



MALDEN GOLF CLUB

Traps Lane ° New Malden ° Surrey KT3 4RS Telephone: 020-8942 0654

Fax: 020-8336 2219

Email: manager@maldengolfclub.com

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AT MALDEN GOLF CLUB BETWEEN 1991 AND 2007.

The following pages represent a summary of the activities carried out at Malden Golf Club from 1991 to the present day. It comprises a series of sub headings dealing with specific issues affecting the golf club and its membership over the relevant period.

It includes details affecting the golf course itself, the clubhouse, the lease and the relationship with the landlords, The Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames (RBK), the club membership, the Artisan Section, club staff/employees and matters affecting the golf club generally.

Of necessity, a number of topics will be elaborated in some depth while others will simply receive a passing reference. Mention will also be made of any specific highlights or downturns which have affected the club and/or the membership.

It is not intended to replicate the excellent and detailed history described by J.N. (Robin) Gems in his published book, THE STORY OF MALDEN GOLF CLUB.

Sadly, Robin passed away on 26th January, 1996, but his name will live forever in Malden Golf Club history by virtue of various competitions in his name and of course, the above quoted book.

Compiled by:- Alec M. Pringle
Derek A. Todd

INTRODUCTION.

The most important part of any golf club is the course itself and the members and guests who play on it. Malden Golf Club is unique in many ways when compared to similar clubs in the surrounding area and it is that fact that makes the club the great institution that it is. The actual playing area is owned by the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames while the clubhouse and assorted buildings, the putting green, and the car park up to the rear hedge belongs to the club. The club leases the land from the council and pays a substantial sum of money per annum as a rent and also negotiates the terms and conditions of the lease itself. **Further reference will be made to these issues later in the document.**

The club is run by the General Committee comprising members voted in at the Annual General Meeting held on the first Saturday in June. The chairman of the committee is the golf club Captain. The chair is assisted by the club President, Vice President, Vice Captain, Lady Captain and elected members of the two sub committees, House and Finance and the Greens. The Administration Manager and Golf Manager both attend the meetings but have no voting rights.

All communication with the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames in relation to the lease and rent issues are undertaken by Malden Golf Club Limited formed entirely for that purpose. The directors of this company are ex Malden Golf Club Captains who have experience in the field.

There are eight categories of membership within the club as follows:

- a) Full 7 day members
- b) 7 day restricted members
- c) 5 day members
- d) Under 25 members
- e) Juniors
- f) Social
- g) Country
- h) Honorary

There is also an Artisan Section within the club which will also be referred to later in this document.

INDEX TO DOCUMENT

Subject	Page(s)
<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	2
<u>THE CLUB</u>	5
Administration	5 - 6
Membership – Recruitment	6 - 7
Equality	7
Catering	7 - 8
Lady Captain elected to the committee	8
Votes for 5 day members	8
Men’s Presentations	8
Ladies Presentations	8
Centenary Celebrations	9
Ladies Section	9
Senior Section	9
Junior Section	9 - 10
The introduction of club cards	10
VAT money	10
<u>THE COURSE</u>	11 – 13
Fairway watering	14
Flooding and drainage	14 - 16
Bunkers	16 - 17
Paths	17
Tree Planting	17 - 18
The Roundhouse	18 - 19
Shoe Cleaning Equipment	19
The use of buggies	19
Practice Area	19 - 20
Sports Turf Research Institute	20
Other course related issues	20 - 21
<u>THE CLUBHOUSE & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS</u>	21 - 22
Dress Rules	22
Vodaphone	22 - 23
<u>THE LEASE AND RENT</u>	23
The Lease	23
The Rent	24

	Page(s)
<u>INDEX CONTINUED</u>	
<u>THE CLUB PROFESSIONAL</u>	24
<u>THE ARTISAN SECTION</u>	25
<u>CHARITY DAY</u>	25 - 26
<u>OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST</u>	27
County Representation	27
Plaque displayed at 14 th tee	27
 <u>APPENDIX 1</u>	 28 - 29
<u>APPENDIX 2</u>	30

The CLUB

During the period under review, many changes have taken place in respect of all aspects of the club ranging from administration, staffing levels, catering, equality issues, membership and factors relating to the members themselves. A number of sub headings to follow will highlight these issues individually.



The front of the clubhouse.

Administration.

During the period under review, there have been a number of significant changes in the administration of the club with a corresponding number of staff engagements.

