this, Andrew Bradley became assistant professional at Bawtry Golf Club and eventually moved to a post as a teaching professional at a prestigious driving range in London.

In 2012 the Club opened the Monday Stableford to both ladies and gentlemen on a monthly basis. This experiment has since been discontinued in favour of the ladies playing their own competition.

Graham Needham served as President of the Sheffield Union of Golf Clubs in 2013.

The Sheffield Union introduced a new league for handicaps 6 to 18 in 2014. Our team finished mid-table in the first season.

2015 saw a change in the traditional format of the Captain's Drive In ceremony. The Captain, Simon Fearn invited his wife, Judith who was Lady Captain, to join him, along with the Junior Captain Jack Gregory. Simon and Judith were only the second husband and wife team (since Mr & Mrs W Miller in 1984) in the history of the club to be in post simultaneously.

The men's team (underpinned by the juniors!) won the Danum Cup held at Wheatley in 2017 (Mark Nicholson, Nikki George, Daniel Mould, Jacob Causier, Jack Ciullo, Ian Hughes, Simon Causier, Allan Beaumont) and retained it on our course in 2018 at home (Josh Berry, Daniel Mould, Luke Gregory, Declan Stoppard, Simon Causier, Paul Elwis, Graham Dewe, Allan Beaumont). Josh Berry shot the best gross 73.



In August 2018, Declan Stoppard won the England Handicap Golfer of the year at Frilford Heath with a gross 73, 3 under par.

January 2019 saw the introduction of a whole raft of changes to the Rules of Golf, some of which were designed to speed up play. Towards the end of 2018, a series of meetings was organised by the Golf Committee to ensure that the members were prepared for the changes.

THE LADIES SECTION

Nationally the number of ladies joining golf clubs has been declining and our club, although faring better than most has been no exception. Thirty years ago the club had no difficulty in maintaining the maximum allowed number of 125, which in those days, was large compared to many clubs in the area. As mentioned earlier, equality was introduced in year 2000. However through the efforts of the Membership Committee it now stands at 72. This has been assisted by the introduction of Taster Days by Cilla Leach, Wendy Parker and Club Professional Graham Bailey along with much enthusiastic work done by Anna Clish and Jill McGarvie with the Junior Section. In 1999 and 2007 the section won the Sheffield Union Winter Foursomes Harry Riley Trophy

In 2004 the A Team were runners up in the Yorkshire A Team Championship; the B Team won the B Team Championship.

In 2008 the ladies celebrated 100 years of membership of the Ladies Golf Union and as mentioned earlier, a Centenary Trophy was inaugurated.

In 2008 the now defunct Darley Trophy was reinstated as the 'Ladies Danum Cup', Hickleton having replaced Town Moor as one of the trio of competing clubs. The competition was played on a Saturday in June at Wheatley Golf Club on the same day as the men's Danum Cup. The first winner was Hickleton Golf Club. Doncaster Ladies won the trophy in 2014 (Karen Winfield, Pat Cushieri, Sarah Newton, Claire Morrison, Kim Turner, Sheila Robinson, Tracy Lawson, Sue Salmon). During the year, the club hosted a B team match between Yorkshire and Lancashire ladies.

In 2015 the Lady Captain was invited along with the Junior Captain to take part in the Club Captain's Drive In ceremony.



Carole Morris & Jane Butler won the Australian Spoons National Final at Frilford Heath, August 2018, 7 points clear of the opposition

Lady Secretary:

1990-93 Mrs F Colley; 1994-98 Mrs M Stimson; 1999-02; Mrs P Taylor; 2003-07 Mrs J H Horncastle; 2008- 2013 Mrs C Leach; 2014-2016 Mrs K R Turner; 2017- Mrs A Clish.

Lady Treasurer: 1991-94 Mrs H M Graham; 1994-99; Mrs J H Horncastle; 2000-04; Mrs J Caulfield; 2005-08; Mrs J Straw; 2009-2014 Mrs J H Horncastle, 2015- 2017 Mrs T A Whiteley; 2018 – Mrs K Winfield.

