

DON'S DILEMMA—Don Biddle

Question: A player is preparing to putt. He addresses the ball and places the putter on the green immediately in front of his ball on the line of the putt and then puts his putter behind his ball prior to putting. Does he commit a breach of the rules?

Answer: No! Rule 16-1a (ii) states: the player may place the club in front of the ball when addressing it, provided he does not press anything down.

ARE GOLFERS MAD?.... Or, the day we went to Torquay! (abridged version)

Four of us decided to go to Torquay, we had to go in two cars as there was only one buggy we could book. The day we chose was the worst weather of the summer so far, both cars thought about cancelling, but we didn't speak to each other, so we carried on through the most appalling rain, arriving at Torquay within 5 mins of each other. *Surprisingly, there was hardly anyone there so we didn't have to wait to tee off!* Torquay as a course looked lovely, with a super clubhouse. When we started, playing walkers v buggy riders, it was only drizzling, however it gradually got worse and the wind was blowing. *The greenkeepers thought we were mad!* The golf was not too bad when we started, but as the weather got worse, so did we. *We carried on, we had started, so we would finish!* The greens were showing signs of wear *and really needed the rain!*, they were mown shorter than at Filton and were quite quick, despite the water on them.

Meanwhile, the rain came down in torrents and we were wet beneath our waterproofs. One walker's umbrella broke in the wind, whilst the buggy players used theirs to stop rain driving into the sides of the buggy, *but we still carried on!* We got to the top of the hill and were even more exposed to the elements, but suddenly the rain eased and we even stopped to admire the view. As we started downhill again, the ground was so wet that the buggy started to go too fast, braking only produced skidding and we started to slide faster. We tried to steer into the hill, but this only made the passenger fall off, which was just as well, as we were heading for a 10 foot drop! The driver then lost his nerve and jumped out, falling like the escaping POW's in the Great Escape off a moving train. As the buggy went over the bank, the bags fell off, but it did come to a stop on the fairway. As no-one was hurt and no damage done, except to our pride, *we climbed back on and carried on.* We came to a short hole and one umbrella with vents was left up while we teed off. A gust of wind caught it and it spun off and into a pond, handle uppermost. It seemed to float at first and made its way to an island in the middle. However the vents were letting the water in and it was starting to sink; carrying on without it seemed unthinkable. Fortunately, we had a ball retriever with us and after climbing down a steep bank, we could just reach it and pull it back. *We carried on!* One walker then went to the wrong hole, a buggy player was shouting to him and, not looking where he was going, fell into a bunker. After carefully raking it, *we carried on!* It was quite a relief to reach the 18th, the end to the torture was in sight. We finished with a half and the match was also all square, a fair result. After a lovely hot shower, we went into the dining room for some food, the weather started to clear up and the greens gradually drained. We then set off for Bristol and caught up with the rain again. *In fact we all had a great day!* We feel we could recommend Torquay, even though some holes crossed, if we lived in Torquay we could have joined that club quite happily

Filton Golf Club

Newsletter

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**CLUB NEWS—CENTENARY YEAR IN FULL SWING!**

Since the last Newsletter, Centenary events have been coming up thick and fast. Thank you to all those members, who were not participating in a particular event or another, for your patience and understanding if your normal golfing day was disrupted. However, a Centenary does not come round too often, and you are unlikely to be similarly affected once this year is over.

Aerospace Day on June 24, celebrating almost 100 years of links with local aerospace companies, was a great success. Thanks to Rolls-Royce in particular for their wonderful support, including the magnificent trophy, won by an Airbus team, and a superb flying display put on for us by the Company Spitfire, they really did us proud.

Festival Week, which started on July 4, had many highlights on both the playing side, including a hole in one by Ricki Shackell, and Liam Mitchell winning the Centenary Medal, and on the social front. The display of trick shots by Paul Barrington, the music of Doing Time, Mo, Mac and Me and finally the Centenary Ball making it a week to remember. Thanks to everyone who helped to put the Festival together, run it and support it, it couldn't have happened without you.

The round of Tri-Club matches, between ourselves, Torquay and Weymouth, started on 22 July, or rather it didn't, quite! The match at Torquay lacked the Weymouth team as they had to pull out due to the funeral of a senior lady member. We still had a great time with superb hospitality from Torquay, apart from the drubbing that they gave us in the match we played!! The following week saw the match at Filton. We should have played water polo! The rain was heavy and relentless, nonetheless we soldiered on, putting through flooded greens and getting soaked, until Captain Jim, who miraculously hurts his back on such occasions, took pity on us and shortened the match to 13 holes. However we take a lead down to Weymouth for the final match on 26 August. **Captain's VIP Day** was interspersed between these games, and then came the **Junior Open and the Centenary West Region PGA Pro-Am**, which saw another course record; more on these events inside.

