

It only takes a 'Minute'

FILTON GOLF CLUB

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Introduction

The sole intention of this Story is to convey to the reader that which is contained in the ‘**Minutes of Filton Golf Club**’, as accurately and honestly as possible.

In the text that follows passages in bold typeface have been taken directly from the minutes and no attempt has been made to re-work or “improve” any archaic English.

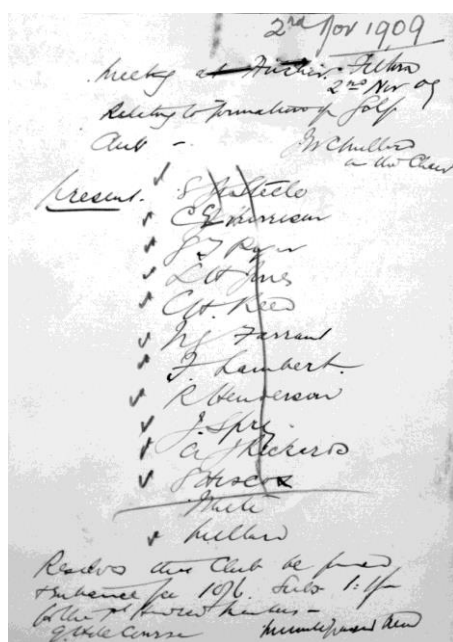
On the few occasions that the author has deemed to make his personal comment, these are made with no malice and are not intended to cause offence or indeed embarrassment in any shape or form. If they are seen otherwise please accept his sincere apology.

I trust you will enjoy these ramblings and gain an insight into how we have arrived at this point in time – **May 1999**

CHAPTER 1

IN THE BEGINNING (November 1909 – May 1910)

It is often quite difficult to determine the exact time and place when such an important event as the inauguration of Filton Golf Club would have taken place, but thanks to the fortitude of the individuals in attendance we still retain the **‘Reference Note’** (Minute) pertaining to their very first meeting, as depicted below.



How grateful we are gentlemen that you met on 2nd November 1909 at the Anchor Hotel in Filton, to discuss ‘the establishing of a Golf Club’, which we are delighted to report after 100 years **‘is still thriving and going strong’**. We can be pretty certain they would have partaken in a drink to ‘toast’ the success of their new venture that night, but little would they have known what they were letting themselves in for and what lay ahead for them and future members. We hope that this **‘Filton Golf Club Story’** - thus far, which is dedicated to the memory of those who have gone before us, helps in someway to repay a debt of gratitude that is owed to all who played their part in making things possible for us today.

In attendance at the inaugural gathering, a number who might quite reasonably be referred to as the **‘Founding Fathers’** of Filton Golf Club, were:

G.J. Steele
G.T. Pimm
C.H. Reed
F. Lambert
A.J. Rickards
W.J.C. Millard

C.E. Harrison
L.H. Jones
W.G. Farrant
R.A.K. Henderson
G. Hiscox

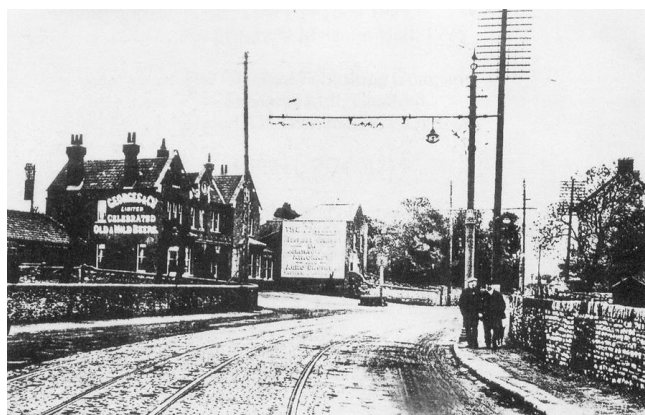
J. Spry (Gloucestershire Cricket Groundsman)
A. White (Rodway Hill Golf Club Professional)