THE RABBITS SECTION

Founded in 1970 to cater for male members with a handicap of 15.5 or higher, the section continues to flourish with victories in the Quadradon in 1995, 1997, 2001, 2007, 2013 and the Tridon in 1995, 1996, 2002 and 2009.

The section now plays annual matches v Selby (the SelDon Trophy and Hickleton (the HicDon Trophy). There are five major internal competitions, the Ramskir, Peter's Plate, Briggs Bowl, Raistrick Trophy and the Buck Rabbit. An Eclectic Competition was introduced this year. There is an annual match with the Ladies. A new Honours Board was installed in 1995. The first Annual Rabbits Open Day was held in 1997.

The section also organises a programme of social events such as the annual Carol Concert and a very popular Golfer/non Golfer event.

THE SENIORS SECTION

The Seniors Section, originally for male members above the age of 50, now 55, was formed informally in the 1980's by the late Tom Burnett. The section became fully established with the late Harold Graham as its first captain in 1994. A full program of inter-club matches (home and away) is played on a social basis and members compete annually for the Seniors Cup, the Peter Wilde Trophy, the Vets and Super Vets Trophy along with other competitions including an Away Day. An additional trophy was provided in 1995 by the relatives of the late Gilbert Smith. Matches are organised with the Ladies and Junior Sections. The annual Seniors Open Day was introduced in 1995.

THE JUNIOR SECTION

The section is organised for youngsters under the age of 18. Currently almost entirely boys; interest from junior girls has been very low for many years – this is an issue of national concern for the future of the game lies in encouraging young peoples' interest and developing talent at all levels. However, since 2010, when Simon Longworth took over as Junior Organiser, our club, due to his sterling efforts and those of Jill McGarvie and Anna Clish together with Club Professional Graham Bailey has made enormous strides to improve this situation and have achieved noteworthy results. Parental interest and support is vital to sustain progress. Given this, an outstanding junior of either sex has the opportunity to go the whole way in amateur golf – coaching facilities are available at county level and beyond for those with potential. However, many juniors have their sights set on higher education and having enjoyed golf with us as a youngster and achieved a low handicap, are obliged to move away in order to further a career.

From 2009 there was a resurgence of activity in the Junior Section. This was encouraged by our Professional, Graham Bailey who organised a 9 hole competition for them on Saturday afternoons. In 2010 Simon Longworth arranged a Quadradon series of competitions every holiday with Wheatley, Town Moor and Bawtry Golf Clubs. The section also entered the Sheffield Union Mini – Tour.

On the back of this, success was not long in coming, for in 2011 the Juniors won the Junior Danum Cup for the first time in 24 years and only the second time since its inception in 1977. The opposition included Bawtry Golf Club for the first time.



2011 Junior Danum Cup Winners

Left to right Simon Longworth Junior Organiser, Matt Gibson, Connor Longworth, Danny Mould, Jordan Bint (Junior Captain) Kevin Tang (Best net 64), Jack Gregory, George Austerberry, Arthur Leach (Club Captain)

In this year, the Club was designated a Golf Roots Centre thus receiving grants to provide coaching. Arthur Leach, the Club Captain introduced a Junior Day. 11 year old Cameron Newman had a hole in one whilst playing in the Monday Stableford. A Blue Marker Course was developed for the younger juniors. Ex Tour Professional Ian Garbutt presented the section with the Danny Willett Trophy for the most improved golfer. The first winner was Matt Gibson who reduced his handicap from 17 to 9.5.

2012 was a quiet year in which much experience was gained by entering events organised by the Sheffield Union. The Club Captain, Eric Shelton for the first time invited the Junior Sheffield Union team to attend the Annual Presentation Evening.

In 2013, the juniors now growing in confidence, continued to take part in many local and national events. Success came when they won the Danum Cup held at Wheatley (James Bellamy the Junior Captain, George Austerberry, Danny Mould, Jack Gregory, Connor Longworth, Jake Causier). A Junior team (James Bellamy, George Austerberry, Jack Gregory and Connor Longworth) won the Sheffield Union Inter-club Championship beating Worksop by 7 shots at Wortley Golf Club. James carded a 66 – the lowest score of the day. Jacob Causier won the Danny Willett trophy by dropping his handicap by a phenomenal 18 shots from 29 to 11!