Finally, on **31 October**, we are holding a **Founders Day Dinner** commemorating the Club's founding, at which Roy Case, Past President of the EGU will present their Centenary Plate to us. Details on the noticeboards soon.

CLUB CAPTAIN—Jim Henderson

The last two months have been the busiest that I can remember since I have been a member of the club. I could take up the whole of this newsletter by relating all that happened over the last 8 – 10 weeks but I will content myself with the highlights as I saw them.

On 24 June we had a competition with the aerospace companies with whom we enjoy a close relationship. Bae, Rolls Royce, Airbus, BAGS, and ourselves all entered teams, with a team from Airbus Systems winning the trophy donated by Rolls Royce. The highlight of the day was the display by a Spitfire aircraft, also organised by Rolls Royce, and I was able to speak to the pilot on the telephone after he returned to his base in Donnington to congratulate him on a spectacular event.

The Festival week in July was a great success. I personally played too much golf, but the day I did not play (apart from the ladies day) was my Captain's Day. Apart from a heavy downpour mid way through the day it went well and I would like to thank Norman Burrows, chef extraordinaire, and the waitresses – Margaret Henderson, Ann Burrows and Hazel Oaten - Roy Oaten, who sold the raffle tickets and Sean Radford, who was my "Gofor". Also Dave Boyes and Gary Finn did sterling work on the chipping and putting competitions. Thanks to you all for your support.

The event that seemed to attract everybody's attention was the "mixed format" event on the Friday. Six holes fourball, six holes greensomes and six holes foursomes. It turned out to be a very different but most enjoyable day and we may introduce this as a future competition.

The West Region Greenkeeper's Association brought their event to Filton on 15 July and I was very proud to hear the complimentary comments on the condition of our course by Marcus' fellow greenkeepers.

My VIP day with Captains and committee members from local clubs was also a great success and it helped that the Red Arrows had "overnighted" in Filton and took off as my team approached the seventh green with other teams out on the course. I naturally told everyone that I had arranged this as a special event at great expense.

June was also a busy month for me personally as my son came back from Dubai on holiday and my granddaughter's christening was arranged for the time he was home. One of the other reasons for Graeme coming back when he did was to attend Mike Pimm's wedding in Croydon. My very best wishes to Mike and Alison for a long and fruitful marriage.

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PRO CORNER—Daryl Kelley

This year Filton GC had a very prestigious event in the West Region when we held our first Pro-Am for many years and, although we only had 24 team entrants it was a very successful day, with my old Professional course record being beaten, when Mike Watson from Wessex Golf Centre went around Filton in 64, I'm sure you'll agree that is a very fine score indeed and will take some beating. The Individual Professional results:- **1st:** Mike Watson 64; **2nd:** Guiseppe Licata (Spag) 67; **3rd** Adam Constable 68

For those of you who don't know how a Pro-Am is run; 1 Professional plays with 3 amateurs, they play a 2 from 4 format for the team score and at the same time the Pro has his own score recorded for the Professionals scores,

Team results:- **1st:** Giuseppe Licata, Ricky Shackell, Joe Shackell, Ray Long -15. **2nd:** Brent Ellis, Phil Lear, Andy Moore, Andy Maby -11 **BB9**
3rd: Daryl Kelley, James Parker, Norman Burrows, Pete Peachey -11

All 9 of the winning amateurs are Filton members, so a great day for them; other members who played are, Paul Ryder, Becky Angell, Johny Doige, Chris Foran, Brian Orton, David Cottrell, John Cottrell, Trevor Atkinson, Bernie Powell, Dave Williams, Ceri Fearnley, Pete McCarthy, Dave Davies, Andy Stones, Nigel Bailey, Barry Wilcox, Dave Cox, Barry Philips, Alan Barclay, Goff Pimm, Reg Cox, Gary Smith, Duncan Smith and Jock Smith, and I am sure if you ask any of them they will all say they enjoyed it thoroughly and recommend others to play in it next year, when we hope to run it again. It's a great way to get the club on the map and get much needed revenue into the bar/catering and shop. Also Filton is a golf course which is far too good not to hold an event like one of these, so get your names down for next year, you won't be disappointed.