On that auspicious occasion, with W.J.C. Millard **‘at the Chair’**, it was resolved that a **‘Club be formed’** with an **Entrance fee of 10/6** (52.5p in today’s money) and

Subscription of £1.1s.0d (105p) collected from fellow members and that they would play on a **‘9 Hole Course’**

You may well ask, “Why construct a Golf Course at Filton and choose ‘The Anchor Hotel’ to hold such a meeting”? and in truth we do not know. We can only speculate and ‘tongue in cheek’ with regards the latter, suggest that the Anchor was decided upon as it was already a well established 19th hole and had an ample supply of ‘Dutch Courage’ to assist those present to arrive at such an enormous decision (particularly as the evening wore on). A more likely explanation however, is that as Filton was a small rural farming community at the time, land for a Golf Course was readily available and sufficiently near to the Anchor for the Hotel to be considered as a possible Clubhouse. Also travelling to Filton from Bristol and the surrounding districts was comparatively easy, as a ‘Tramway Depot’ already existed in Filton. The Tramway Company built two iron sheds at the top of Homestead Road as its bus depot and bus chassis manufacturing works, opening in 1908. These were leased to Sir George White who had formed a company named the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company Limited to manufacture aircraft.

Whatever the reason the Anchor did become our first Clubhouse and remained so until March 1911. As a footnote, having fallen into a state of neglect and disrepair, tragically ‘The Anchor Hotel’ was demolished in 1985 and sadly a piece of Filton Golf Club’s history disappeared with it.



The Anchor Hotel – Viewed as approached from Bristol in 1911

With the decision to form a Golf Club now agreed, in the early days meetings took place almost on a daily basis, the first being held on 6th November 1909.

It was at this meeting that John William Bolton, Solicitor and Chairman of Filton Parish Council was elected as the Club’s first Chairman with John Millard, a Corn Merchant as his Vice Chairman



John William Bolton - Filton Golf Club’s First Chairman and donator of ‘Chairman’s Cup’

Also elected were, R.A.K. Henderson a Bank Manager and Samuel Shield, Proprietor of Shields Laundry (one of the few employers in Filton) who became joint Honorary Treasurers and Mr L.H. Jones as Honorary Secretary with C.H. Reed as his assistant. A Main Committee with the following Members was also formed: Messrs L. Cox, W.E. Jones, G.T. Pimm, A.J. Rickards, H.B. Simmonds, F. Thomas and W.G. Farrant. Mr W.E. Jones was to take over the Honorary Secretary role when Mr L.H. Jones left the area in the following February.

Others present at the meeting were B.G. Wynes, C.E. Harrison, F. Shields, L.H. Hancock, S. Cox, J.W.B. Keller, L.G. Williams, G. Horwell, P. Ackland, T. Willoughby, J. Welsh, E.P. Hiscox, R.H. Boulter, F. Lambert and J. Hewitt. With the exception of Hancock, Keller, Williams and Willoughby, all enrolled themselves as members.

It is perhaps encouraging to notice that even at the outset Golf Club membership was open to people from all walks of life regardless of rank or profession, as occupations varied from Provisions Merchant, Architect, Sort Office Clerk, Insurance Manager, Civil Servant and Warehouseman. Something we are still particularly proud of today.

With the Officers of the Club duly elected the Main Committee's first priorities were to ***discuss all developments in the search for a suitable location to 'Lay out a Course', how to increase the membership numbers and the necessity to establish the new Golf Club on a sound financial and business footing.*** To this end, negotiations took place with local tenant farmer Mr J. Welsh, who when in attendance on the 6th November, had agreed to consider leasing part of his farmland.

In addition newly enrolled members were encouraged to spread the word and promote the Club, and a Bank account at the 'Old Bank' in Filton was opened in preparation.

Obtaining land to establish a Course proved problematic however, and negotiations with the local landowners in an attempt to secure a lease on land of sufficient acreage for an 18 holes Course (not the 9 holes originally thought of), continued into the New Year.