In October, 1990, the then secretary, Mrs. Penhale left her post for a similar appointment at Crail Golf Club. In November, Mr. Michael Blanford was appointed secretary with Mrs. Sheila Stockley as his assistant. Unfortunately, Mr. Blanford left soon after and Mr. Alistair Grant was appointed in his place. At that time, a vote of thanks was given to Mr. Peter Treasure (Past Captain) for his valuable assistance during that period. Again, however, in February, 1992, a new secretary was required and Mr. Peter Fletcher (another Past Captain) was appointed as secretary/manager.

In February, 1996, Mr. Graham Fitchett was appointed as part time book-keeper.

Mrs. Stockley left the club in April, 1997, and Mrs. Angela Besant was recruited as her replacement. When Mr. Fletcher retired in 1998, Mrs. Besant was appointed as Administration Manager in July of that year. At the same time, the club professional, Mr. Robert Hunter was appointed as Golf Manager. Ms. Ann Beard was appointed as assistant in August, 2001.

During this period, the office system was completely computerised. In November, 1991, the Club System 92 was introduced and over the years, upgraded. From 2000 onwards, all of the club computer systems have been upgraded to include administration, the professional, the book-keeper/accountant and the ladies section. A club website has also been prepared.

Membership – Recruitment.

During the early part of this review, Malden Golf Club, like many others of similar status in the county, had the luxury of a waiting list of people wishing to join in most categories of membership. This continued through most of the decade with natural wastage being replaced by new members. However, towards the end of the 90's, a new trend emerged throughout the county and affected Malden in a similar fashion. The proliferation of new golf clubs including a high percentage of pay and play clubs resulted in waiting lists first diminishing then disappearing altogether. This loss of revenue began to become an area for concern and a number of initiatives were looked at to rectify this situation. Members were actually encouraged to seek new recruits which was only part successful. However, in 2002, Malden's problems were partially solved for the moment when a change of status at Hampton Court Palace Golf Club (formerly Home Park) resulted in a number of their membership seeking alternative venues.

The committee of the day agreed that for a period encompassing October and November of that year, members of an established golf club could join Malden without the need for a joining fee provided that they met all of the other criteria. As a result, a significant number of Hampton Court Palace members joined Malden.

During this period, a number of 7 day restricted and 5 day members were also upgraded to full membership but although this helped in respect of full members, it left vacancies on those other categories.

Over the ensuing months, the shortage of members continued to be a problem which was only partly solved by an influx of new members from Coombe Wood Golf Club in early 2006.

Since then, a number of marketing methods have been employed by the club in an effort to secure further new members. In 2007, an Open Day was held

at the club when members could bring along a number of guests free of charge to sample the delights of the club. This was successful resulting in a number of new members.

The club now also holds regular meetings for new members when they are welcomed by senior officials within the club and open discussions on a number of topics take place.

Equality.

Equality has become a major matter for the club to deal with in recent years. In August, 1996, the club was first approached by the landlords, RBK, instructing that equality should be implemented.

In July, 1997, a joint working party involving both ladies and gentlemen was formed. Their proposals were put to a Special General Meeting in March, 1999. This led to a new category of 7 day restricted membership being introduced so that ladies could opt for full, 5 day or this new category in line with the men. The new equality status was implemented for the 2000-2001 club year.

A handicap limit of 20 is applied for weekend play except that the past Lady Captains are exempted.

In December, 2004, the Men's Bar and Lady's Lounge officially became the Members Bar and Members Lounge respectively.

Catering

The subject of catering is continually at the forefront of discussions at most golf clubs and Malden is no exception. At the start of the period under review, the club employed its own chef and ancillary helpers. This was never totally satisfactory and heavy annual losses were incurred on a number of occasions. 1991 was the perfect example of such losses.

Discussions ranged for a number of months as to the best way forward but it was not until November, 1994, that franchised catering was agreed and arranged. In February, 1995, a company called Slight and Allen Limited took over but this was never satisfactory. That company resigned in December that year and certain members of that company formed a new company called Salsa Catering who took over. This arrangement also was never entirely satisfactory. A number of staff changes took place over the period but the quality of service provided never reached the required standard.

In 2000, the catering was taken over by David Tyrrell whose company is still in situ today. This arrangement has over the piece been much better although highs and lows have still been encountered.

The franchising arrangements were such that the club would supply the kitchen, the equipment and meet the cost of gas and electricity. However, for a short period of time, the club negotiated a stipend with David Tyrrell whereby he would pay an annual sum to the club to allow for those occasions when he used club facilities to prepare for functions unconnected to the club and forming part of his overall catering business. That outside business has apparently now decreased and the club is only paid a percentage of the previous sum.

Lady Captain elected to committee.

At the Annual General Meeting held in June, 2002, Lady Captain was unanimously elected to serve on the general committee as well as one of the sub committees as nominated by the captain. This has proved to be very successful. The only draw back is brought about by the differing dates of appointment which means that the Lady Captain's term of office differs from that of the club captain and the committee and she is therefore obliged to serve under two different captains and on two committees.