I've played in a few events of late, firstly to St Pierre in the PGA of Great Britain. In the Pro-Am there, my team of Trevor Atkinson, Norman Burrows and Gordon Smith came a creditable 2nd, then in the 54 hole main event I ended up coming 22nd out of the whole of Great Britain. We then had the Pro-Am here in which we came 3rd. The following day Pete Peachey, Norman Burrows and Phil Lear and I went down to Woodbury Park GC in Exeter, although we didn't think we would make it as my car didn't seem very happy, so (unlike me) had to drive conservatively at 65mph down the M5.! but we made it and after a short delay we got out onto the course and went about our thing; the boys had Pimms on the 2nd tee and pear cider on the last!! The team shot -7 which in very soft conditions was pretty good, I was -3 which gave me 4th place, so a good couple of weeks on and off the course

SENIORS REPORT—Trevor Thompson

In last months newsletter I reminded readers of the forthcoming Seniors Centenary Invitation on the 9th July, our premier event for the Centenary Celebration. What a great day it was. There were 56 seniors with guests, with the shot gun start proving to be a very successful format. The competition was won by Denis Rudman and his partner K. Baldwin from Marlborough G.C. with an outrageous 51 points. The runners up were Roy Sibley and his partner D. Hopkins from Stinchcombe G.C. with 45 points. It was such a great day that perhaps the committee could consider that we hold the event again. Maybe on an annual or biennial basis, or some special event such as if and when The Open is won by some one who was born and bred in the UK. Just to make it special. Any suggestions?

Captain Mike Brain reports that the Seniors have played 23 matches, winning 10 losing 9 and halving 4. A mid table position (if there was a table) looking toward a play off position. To date 48 seniors have played in the matches. Unfortunately Mike has been indisposed of late due to his recurring back problems, consequently there have been a few deputies stepping in to help out. Mike would wish his thanks to be recorded to Roy Sibley, Trevor Thompson, Bob Smith and Chris Foran for stepping into the breach. Mike's Vice Captain Barry Hopkins has also been indisposed of late and tells me that he is due to have an operation in a couple of weeks. Consequently he will be out of action (in plaster for 3 months.) until at least November. Best of luck Barry for a full recovery. Our best wishes also extend to Doug Bryant who was taken ill during our Centenary Invitation event. Doug is now much better and beginning to play golf again.

The Seniors Championship, held on the 16th July was won by Alan Smyth with a gross 73 with the nett winners being: 1st I. Lissiman (17), gross 84, nett 67. 2nd. Percy Soper (12), gross 80, nett 68. 3rd Chris Foran (19), gross 88, nett 69. The Summer Cup held on the 11th August was won by Nick Pollard (22), with 39 points, 2nd Ray Broome (12), with 38 points, 3rd Sandy Campbell (12), with 37 points. The Veterans Cup was won by Percy Soper (12), with 39 points. The runner up was Alan Gaydon (23) with 34 points.

Captain Mike tells me that our team for the Seniors County Shield have reached the quarter finals beating Naunton Downs 2 and a half – 1 and a half. Keep up the good work, we look forward to seeing you in the final?

I must apologise for the omission from the credits in the previous Newsletter following our Open on the 11th June. As a result of their performance on the day our representatives going forward to the CESP finals at Minchinhampton will be Kelvin Binns and Roger Willett.

CLUB CAPTAIN (cont)

The Tri-club competition between ourselves, Torquay and Weymouth had a bad start. Due to a bereavement at Weymouth they were unable to travel to Torquay so we played Torquay in a series of fourball matches and lost heavily. Fortunately we agreed that this match would not count in the Tri-club competition and so when the three clubs met at Filton it marked the start of the competition proper. However, the heavens opened and it turned into a thirteen -hole competition. We now go to Weymouth for the last match with a slender lead over the other two and hopefully we will bring back the trophy.

On 5 August we hosted a Western Region Pro Am with 24 teams taking part. It was another great day with the PGA delighted with our course. Michael Watson, from the Wessex Golf Centre shot a professional course record of 64.

As I said at the beginning it has been a busy year. Apart from the Centenary competitions and Festival week, I have played several matches for the Gloucester Captains, attended several senior opens, and tried to fit in some matches with friends here at Filton. It is not finished yet. My diary is full for the next two months and I need to fit in a holiday with my wife or suffer the consequences. Still I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I am proud to be your Captain, proud of our course and our membership, in this a great Centenary year.

LADIES CAPTAIN—Joy Woodman

I really can't believe we are in August already, the year seems to be racing by. Centenary Festival week proved most successful, Tuesday - Ladies Centenary Day saw us welcome back many past members, the weather was somewhat mixed but everyone seemed to enjoy the day, with some really good scores being recorded both in the morning Bowmaker (nine holes) and the eighteen hole individual Stableford. Forty five ladies attended the Evening Dinner and Prize Giving, it was a fitting end to a very busy but most enjoyable day.