All to no avail however, as on 17th February 1910 it was reported by the Chairman that, ***'negotiation with the owners of property in the immediate neighbourhood which he had been engaged upon for some weeks past of securing the Club an 18 hole Course have not been successful, the terms being prohibitive'***. This setback the Club considered to be only a temporary situation, as on hearing the news the Committee agreed to ask ***Mr W. St Maur-Hill, an eminent authority on the game, to walk the land under consideration, with a view to deciding, the most suitable for an 18 hole Course.***

As a result on the 22nd February 1910 the Committee was informed that ***members who were appointed to meet Mr W. St Maur-Hill on Monday last, the 21st February, examined the whole of the land proposed to be leased for the formation of an 18 hole course, and the proposed layout of same, and it was unanimously agreed that the fields belonging to Mr John Atkin Waller and The Corporation of Bristol are admirably suited, as regards position, condition of turf and subsoil to the formation of an excellent 9 hole course'***.

Tough negotiations with Mr Friend of Pen Park Farm and Mr Pierce of Church Farm, the sitting tenants who farmed the required land, once again ensued regarding the terms of a lease.

Agreement between the Club and tenant farmers was eventually reached with the Club agreeing to pay the farmers £2 per acre, over a twelve month period. The tenants retaining

restricted grazing rights for their livestock and the Club having the right to cut the grass where and when required.

At last, after what must have been many frustrating months a General Meeting of Club members was called on the 18th March at Stephen's Restaurant in Baldwin Street ***to report on the progress achieved and to tell members that a Course would be ready for play in a few weeks time.***

It was also agreed that the Club would be formed into a Limited Liability Company with a capital of £500 in £1 shares. Subscriptions for the first 150 members to be set at £1.11s.6d, becoming due on 31 March and Articles of Association of the Company would be drawn up.

"The Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908."

COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES.

Articles of Association

OF THE

FILTON GOLF CLUB, LIMITED.

1. All the Articles of Table A in the First Schedule to The Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, shall apply to this Company with the following additions thereto.

2. The Shares shall be under the control of the Directors, who may allot and dispose of the same to such persons and on such conditions as they shall think fit.

3. The Directors may decline to register any transfer of Shares without giving any reason for such refusal.

4. The Minimum Subscription upon which the Directors may proceed to allotment is Shares to the nominal value of not less than Fifty Pounds. Subject thereto, the business of the Company may be commenced although the whole of the Nominal Capital is not subscribed.

5. If there shall be any variance or inconsistency between Table A and these special Articles, the said special Articles shall prevail.

NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND DESCRIPTIONS OF SUBSCRIBERS.

JOHN WILLIAM BOLTON, Delphine, Filton, Gloucestershire,
Solicitor.

EDWARD FAWCETT, The University of Bristol, Doctor
of Medicine.

ROBERT ALEXANDER KANE HENDERSON, Filton,
Gloucestershire, Bank Agent.

JOSEPH FISH, 19 Julius Road, Bristol, Warehouseman.

WILLIAM JOHN COLE MILLARD, Combe Lodge, Filton,
Corn Merchant.

SAMUEL SHIELD, Filton, Gloucestershire, Laundryman.

WALTER EDWARD MITCHELL, 30 Baldwin Street, Bristol,
Stationer.

Dated the 12th day of May, 1910.

Witness to the above Signatures—

IVON GEORGE PUNTER,

Clerk to Messrs. BOLTON & DAVIDSON, Solicitors,
Bristol.

The 'Bristol Times and Mirror' reported the meeting on 22nd March 1910:

"A numerously attended and enthusiastic meeting of the Filton Golf Club was held at St Stephen's Restaurant, Bristol on Friday evening under the presidency of Mr J W Bolton, who fully explained the objects of the club and informed the members that he had been successful in securing sufficient land for a 9 hole course immediately adjoining the tramway terminus at Filton, and that in a few weeks the course would be ready for play.

Mr W St Maur an eminent authority on golf and golf courses consented to join the committee and after examining the whole of the course, expressed his opinion that it would make an excellent one, and it had the great advantage of being within a short distance off, and so easy of access from, a large city like Bristol.