Votes for 5 day members

At a Special Meeting held before the AGM in 2003, it was unanimously agreed that 5 day members would be granted the vote in relation to all club issues. It had previously been agreed in committee that 7 day restricted and 5 day members could participate in Bank Holiday competitions.

Men's Presentations

Unique occasions almost exclusive to Malden Golf Club are the presentation evenings. All of our major competitions (excluding medals) are sponsored by past captains who provide the prizes and award the winners under the direct leadership of the Captain and are held on the evening of the event. The one exception is the Captain's Prize weekend when the presentation is held on the Sunday evening. Many jokes are told and many a drink consumed on these occasions when the members present are always thankful for the efforts of the hard working bar staff who make a huge contribution to the success of these events.

Ladies Presentations

The ladies presentations are conducted in a slightly different manner from that of the men. Although the events are sponsored by past captains like the men's competitions, the presentations normally taken place at the conclusion of the event. However, a number of presentations are also carried over to the evening of the ladies Annual General Meeting.

Centenary Celebrations

The club celebrated its centenary in 1993. Mr. James Warner, who had been the Club Captain in 1976, was again elected to take the captaincy on this unique occasion. A number of special events took place to celebrate the occasion including one consolidated week of competitions where all membership categories, including the Artisan Section, were involved. This special week is recorded on an honours board in the clubhouse naming the winners of the various competitions and is complemented by the "Centenary Jigger" donated to the club by the former professional, Mr. George Howard.

In June, a Centenary Dinner and Dance was held at the RAC Club and in October, a men's Centenary Dinner was held at the Army and Navy Club.

Ladies Section.

The ladies section continues to prosper with members in the three main categories, full, 7 day restricted and 5 day. In mid week, the ladies generally play on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The section maintains a full list of matches against local clubs on a home and away basis as well as a number of in-house competitions.

They also take part in a number of mixed competitions as well as participating in a Texas Scramble with the men's senior section.

Ladies can now also take part in all bank holiday competitions previously restricted to men only.

Senior Section

The senior section has continued to thrive at times having up to 80 members. Roll-ups continue to be played early on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and matches are held on a home and away basis against eleven other local clubs followed by lunch.

Various in-house competitions are held and what was once a match against the ladies section has developed into a mixed Texas Scramble competition with two men and ladies comprising a team

During the period, Les Murray passed on the organisation to Alec Pringle who has in turn passed it to Dick Fry.

Junior Section

During the period under review, the junior section can be fairly described as having many highs and lows. However, at this time, it is flourishing with many successes being achieved on behalf of the club. The section is currently about 80 members strong, 6 of whom are girls. The success can be measured in the playing of the Packham Bowl which, since 1961, has been played between the under 25 sections of Coombe Hill, Coombe Wood and

Malden. Our team is made up of under 18's who have won the competition for the last three years.

Similarly, the section playing in the Kingston Junior League won all of its matches in 2006 thus qualifying to play in the South of England Final.

The juniors also play matches against the club and the artisans and has a junior open in August each year which counts towards the Surrey Order of Merit. In 2006, this was won by Aaron McNeela at the age of 13. Alexander Gems came 3rd in 2005 and George Drye achieved the same position this year. A number of players have won Junior Opens in the area and special mention must be made to Lauren Blease who won the Junior Open at Camberley this year with a gross 71, a new course record, qualifying as one of 9 girls to go to Dubai to play in the Daily Telegraph Junior Champion ship.

The Introduction of Club Cards.

In June, 1995, the committee discussed the introduction of a club card offering concessions to members using the bar. The system was actually introduced in March 1996. This was not an additional levy but formed part of the annual subscription. On introduction, a full member was reimbursed to the value of £75 on his/her card allowing a 10% reduction in retail bar prices. 5 day members received £50.

Over the years, the system has flourished and at the present time, the allocation for a full member is £125 with a 15% reduction. The card can be "topped up" at any time during the year by the member and where such procedures have been implemented, a residue can be carried over into a new financial year. However, unspent money from the original re-imbursement is forfeited by the club at the end of the financial year.

The card can also be used for purchases from the caterers but no discount is offered on those occasions.

VAT Money.

Over a number of years, the club had continued to pay VAT on a number of items. It became clear that such payments were not binding in law and therefore, in July, 1994, the club applied to H.M. Customs and Excise for a refund. In August, a total of £182,893 was received and banked. Much deliberation took place as to what should happen to the money over a period of time. Finally, a postal ballot was held with the membership offering two alternatives. Firstly, the money could be spent at the discretion of the committee or alternatively, be divided amongst the membership. In November, 1997, the result showed by a large majority that the money should be spent to enhance the course and clubhouse. Accordingly, a large part of it was spent on the fairway watering system referred to in the relevant section of this document as well as on much needed equipment for use on the golf course.