In 2014, the Junior Captain, Jack Gregory, along with the Lady Captain Cilla Leach, was invited by the Club Captain, Ray Black, to take part in the Captains Drive Ceremony for the first time. The first Junior Open day was held in that year and was won by Cameron Newman from a field of 40 entries. The Juniors retained the Danum Cup (Jack Gregory who shot the best net, captained the team, Danny Mould, Ben Watson, Shane Longworth, Luke Gregory and Jordan Forbes). In 2015, Shane Longworth won the Sheffield Union Mini Tour at Rother Valley with 45 points. The Juniors won the Sheffield Union Team Championship at Town Moor (Connor Longworth (Captain), Ben Watson and Jack Ciullo). Jack Hughes, Cameron Newman and Declan Stoppard

represented the Sheffield Union in the Yorkshire District Team Championship at Rudding Park and won.



On Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th August, Connor Longworth (Junior Captain), Jack Ciullo, Cameron Newman and Declan Stoppard (pictured above, left to right) represented Yorkshire against 32 other counties and won the 36 hole English Junior Championship at Frilford Heath. The Club was presented with a flag to fly for a year to commemorate this magnificent achievement.

Nearer to home, the Juniors were cutting their teeth on domestic competitions. Jack Ciullo won the John Glasbey Rose Bowl and Luke Gregory won the Page Salver.

In 2016, the Club was chosen by the PCGA to host the final Junior Major. The Club is now beginning to attract interest from outstanding juniors in the area. It is axiomatic that the best should play with the best and our thriving Junior Section is proving to be the jewel in the Club's crown.

Josh Berry became a member. His brilliant performances are worthy of recording in detail. In 2017, he won the Spanish Champion IMG Qualifier in January by 20 shots. He was European Tour Winner in February at Hesketh, Prestatyn and Phoenix. He made his debut for the Sheffield Union under 16 team in March and won his singles and doubles at Lindrick. He shot 4 under at European Championships to qualify for the Van Horn Cup best international in May. He represented Britain in the IMG Junior World Championship in San Diego in June. He won the North of England Under 12 title at South Moore and followed this with the British Championship at Celtic Manor and the Scottish Boys Championship at Crail in July. August saw him win the Wee Wonders title for a second time at St Andrews with a gross course record of 65 (he was aged ten when he won the first time). In the meantime he made his debut in Doncaster's Scratch Team and won. He played in the Club's Sheffield Union U16 Scratch team winning 2 out of 2 matches. He won the Peter Cowan Major with a gross 73 in August. He was unbeaten in the County U15 team and was the youngest to be chosen for England's U16 Regional Training Squad.

In 2018 Josh won the Belgian National U12, the French National U14 and the U14 North of England Championships. He played for Yorkshire Boys U16 and U18 teams and was unbeaten all year. He was also selected for the 6 man Yorkshire U18 squad which won the English

Counties Team Championship. On the home front he played for the Sheffield Union Men's team and shot the lowest gross score whilst representing the club in the Danum Cup. He was the only England representative in the U16 World Junior Open at St Andrew's. In November, at the age of 13 and competing with boys several years older, Josh triumphed in the European Junior Open U18 championship, held in Spain, winning by 1 shot. Televised on Sky, it involved playing 5 rounds of golf on different courses and is acknowledged to be one of the hardest competitions in Europe. The club has awarded Josh with Honorary Junior Membership in recognition of his achievements.



Josh Berry being interviewed by Sky Television after his triumph in the Junior European Open.

Ellie Parker joined the club in 2017. She played in the inaugural Yorkshire Union Mixed under 16 event Malton and Norton Golf Club and ran out the winner from 80 competitors. She captained the Yorkshire Girls at the Northern Counties Jamboree which involves 6 counties competing over 2 days. She became an ambassador for the Girls Golf Rocks Foundation in association with England Golf

Success continued for Ellie in 2018. She played in the team for the Ladies Danum Cup. She won the Butler Cup with a net 67 and went 1 better with a net 66 in a medal competition. Away from home Ellie played in several Robert Rock Junior Events, coming in the top 10 in all. She reached Sheffield Union Minitour and Inter Club Finals. She finished 3rd in the Yorkshire Regional Event playing in Division 1 for the first time. Ellie won her match playing for Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire at Rufford Park and will receive her colours next time she represents her county.