The club would be formed into a limited liability Company, each member becoming a share holder. The amount of the shares will be £1 each, 5/- payable on application. The annual subscription for the first 150 members will be £1 11s 6d. So well has the matter

been taken up, that already 120 members have enrolled. Local golfers desiring to join the club and wishing to take advantage of original member's privileges should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, W E Jones, 54 Seymore Road, Bishopston".

Interestingly, and certainly worthy of note, although it was decided as early as the 8th November 1909, at the third Main Committee Meeting that lady members be admitted to the Club, there were now it seems strings attached. When it came to the question of their Annual Subscription, the Committee decided to set the Ladies Fee at £1, (a sum less than that for males) and unlike the male members, they would not be expected to become shareholders and have voting rights.

That aside it must have come as a great relief to all concerned that at long last, on the 21st March, six members of the Main Committee and the Secretary met to peg out and produce a 'Plan' of the proposed Course. Following a number of amendments to this Plan, it was then agreed that the next step was ***to purchase from Messrs Bailey & Company the tools and implements for the proper laying out and upkeep of the Course.***

This, the Secretary and Wingate the Temporary Groundsman/Professional were delegated to do, which on the face of it was not such an onerous task. As all that was required ***was a Pennsylvania lawn mower, two rollers, a wheelbarrow, two spades, two forks, a rake and an oil can and spanner.*** The Secretary was also left to engage a man, obtain a horse and heavy roller; the latter to level out the proposed Course.

Things were now moving forward apace, not only with the work on the Course, but in the Club's organisation. As a result of this, to assist the Main Committee with their considerable workload, especially regarding the Course, on the 4th April a 'Greens Committee' was formed. Also a 'Rules Committee' was established to draw up a set of Club Rules, which were approved by the Main Committee at their meeting on 23rd June 1910. A 'House Committee' was also introduced on the 27th April. With the forming of these sub-Committees it was necessary to increase the number of Main Committee members, those recruited included Messes Blackmore, M. Birtish, W. St Maur-Hill, J. Fish, W.G. Mitchell and Dr Fawcett.

The forming of the Greens Sub-Committee in particular soon proved its worth, as being of a more manageable number consisting of Messrs Millard, Fish, Blackmore and Richards, they were able to organise themselves and become more effectively involved in the many necessary tasks to set up the Course.

Although there was an overall Plan for the 'Course Layout', you can just imagine their excitement at having been given the opportunity of actually deciding the most practical movement of play around the Course, and being able to put their mark on the final working arrangement. For example it was necessary for them to determine where to position walkways, cross ditches, make gaps in hedgerows, cut grass to form Fairways and Greens and also equally importantly, the best methods to restrict the movement of cattle etc. When there was a necessary expenditure required for any of these tasks they were also responsible for obtaining estimates and quotations for the Main Committee's approval. Once agreed, it was then up to the sub-Committee to oversee the work, which including that being undertaken by contractors such as Mr Pitcher of Olveston. Mr Pitcher having been retained to construct and position wicker gates, install plank ways and fence off the greens to protect them from being damaged by cattle.

The sub-Committee also had to identify and quantify expenditure on tools and machinery and in conjunction with Wingate one of their most important recommendations ***was for the purchase of the 'Rolls Royce' of its time in grass cutting, a 30 inch wide horse drawn mowing machine.*** The cost to purchase the machine was £22.2s.0p, a small fortune in the early 1900's, and on its arrival the Vice Chairman Mr Millard offered the use of his horse for a month to enable the grass to be mown and the Course rolled. With regards the latter, the Secretary was instructed to advertise in the Daily Press for a

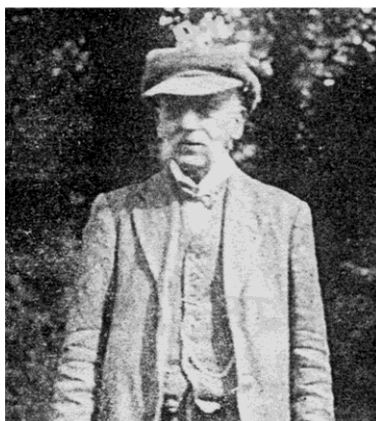
second hand horse drawn roller of about 2 tons weight, which was eventually purchased from a Mr Kendal of Hanham – what the poor old horse felt about hauling these machines around 60 acres of land would make interesting reading perhaps.