The Tri Club match at Filton, what is there to say about it? The company was great, as was the meal, but don't mention the weather.

All our knock out competitions are now in full swing. I have my first final to referee in September.

I hope you are all enjoying your Golf despite our so called summer.

Next newsletter: contributions to Alan Barclay or the Managing Secretary, by 15 October please . It would be nice to get them on time!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SECURITY - Gary Duke

Course security will always be an issue at Filton with our rights of way, but we are slowly getting somewhere with the councils and the anti social behaviour people. The course is now a police beat and I am pleased to day that the police do try hard to react quickly, as they know of the problems from first hand, and of course they are fully aware of the impact on our enjoyment of it and high costs that go with the vandals. Still we must all be truly vigilant if we don't want damage and disruption to become more of an issue to our leisure time on what must be the best course in the county.

In recent weeks I have become alarmed at the number of members who speak to me in the clubhouse or on the course complaining about issues with local kids and yet seem unable to do anything about it themselves. I don't want to get phone calls complaining of kids on the course when I am home having dinner, so if you see anything you don't agree with please phone the police and let them know. When I am around I will do my best to intervene and chase these kids off the course but I cannot do all of this alone. Remember we all own the club and the land and I am sure we are very proud of it. We must be more proactive in dealing with these tearaways. The green keepers also do their very best to limit intrusion and unwanted visitors but their concentration is in keeping the course in its beautiful condition not leaving their work to deal with issues that any one of us can swiftly sort out.

I have always advocated not challenging people if they appear threatening or are too many in number, just go to a quiet place and make the necessary phone call. The Club Council, the Managing Secretary and I will keep sustained pressure on the authorities to deal with these issues and hopefully we will gain some greater resolution to them in the near future; believe me I do not think this is waste of time, but please once again join in and help us. Having said this I believe that things are slowly getting better, but of course each school summer holiday the next generation of idiots discover the course and want to play on it in places where they shouldn't, we mustn't let them win.

PRO'S Footnote: This month I have been asked to write a bit about the importance of having the correct shafts in your clubs, a part of the club which I think is the most important aspect of your equipment. Shafts don't just come in stiff and regular they all have different kick points, weights and lengths, all giving different shot flights, if you visit my website you can see how I explain this: <http://www.daryl-kelley.co.uk/Pro/Zones/DriverZone.aspx?aspxerrorpath=/Pro/Newsletter.aspx>

JUNIOR REPORT—Andy Chivers

As far as the junior league action goes, there really hasn't been any of late with the poor weather we have been experiencing. We have played 4 and only won 2 so far, so there is a lot of work to be done if we want to secure a place in the League Final play-offs. Just to bring you up to date, our last game was at Lansdown, and after beating them twice already this year at home we maybe were a little over confident (well I certainly was). We lost 4-2. They played well on their own track to really deserve a win and were looking forward to a return game on their terms. Well done to all the team, and thankyou to the parents for their continued support. Our home game against Knowle had to be postponed due to the awful rain, and is now fixed for Tuesday 25 August, and is a must win. We are still trying to sort our final game against The Park, if we can finally get chance to speak to someone there, as there never seems to be anyone around. We are also waiting for an outcome in the Junior league Knockout to see who we will be facing in the semi finals after winning against Lansdown. I will keep you all up to date on this as soon as it happens.

Our Junior Open was a fantastic success even without me being there. This was down to very kind support and help from the volunteers on the day. My thanks to Dave Boyes, Matt Carter, Gary Finn and Dave Williams for being on hand to help out. Also my thanks to the usual suspects Don and Gary, and the Pro Shop staff, and a special thank you to Ian Foulner for taking time out of his busy schedule to support this important event. These and all events would not really be possible without the support of volunteers, so thank you very much indeed to all who take time out to help. Congratulations to Luke Derrick in winning the Filton Nett Cup, he remarkably dropped 4 shots in a week, from 18 to 14. Matthew Thatcher came 2nd with Shaun Radford in 3rd. Jonny Doidge won the Hugh Spencer Trophy (Filton Gross) with Rob Lloyd 2nd and Mitch Waite 3rd. We had our biggest field yet with 80 juniors competing . Full results can be found on the junior website filtonjuniors.co.uk

More congratulations to Shaun Radford for winning the Cooksey Trophy with +5. Even with a slight improvement in my golf this year, I still can't get a sniff of a victory with my juniors around.

An awful thought really, but we only have six juniors nights left this season, and an end to a very successful Centenary year. I am hoping to get quite a few coaching dates together over the autumn and winter, as it has been so busy this year, we haven't had time to fit it all in. I will be in touch via my regular emails with updates.