Ellie Parker (second from left) with fellow competitors and officials of Scarborough South Cliff Golf Club after the 4th Yorkshire Regional Event September 2018. Finishing 3rd, this was the first time Ellie had competed with single figure golfers.

On the home front, in 2017, the juniors representation in local and national events continued apace. A team consisting of Luke Gregory, Shane Longworth, Sam Fry and Josh Earnshaw won the Sheffield Union Colts Trophy 14 shots clear of the field! Luke regularly played for our men's scratch team. The drive to recruit and retain youngsters, led by Anna Clish, continued to gain impetus during 2018. Success this year came once again in the Junior Danum Cup (Cameron Newman, Luke Gregory, Lucas Martin, Sam Fry, Josh Earnshaw, Kyle Johnson – Rolfe), in which Jake Mitchell recorded the best net. Luke Gregory won the Men's Champion of Champions and continued, along with Declan Stoppard, to represent the club in the scratch team. The Colts team reached the final of the Sheffield Union Inter-Club event (now reorganised as match play) for the sixth time in a row! The club was chosen for the second year running to host the final Junior Major held in October.



One of the highlights of the year was a rare opportunity at the DSA Charity Day for the juniors to meet Danny Willett, US Masters Champion in 2016 – only the second Englishman to win this coveted title in the last 17 years.

MIXED GOLF

During the main playing season there is plenty of opportunity to play mixed golf. Monthly competitions are held along with an ongoing matchplay event. In addition, matches are arranged with other clubs.

CONCLUSION

This brings to a close a summary of the Club's history over the last 25 years. My thanks to Mrs Chris O'Hara for help with the layout and printing. Thanks to all the members who have responded to my quest for information. If there are any errors or omissions, my sincere apologies for this. Hopefully the scene is set fair for another 25 years!

GALLERY of CAPTAINS

1994 – 2019

CAPTAIN

**1994 R W Smith
1995 R J Perkins
1996 D Thompson
1997 D S Williamson
1998 D A Green
1999 G Firth
2000 C A Tighe
2001 P J M Shaw
2002 I D Straw
2003 S Griffiths
2004 J B W West
2005 R W Wood
2006 G J Needham
2007 A Buckton
2008 I A Robinson
2009 R W Nicholson
2010 I T Machin
2011 A W Leach
2012 E R Shelton
2013 M W Lynes
2014 R H Black
2015 Dr S Fearn
2016 S J Fiddler
2017 S Longworth
2018 I Atkinson
2019 A Beaumont**

LADY CAPTAIN

**Mrs R Wood
Mrs S C Blake
Mrs V A Melville
Mrs A L Brown
Mrs B Fox
Mrs M Sandercock
Mrs S Leach
Mrs D A Horncastle
Mrs D A Green
Mrs S Sanderson
C Marshall
Mrs R Holdsworth
Mrs K Pridmore
Mrs S Robinson
Mrs K Winfield
Mrs K Stimson
Mrs B A Petch
Mrs C M Smith
Mrs P Cuschieri
Mrs T A Whiteley
Mrs P J Leach
Dr J Fearn
Mrs W Parker
Mrs K R Turner
Mrs S Leach
Mrs C O'Neill**

RABBITS CAPTAIN

**1994 P Pascoe
1995 V Parkin
1996 R H Black
1997 I D Straw
1998 A Buddle
1999 G Morrey
2000 G Morrey
2001 J V Laurens
2002 R Neill
2003 P D Flude
2004 A Buckton
2005 R K Ford
2006 M Bunce**

SENIORS CAPTAIN

**H. Graham
F Taylor
W A Williams
B Melville
P Ambrose
J Langford
B Marshall
R Handisides
P Pascoe
J Wagstaff
J Molloy
R Elms
B K Coleman**

2007	M P Curran	R K Ford
2008	M Lynes	P A Smith
2009	D D Porter	R Neill
2010	J Gannon	D Hodgson
2011	M Southon	A Barry
2012	B D Smith	A Fowler
2013	J Waugh	D A Green
2014	I Carling	H Martin
2015	C E Robinson	T Wesley
2016	M Squire	P Brumfield
2017	M Fever	G Burns
2018	P Leadbetter	M Curran
2019	P Leadbetter	R H Black

