

PREFERRED LIES DECEMBER 2021



Golf in 2021, it's been another strange and challenging year in almost every aspect of life, with sacrifices and compromises required across the board. But, despite these issues, 2021 can be viewed as an exciting and positive year for golf. Figures show participation numbers look extremely healthy as people return to and take up golf as the pandemic runs its course.

We have seen the rollout of the World Handicap System and, with teething issues being ironed out and initial concerns allayed, it's clear the game's governing bodies have our sport pointed firmly in the right direction to capitalise on the game's revival by encouraging more to play.

Here at Hawkstone we have seen improvements to enhance the playing experience for golfers of all abilities. In adversity, golf has shown its mettle in 2021.

So here is a review of 2021 in the life of Hawkstone Park Golf Club ...

January saw Francine Nutt begin her fundraising for the Captains Charity for 2021 The West Midlands Air Ambulance Service. Captain Terry supported his wife by saying, "By the end of 2021 she will have walked (boots on striding out) 1011 miles and cycled another 1010 miles (=2021miles)"



Lockdown was still with us in January so our Centenary Lady Captain Christine Apperley organized three Zoom events to entertain the members. The first one was back by popular demand, 'The history of Hawkstone Park and the Golf Club' by John Ruscoe. John is a dedicated and enthusiastic historian of Hawkstone Park and he delivered a short slide presentation and talk about the Hawkstone estate throughout the years. His photographs and presentation were fascinating and well worth seeing.

The second event was 'an interview with Michael Welch' hosted by Hazel Ruscoe. Michael Welch is a fully paid-up member of the dynasty of Hawkstone Park's high-achieving prolific professional golfers, alongside Ashley Chesters and Sandy Lyle.

The final event was when our resident pr guru and interviewer, Hazel Ruscoe chatted to Ashley Chesters, European tour player, about his career, his life on tour, his training schedule and the challenges covid-19 have presented for his sport.

Captains 2021 – Drive In

Sunday 7th February – a day that should have brought excitement for Terry, Wendy, Roger and Leo - 2021 Captains of Hawkstone Park Golf Club. Also President Dave as he began his 2 year role as President. But perhaps also trepidation and perhaps anxiety as standing on the white tees Terry hoped to send 'one down the middle' and hopefully drive longer than Junior Captain Leo!!

Sadly, as members, we were at home still in lockdown 3.0, certainly wishing we were there to



cheer on 'our new team.' As a new golf year got under way in far from normal circumstances. However our captains were certainly busy to make sure the start to their year was definitely 'one to remember.'



March 2021 saw us still in Lockdown 3.0, but Ian George and his small team of green staff continued to work throughout the 2021 lockdown. Significant work was carried out whilst the course was closed, notably along the water margins of the Pollard Oak hole. The resultant views of the lake are very aesthetically appealing indeed.

Golf returned at the end of March and it was a well done to 3 of the Hawkstone Park Juniors, Danny, Freddie and Haydon, who were inspired by the Captain Tom 100 Appeal to raise money for Cure Leukaemia.

The challenge was to hit 500 golf balls and every ball hit had to be over 100 yards in length.

The 3 boys in just 2 hours raised £270 - a great achievement!



Hawkstone Park Golf Club members played the annual match between the President's team and the Captains' team at the beginning of May. Always a highly competitive match for the Millennium Trophy which was presented by Dale Benbow. This year the Captains' team won by the narrow margin of 8 1/2 - 7 1/2.



Presidents Day - June 2021. A truly memorable day with a large turnout of members who were able to win some fabulous prizes in the form of various landscapes of our beautiful course.

Lady Captains Day – June 2021

A beautifully warm day with a scrumptious halfway house provided on the 12th tee. A spectacular prize table of floral gifts for the worthy winners.



Captains Day on 24th July was blessed with good weather & Captain Terry welcomed over 130 players either on the 1st or 12th tee.

He managed to keep wife Francine focused arranging the prizes & organising the refreshments on the 12th, running the tree quiz, (which raised over £490 due to members generosity) whilst also encouraging her in her 2021 challenge for Midlands Air Ambulance.

In August Francine successfully completed her 2021 mile challenge in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

Her final mile was shared with members, family and neighbours around the golf courses with a few bottles of bubbly to celebrate the occasion.



September saw a positive month of golf, with us able to play some planned Centenary events, postponed from last year. This began with an exchange match with Willesley Park who also celebrated their Centenary in 2020. A very friendly mixed AM-AM with two members from each club making up a team.

We also enjoyed the Hickory Golf Day. A unique experience to play golf around the beautiful Hawkstone Course on a fabulous sunny day, just as our founders would have done 100 years ago.

Thank you to Gavin Bottrell of Timewarp golf who supplied the many sets of hickory clubs and shared his brilliant knowledge of the history of golf.



October brought the start of the nights slowly starting to become darker – signalling the impending arrival of winter. We came towards the end of a very intensive golfing calendar –

one that, apart from the disruption of the course closure when the pandemic hit again, has been extremely successful having played all of our major trophies.

The Seniors played their eight consecutive annual event (Seniors Memorial Day) dedicated to remembering our golfing friends who are no longer with us.

This year £150 was raised for the Captain's Charity, the Air Ambulance.

The end of our golfing calendar saw the 'Turkey Shoot' and Team Texas Scramble competition with both events played with a large number of entries. Prizes were in abundance and we were blessed with some very 'balmy warm' weather for the winter period.



The year was 'rounded off' with 165 members and guests who attended this year's Centenary Gala Ball. From all the comments received the overwhelming consensus is that this year's event was the most enjoyable for a long time. One long standing member said

it was the best ever with such a warm and friendly atmosphere. Some guests who thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the dancing to a superb Disco have already asked to be booked in for next year! Entertainment was also 'first rate' with singing from a local vintage trio The BlueBird Belles, who certainly made sure that lots of 'toe-tapping' was seen with also 'twisting and hand-jiving' being very popular!



The meal was excellent and our hotel colleagues ensured that the service was first-rate.