THE COURSE.

The course is best described as picturesque and parkland offering a true test of golfing ability. It is well bunkered and incorporates two man made water hazards by the 2nd and 15th greens as well as the Beverley Brook which meanders over a number of holes.

For the gentlemen, it boasts 3 par 5's, 4 par 3's and the remainder par 4's adding up to a par of 71. For the ladies, par is 72 with the 8th (A par 4 for the men) being an additional par 5.



A picturesque view of the 16th green in Autumn.

Despite the hardworking efforts of an excellent green staff, a number of the features and the condition of the course are often open to the vagaries of the weather which has had a tremendous effect over the period under review. The course has suffered major flooding on at least three occasions which seriously affected the playing conditions resulting in closure from play. In addition, during periods of normal wet weather, a number of areas of the course became waterlogged resulting in very difficult golfing conditions.

Similarly, during periods of extremely dry summer weather, the lack of water on the course resulted in burnt fairways and greens. Accordingly, many of the activities carried out on the course are as a direct consequence of droughts and flooding.

No two years are the same. As an example, in the month of November, the course is often very wet and has been flooded on a number of occasions at

that time of year. At the time of writing this paper, November, 2007, autumn is in full swing and with the colour of the leaves changing, the course can only be described as beautiful.

This can clearly be seen in the photograph on the following page.



Path leading from 7th green to 8th tee

Fairway Watering.

In 1998, fairway watering was introduced to the course to enable it to be maintained during periods of severe drought. It was not intended to keep the course green and lush during these periods but simply to ensure that crucial areas were not burnt as a result of the severe heat. This was funded by utilising some of the VAT money returned to the club by H.M. Customs and Excise. (Further reference will be made to this elsewhere in the report)

Each of the sprinkler heads forming part of the system was utilised to assist the golfer by placing yardage markers to the green on each individual sprinkler head. This was in addition to the 150 yards markers already in situ. Additional work was carried out to the system in 1999. It is fair to say that the system has been used sparingly due to the high cost of water but can nevertheless be classified as a successful venture.

In an effort to defray some of the cost of water, the club instigated the experimental digging of bore holes at strategic parts of the course but the water quality provided was found to be unfit for use.

Flooding and Drainage

Unfortunately, the course has always suffered from wet conditions in winter and over the period under review, a number of efforts have been made to ease this problem. In August, 1994, a new lake was created by the 15th green to allow excess water to run into it then be piped elsewhere. In September, 1995, an overflow from the new lake was made to the pond to the left and short of the 2nd green in an effort to make a more permanent feature.



The lake by the 15th green – water level low in November, 2007



The lake by the 2nd green – almost dry even in Autumn

During the period, the green staff have also introduced drainage in key locations such as the right of the 5th fairway and to the left of the 14th fairway as well as other main areas of dampness. In addition, the club purchased a water pump in an attempt to alleviate the problem..

The course has suffered from three major incidents of flooding. The first was in October/November 2000, the second in September, 2004 and the latest in the early part of 2007.

As Captain in 2000-2001, John McNiff endured a particularly harrowing year in respect of water on the course which resulted in it being closed for play on a number of occasions. An example of the problems encountered between September, 2000 and May, 2001 can be seen at **Appendix 2** at the rear of this document.

Therefore, in 2002, the committee decided that a major drainage exercise needed to be carried out on the worst affected areas of the course. Accordingly, in September of that year, major gravel banding drainage work was carried out on the 5th, 6th, 10th, 16th and 18th fairways. The cost of this work was met by a direct levy on the membership who were asked to pay £170 up front or £210 over three years. The response was such that the total cost was met by those who paid the lump sum. The additional bonus arising from this exercise was that over the next three years, the club benefited by about £15,000 per year by those who paid in instalments. It was clear from an early stage that this work had been very successful and the following year, additional work was carried out on the 7th fairway. In November, 2005, further

gravel banding was carried out on the 1st, 5th and 17th greens. **It is not suggested that this drainage expenditure stopped the flooding but it had a great effect on the dispersal of the water in normal wet conditions and helped to clear the water quickly when flooding took place.** Perhaps the best way to emphasise the vagaries of the weather was the introduction of drought orders by water providers during the summer of 2006.