JUNIOR CAPTAIN

2010	C Simms
2011	J Bint
2012	M Gibson
2013	J Bellamy
2014	J Gregory
2015	C Longworth
2016	J Causier
2017	L Gregory
2018	C Newman
2019	C Longworth

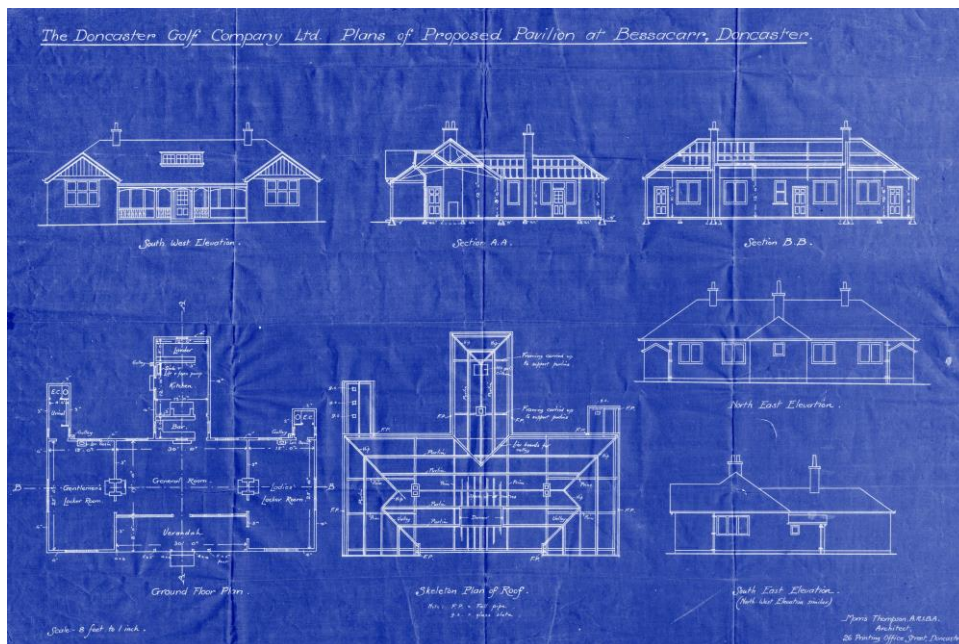
APPENDIX

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

In 2005, the Captain, Richard Wood whilst attending a dinner to celebrate 225 years of masonry in Doncaster, was presented with a portrait of A. J. Clark who was a captain in 1912/13/14 and again in 1925/26.

In 2008, a packet of documents relating to the club was discovered in the offices of a local solicitor, formerly Frank Allen & Co. The contents of this packet (some of which are reproduced below) consisted of:

1. A linen plan of the original golf pavilion drawn by the architect (shown below)



2. Messrs James Carter's Report on the course dated November 1912.
3. The original 1913 Report on the Course by Dr Alistair Mackenzie (see below).
4. A copy of the Lease Agreement between Ellen Charlotte Jarratt and the Doncaster Golf Company Ltd drawn upon 1 March 1912 giving the Club the entitlement to construct a golf course and club house on some 90 acres of land known as Bessacarr Warren. The lease was to run 20 years and the club had the option to terminate the lease every fifth year. The rent was to be £23.15s a year.

It is interesting to note that *'The owner reserves to herself and her assigns the right of killing hares or rabbits if in her judgment they are so numerous as to do injury to the crops, trees or underwood and if after request in writing to the Tenants the Tenants fail to reduce their number to a fair and proper limit.'*

The lease is signed for the Club by G Wilkie (Director), Joseph A Clark (Director) and Robert

Hudson (Secretary).

This lease must have been preceded by at least one more lease to allow the club onto the land in 1908/9.

5. The Lease Agreement between the Jarratt family and the Doncaster Golf Company Ltd drawn up on 5 June 1924. The only difference was that the term of the lease was to be 56 years ie expiration in 1980 and the rent was to be £50 a year until 1938, £65 a year until 1966 and thereafter £100 a year until 1980. The Shooting Lodge, ie Warren House at the entrance and other buildings (since demolished) were to be let for £20 a year for the entire term of the lease.