A fishing lake or golf course

Bunkers

During the period under review, a number of alterations have taken place with regards to bunkers on the course. The following is a summary of the activities although not necessarily recorded in date order. A bunker previously sited short of the green on the 2nd hole has been removed completely. One of the bunkers on the left of the fairway on the 5th hole has been removed and a new one sited on the right side. The bunker on the left of the 6th hole has been moved forwards. Two new bunkers have been built on the right side of the 13th fairway and a new bunker introduced on the left side of the fairway on the 15th hole. On the 17th hole, the bunker previously sited by the copse on the left side of the fairway has been removed and re-sited about 30 yards further forwards.



New bunker to left of 6th fairway.

Paths

In October, 2000, the committee endorsed plans for a pathway programme. To assist when the course is wet, a number of paths have been constructed at strategic parts of the course. In the main, they are sited between greens and the next tee but a number run from the relevant tee for a distance up the fairway. One major path runs from behind the first tee past the roundhouse and up to the 10th tee. In addition, landscaping has been carried out round the 1st tee and the car park area.

Tree Planting

A number of initiatives carried out by various committees over the period have resulted in a number of trees being planted at various parts of the course. This can be seen in a number of areas but perhaps most notably by the path between the 7th green and the 8th tee and in the rough between the 16th and 18th fairways.



Young trees planted between 15th and 16th fairways.

The Roundhouse.

Over the years and continuing into the period under review, the golf club offered light snacks and drinks at the Roundhouse situated conveniently behind the 9th green. The snacks were initially prepared by the club's own catering staff then were later provided by the club's franchised caterers while the drinks were supplied by the club's own bar. Bar staff were employed at this facility each Saturday and Sunday morning and occasionally on specific events held during the week.

However, in September, 1995, agreement was reached by the committee that the facility could be subject to an independent franchise. Further electricity cabling was utilised and the club financially assisted the franchisee, Declan O'Doherty, to modernise the facility through upgrading of the building, the installation of lady's and gent's toilets at the rear of the building and the purchase of equipment. The work was completed in April, 2004, and we all now enjoy a wide selection of food and drinks throughout the week. In October, 2005, Mr. O'Doherty was given permission to pave the area outside the front of the building to further improve the facility.



Declan O'Doherty outside the Roundhouse – a welcome haven both in summer and winter.

Shoe Cleaning Equipment.

In July, 2002, the Captain of the day, Mr. J.D. Hutchison, provided compressed air shoe and trolley cleaning to the club which was installed by the head green keeper at the rear door of the men's locker room.

In March, 2004, similar equipment provided by the ladies section was installed by the door of the caddie master's shed.

The use of buggies

It was agreed in 1996 that the club would buy/lease a total of four buggies for use on the course. They have been in regular use since then and accordingly, in August, 2006, a further two were made available. The only restriction on their use, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Green Committee, is when the course is exceptionally wet and damage is likely to be caused.

Practice area.

The club has always suffered from a lack of spare space in which a full scale practice area could be provided. The teeing area by the 16th tee has continued to be used with ropes marking the teeing area of the day. However, in August, 2005, an additional practice area was established behind the trees on the right of the 8th fairway as one approaches the green. It comprises the

creation of a putting green with a greenside bunker allowing members to practise their short game.



New practice bunker and green by 8th fairway

Sports Turf Research Institute (S.T.R.I.)

The course is now subjected to an annual inspection by the S.T.R.I. which then produces a report recommending action that needs to be taken in respect of the golf course. This has proved to have been very helpful over the years and it is fair to claim that the course has generally been found to be in good condition.

Other course related issues.

For the last few years, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames has held his golf charity day at Malden thus emphasising the esteem in which the club and course is held.

There have been a small number of incidents when neighbours on the boundaries of the course have encroached onto club property but in the main, these issues have been resolved amicably. One classic example of this type of encroachment occurred at Ely Close, the ground to the right of the new practise area by the 8th fairway, where a local resident dug and planted a vegetable plot on golf course land.

The course has been subjected to outbreaks of vandalism at various stages during the period under review. Holes have been dug in greens, graffiti painted on greens and a number of flags have been stolen from the greens.

Although these matters have a financial cost to the club, they are classed as more of an irritant than a major problem.

In November, 2004, a bridge crossing the Beverley Brook by the 4th tee was badly damaged by a contractor's vehicle but this was ultimately repaired at no cost to the club although it did cause some inconvenience to the membership until the repairs were completed.

In 2007, a coloured flag system was introduced to benefit the golfers. A white flag signified the hole is towards the back of the green, a yellow signifies the middle and red signifies the front.

Finally, in an attempt to keep the course tidy and to prevent animals from foraging, the club has installed wooden rubbish bins with spring loaded wire mesh tops by each tee.