We have to admire the confidence with which the protagonists viewed the predictability of the financial future!

6. The Lease Agreement between the Jarratt Family and the Doncaster Golf Club drawn up on 9 January 1931. The lease was now to run for 8 years for £200 per year.

Clearly the financial structure of the previous lease was proving to be way out of line with inflation!

7. Two copies of an undated linen plan showing the route of the 4 inch water main from the old Great North Road to the club house and course.

This can be dated to 1910 when the original club house was built.

8. The Club Competition Book for 1960 – 1988. The size of an old family Bible, the entries and results of every competition were meticulously recorded in longhand by the late Club Professional, Maurice Birkett. The first competition recorded is the South Yorkshire Alliance Four Ball Better Ball played on 1 February 1960 when Maurice, partnered by Austin Finegan came second with 64.

A former member of Alwoodley Golf Club, Dr Mackenzie was a prominent golf course designer who co-designed Augusta with Bobby Jones. This document (1913) gives a fascinating insight into the kind of advice which he gave particularly with regard to his conception of what became known as a 'Mackenzie Green'. Dr Mackenzie, who was a member of Alwoodley, was made one of the club's first Honorary Members.

1st 1913
REPORT ON DONCASTER GOLF CLUB.

Moor Allerton Lodge,
LEELS.

It is about two years since I first visited the site of the Doncaster Links at Rossington, since then I have frequently quoted Rossington as having more the character of the real seaside Links among the sand dunes than any inland Course I am acquainted with. The Links are of even a sandier nature than Ganton, the sand extends 20 feet deep in places, and the Course is the only inland one I know, where it has been necessary to put up wattles to prevent the sand blowing. The Links are so dry that it would be quite possible to play (in carpet slippers) during the wettest of winter months without one's feet being wet. The Course is not yet finished, but the construction work, which has already been done is excellent, and it is only a question of time and labour on the same lines to make the Doncaster Golf Course the equal, if not superior to any Links in Yorkshire.

The land, however suffers from the same disadvantage as is common among the sandiest of seaside Links, namely that in places there is a certain amount of difficulty in getting a sufficient amount of turf on it, this however is only a question of time and treatment on the right lines as the natural grasses are of the finest possible character.

It is unnecessary for me to discuss the positions of the ~~bankers~~, and construction of the greens, which have yet to be made as I have already done so verbally.

I would suggest however that large bold hollows, varying in size and shape be cut out of the approach of several of your

- 2 -

✓ Greens which are on the flat namely:- 1st, 3rd, 7th, 14th etc, this will have the effect of making a green appear as if it were on a plateau ~~that~~.



The sand taken out of the green should be utilized for making large hummocks (10 to 12 ft. high in places) at the back and sides of the greens. It will save enormously in labour in constructing these hollows and bankers, if you use a scraper or levelling machine, as it is sometimes called.

In making the undulations in the greens I would suggest you vary their character more, in some cases one or two large hollows are sufficient.

TREATMENT OF THE FAIRWAYS.

On most of the fairways all that is necessary is to scrape the bare patches and fill up the holes with equal parts of soil and lime, and roll with a heavy roller. The most of your fairways should be limed with 1 ton of Carbonate of Lime and 6 cwt of basic slag to the acre, a few weeks later after it has been washed in meat-guano (containing 7 to 8 per cent ammonia) and malt culms or fish guano at the rate of 2 cwt per acre should be used.

TREATMENT OF THE GREENS.

Use malt culms or malt dust occasionally, and dress with ^{the} peruvian guano in February or March at the rate of one oz per square yard. Mr. A. D. Hall of ^{the} government experimental station

- 3 -

✓ at Roth^{am}stead, the greatest living authority on Manures, does not advise soil and farmyard manure on even excessively sandy soil like Doncaster, he states that you can get the same results from artificial~~at~~ less cost~~A~~, and that the resulting turf is of a better golfing quality than that obtained by farmyard manure, this is no doubt correct, and artificials have also the advantage that they do not put the Course out of play.

A. MacKenzie