THE CLUBHOUSE & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

By and large, the clubhouse has remained unchanged during the period under review other than refurbishment of certain areas when required which will be highlighted.

In October, 1992, work was completed on the new green keeper's complex to the right of the 2nd tee.

In the next few years, the men's bar, the snooker room, the main lounge and the dining room were all refurbished and a new beer cellar was constructed.

In 1998, agreement was reached to spend £60,000 to upgrade the mens' locker room providing new wooden lockers. New showers and toilets were fitted.

In May, 1999, approximately £4,000 was spent on reducing beer cellar noise after complaints by neighbours.

During March, 2000, CCTV cameras were installed at strategic points in and around the club buildings and a key pad entry system fitted to the front door as well as the entrances to the locker room.

In September, 2000, work began on major renovation of the club house roof which had been found to be leaking. When completed, the work cost approximately £120,000.

One year later, the club house was again damaged by fire. A dishwasher in the bar area caught alight causing considerable damage to the surrounding woodwork as well as smoke damage throughout the building. The cost fortunately was met by the club's insurers who also agreed to pay for the refurbishment of the damaged honours boards.

In January, 2001, the windows in the mens' locker room were replaced and in August, 2005, necessary repairs were carried out to the roof of the professional's shop.

In October of that year, the dining room was again re-decorated with new chairs provided. It is now adorned with photographs of the course taken and donated by Mr. John McNiff.

In July, 2006, new boilers were installed in the club house.

Whilst the club had always provided towels on certain occasions, it was agreed in 2006 that they would be provided on a daily basis for use by all.

Dress Rules.

During the period, a number of amendments were made to the dress rules affecting both the clubhouse and the course. In April, 1993, the committee relaxed the dress rules in both the bar and dining room up until 6.30 p.m. except for the dining room on Sundays. This was initially for a three month trial period but actually lasted until August, 1995, when a further relaxation was allowed in so far as smart casual clothing could be worn at all times except on formal occasions and at Sunday lunch.

Previously, it had been a club rule that those who wished to wear shorts on the course could do so provided the shorts were tailored and worn with knee length socks. In 2001, following a ballot amongst the membership, it was agreed that tailored shorts worn with short socks, predominantly white in colour, were now acceptable.

Vodaphone

In early 2001, the club received an approach from the landlords stating that the communications company, Vodaphone, wished to install communication equipment in the form of a radio mast and assorted associated equipment on the golf course. After consideration by the committee, this was rejected but a decision made that the company could make use of an area in the clubhouse to meet their requirements.

During consultations with the company, it was agreed that three masts, in the form of flagpoles, could be erected on the building and that the company would ameliorate one of the adjacent sheds to house their ancillary equipment.

Building permission was initially refused by the RBK but permission was granted after appeal. In November, 2002, the contract between the company and the club was signed and in July, 2003, the building work was completed and the masts (flagpoles) were erected. The system became fully operational in April, 2004. The company pays an annual fee to the club.



The rear of the clubhouse showing the radio masts - flagpoles

THE LEASE AND RENT.

The lease.

As previously stated, the club leases the land which makes up the course from the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. Because the extant lease from RBK was due to expire in 2024 and the Club was aware that both Coombe Hill and Coombe Wood Golf Clubs were negotiating with RBK in respect of new leases, Malden attempted to do the same. This process started in the early 1990's but unfortunately, at the outset, a rent review on the old lease was outstanding and consideration of a new lease was delayed by RBK. Meanwhile, the majority political party on the council changed and the new administration shelved any consideration of a new lease stating that they preferred an income by way of the rent paid.

Over the next ten years or so, regular approaches were made to RBK pointing out that as the duration of the lease shortened, so would the attraction of the club to new members along with an increasing reluctance to invest in improvements on the course.

Eventually, a new 75 year lease was agreed in 2005.

The rent

As stated above, the club pays an annual rent to RBK for the use of the land which makes up the golf course. This rent has increased dramatically over the period under review and when taken in conjunction with the increases in the rates payable by the club, adds a heavy financial burden to the ever increasing costs of running and maintaining the course. Examples of these rent rises can be seen in the chart below.

Year	Rent
1991	£8,840
1994	£41,540
1997	£54,861
2000	£67,590
2001	£92,962
2007	£96,067
2008	£105,000

THE CLUB PROFESSIONAL.

The club's long serving professional, Mr. George Howard, retired on 31st October, 1990, and was replaced by his then assistant, Mr. Robert Hunter. George continued to be seen around the course for a number of years offering advice or condemnation in equal terms to anyone around in his broad Lancashire dialect. Everyone has their favourite George Howard story and his name will live forever in the history of Malden Golf Club. What must never be forgotten is that in his day, George was an exceptionally good golfer, well respected among other more illustrious golf professionals. Following his retirement, two senior members of the golf club, Mr. Ken Tuvey and Mr. Ken Smith, donated a cup to the club to be known as the George Howard Trophy. George was asked in what format he would like his trophy played for and in his own inimitable way, he chose foursomes medal, one of the most difficult and least loved forms of golf.

Sadly, George passed away on 28th February, 2001.

Robert, however, has continued to be a great servant of the club through the service he provides to members in his shop, his ability as a teacher and his role as Golf Manager. He was appointed as Golf Manager in July, 1998 and in October, 1999, was appointed as a non voting member of the general committee. These tasks include an overall overview in respect of the course, the preparation of starting sheets for competitions, the maintenance of members handicaps and acting as a referee in competition play offs. He also of course, takes part in the Captain and Pro challenges from members and many past captains have been glad of his golfing prowess. In addition, he runs and participates in an annual Pro/Am which continue to be well supported and successful.

THE ARTISAN SECTION.

During the period under review, the Artisan Section has continued as an entity with its own clubhouse and competitions. In club events where they are eligible to play such as Charity Day and the Pro/Am, the section is generally well represented.

The section carries out divotting on the course at various times of the year and has on occasion, contributed money towards enhancing its enhancement. An example would be the provision of rhododendrons in February, 1994.

On 4th June, 1997, the section celebrated its 50th anniversary with a golf day at the club.

The Artisan membership pay an annual fee to the club which has varied over the period.

However, the club has recently negotiated a new long term lease with the landlords and under the conditions of that lease, there is no longer a requirement on behalf the club to maintain an Artisan Section. Discussions are currently in hand between the club and the Artisans to discuss the future. A financial offer made to the club by the Artisans was rejected at a Special General Meeting of the club membership in 2007.

CHARITY DAY.

Charity Day, first suggested and agreed in February, 1995, has been a real success story for the club. Over the years, both the generosity of the sponsors and the playing participants have contributed greatly to the raising of substantial sums of money for local charities. In addition, raffles, auctions and other money raising schemes, have been introduced. The charity sub committee originally headed by David Meredith, followed by Allan Campbell and in recent times, by Geoff Start, are all deserving of great credit for their efforts.

The event was first held in July, 2005, when a total of **£5,000** was raised with the equal beneficiaries being Bedelsford School and Malden and Coombe Old Peoples Welfare. Prizes at that first event were presented by Mr. Jimmy Tarbuck, the well known comedian and T.V. star who is also a member at nearby Coombe Hill Golf Club. The amounts raised since then and the beneficiaries are as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Charity Supported</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
1996	Bedelsford	£4,000	£7,000
	Home Farm Trust	2,500	
	Scope	500	
1997	Bedelsford	£3,500	
	Mental Aid	3,500	

1998	McMillan Nurses	500	£7,500
	Bedelsford	£4,100	
	Princess Alice Hospice	2,500	£6,600
1999	Bedelsford	£4,125	
	Age Concern	2,000	
	McMillan Cancer Care	2,000	£8,125
2000	Bedelsford	£3,750	
	Barnfield Riding	1,875	
	Royal Hospital	1,875	
	Sargent Cancer Care	416	£7,916
2001	Bedelsford	£4,100	
	Shooting Star	2,200	
	ATC	2,200	£8,500
2002	Bedelsford	£3,665	
	NCH	3,585	£7,250
2003	Bedelsford	£5,976	
	Warren Park	2,637	
	RBK Causeway	880	
	Malden Social Blind	880	
	MEFAS	880	£11,253
2004	Bedelsford	£5,137	
	Warren Park	2,620	
	Kingston Can	1,620	
	Spartans Swimming Club	1,000	£10,377
2005	Bedelsford	£7,100	
	Warren Park	3,550	
	MacMillan Cancer Care	3,550	£14,200
2006	Bedelsford	£11,942	
	Mount Primary School	6,400	
	Warren Park	6,400	£24,742
2007	Bedelsford paid direct	£8,745	
	Bedelsford	500	
	Fulham Football Club Community Project	8,000	
	Warren Park	8,000	£25,245

Since its inception, Charity Day has raised over £136,000 for local charities and must be classed as a wonderful effort by all concerned and a great credit to the golf club.

One cannot however, leave this section without making particular reference to the last two years where huge sums of money were raised. This is due in the main to a number of golf club members who have undergone what is known as the five round challenge. They have played five rounds of golf starting in the early hours as soon as the light makes it possible and do not finish until late in the evening. The players arrange for sponsorship in their own right and then donate the money to the Charity Day Fund. This is clearly a great effort and those participating should be commended.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.

County Representation.

During the period under review, Mr. Alec M. Pringle has served as both Captain and President of the Society of Surrey Golf Captains. Mr. Michael A. Melligan has served as the Captain of the Society of London Golf Captains.

Mrs. Betty Lansley has served as Captain and is the current President of the Society of London Ladies Golf Captains. She has also served as the Captain of the Society of Surrey Ladies Golf Captains.

Mrs. Davina Hodson has served as the Captain of the Society of London Ladies Golf Captains.

In 1997, our professional Robert Hunter was appointed Captain of the Surrey Professional Golfers Association (PGA) for that year.

Another member, Gareth Lashford, served as Captain of the Surrey Golf Union between 1996 and 1999. He also represented Surrey County on many occasions.

In addition, in 1995, Gareth together with Derek Steele, won the Surrey County Foursomes Tournament at Betchworth Park Golf Club.

John Pascall, a former Captain of the club, represented Surrey County at senior level on a number of occasions.

In 2007, one of our juniors, Aaron McNeela, won the Surrey County Order of Merit in his age group.

Such distinction bestows not only a great honour on the individuals concerned but also adds to the reputation and good name of Malden Golf Club as a whole.

Plaque displayed at 14th tee.

On 10th August, 2002, during the qualifying round for the Brock Cup, the final of which is held on Armistice Sunday, two members of the club, Mr. Dicky Moore and Mr. Dennis Winter, both holed their respective tee shots on the short 14th, a feat now marked by a permanent plaque commemorating the occasion.

Appendix 1

Malden Golf Club Captains

1991	S.G.White
1992	A.R. Baker
1993	J. Warner
1994	D. Meredith
1995	J.P. Lambert
1996	F.J. England
1997	D.E. Lashford
1998	G.J. Marchesi
1999	M.T. Higgins
2000	J.J. McNiff
2001	J.D. Hutchison
2002	D.A. Todd
2003	J.C.S. Pascall
2004	J.A. Kindred
2005	J.E. Stimson
2006	G.A.T. Robinson
2007	P. Mannion

Malden Golf Club Presidents

1991-3	R.A. Lang
1994-5	R.C. Rutterford
1996-7	R.C. Sheehan
1998-9	R.C.H. Mumford
2000-1	Alec M. Pringle
2002-3	P.A. Treasure
2004	B.S. Frost
2005	M.A. Melligan
2006	P.H.A. Pearson
2007	D. Meredith

N.B. Starting in 2004, it was agreed that the position of President would be held for one year only as opposed to the previous two year tenure.

Malden Golf Club Lady Captains

1991	Mrs. S. Allan
1992	Mrs. D.J. White
1993	Miss D.U. Hodson
1994	Mrs. N. Hewitt
1995	Miss M. Glanvill
1996	Mrs. J.H. Britland
1997	Miss S.C. Ewbank
1998	Mrs. J.A. Hicks
1999	Mrs. A. Mackenzie
2000	Mrs. J.M. Warner
2001	Mrs. D. Dimichele
2002	Mrs. P. Mumford
2003	Mrs. C.C. Jenkins
2004	Miss J. Dell
2005	Mrs. C.S. Bilton
2006	Mrs. D.A. Evans
2007	Mrs. A.E. Gems

Appendix 2

Summary of events portraying the year of “Monsoon McNiff”

2000

Sept 15	Torrential rain and course closed for weekend including postponement of Clipsham qualifier
Oct 21	Course closed
Oct 22	Delayed Clipsham played
Nov 4	Medal cancelled
Nov 12	Brock final postponed
Nov 25/26	Course unplayable
Dec 2	Medal cancelled
Dec 10	Xmas Fayre shortened due to wet conditions
Dec 28/29	Course closed due to snow

2001

Jan 6	Medal cancelled
Jan 21	Fourball stableford on 18 temporary greens – cancelled after 5 holes
Jan 28	Course still waterlogged
Feb 3	Medal cancelled
Feb 10	Course waterlogged – competition cancelled
Feb 25	Managed to play Brock Final
Mar 3	Medal played – muddy conditions
Mar 10	Victory Cup played – very muddy
Mar 11	Match at Strawberry Hill cancelled – rain
Mar 17	Match v Coombe Hill – cancelled – waterlogged
March 18	Clipsham Final postponed – waterlogged
March 24/25	Course closed
Week begin 26	Course closed all week except Saturday
Apr 7	Medal played – wet underfoot
Apr 28	Match v Wimbledon Park played – torrential rain in afternoon
Apr 29	Scratch Final postponed – floods
May 6	Invitation day postponed - flooding