Work now progressed towards the agreed 'Official Course Opening Date of 14th May 1910' and **letters were sent to the residents of Filton and the nearby neighbourhoods stating the position and advantages of joining the Club and advising them of the proposed opening.** This promotional tactic seems to have been very successful as a number of subsequent members who joined were not only from Filton, but also from the Bristol suburbs of Bishopston and Horfield and from Thornbury and Berkeley in Gloucestershire.

With the Course, Club financial affairs and the Management structure now reasonably well established and the opening date rapidly approaching, it was deemed of the utmost importance to select a 'Figure Head' to represent the Club.

This the Committee did on the 6th May when **Mr John Atkin Waller of Pen Park was elected as first President of the 'Fledgling Club'** - a very shrewd move as he was also one of the Landlords.

'Squire Waller'



John Atkin Waller - First President of Filton Golf Club



Presidents Cup

First played for in 1911 and won by Walter Berry Hayward

The appointment of a President was not the only award made at this meeting, as it was also decided to bestow 'Honorary Membership of the Club' on 'The Rector of Filton' the Reverent J.H. Mackie, Schoolmaster Mr W.N. Baker and Mr W. St Maur-Hill.

Aside of these appointments, it was from a legal and business requirement, imperative for the Committee to officially endorse the Club's operating address and it is recorded on that day, ***The Temporary Head Quarters of the Club shall be The Anchor Hotel, Filton.***

It is apparent from the above statement that right at the outset, The Anchor Hotel although initially adequate as a Clubhouse was viewed only as a stopgap arrangement and for the Club to prosper it needed its own independent Clubhouse. The search was now on to locate and purchase a building that could be adapted to make a satisfactory permanent Clubhouse and it was proposed that in the interim they should rent a cottage in 'Fairlawn Avenue'. This suggestion was never taken up however, and a number of other leads were explored without success.

Confirmation of this is seen when the Secretary reported ***that in accordance with the Main Committee's instructions on the 19th April, he had with Mr Simmonds visited Avonmouth to inspect the Bungalows and their Timber Buildings***

advertised for sale as part of the contractors surplus plant, on completion of the Bristol Dock, but they were of the opinion that after careful consideration of the price they were unsuitable.

If this came as a disappointment imagine the Club's despair when with all the arrangements in place right at the eleventh hour the Official Opening of the Course had to be postponed.

At their meeting on the 10th May the Main Committee agreed - ***That owing to the lamentable death of His Majesty King Edward VII. The proposed formal opening of the course on Saturday next is postponed, sine die.*** This setback was not to prevent play however, as it was further agreed that ***the Course, without Ceremony, would still be open for play as from Saturday the 14th May onwards.***

Now open for play, it was appropriate to appoint someone to be the Club's 'Ambassador' and the members' representative on the Main Committee. In making such an historic decision ***Mr J Fish was elected as the first Club Captain.***

Mr Joseph Fish - First Club Captain



Also given a specific role was the Vice-Chairman Mr Millard who became Course Secretary. His appointment though got off to a regrettable start. He along with other members of his Greens sub-Committee took it upon themselves to make arrangements for a new 'Formal Opening of the Course' to take place on Saturday 28th May, without seeking authority from the Club's Main Committee. Their felony was compounded when they omitted to tell the Main Committee at their meeting on the 10th May of their action, despite having made a press announcement the previous day. At the following meeting on the 24th May ***the Main Committee expressed considerable surprise over this, but they felt that as an announcement of the opening has been inserted in the press there was***

no alternative but to open on the day mentioned. The official circulars, which were to be sent to all members of the Golf Club and Secretaries of other local Clubs, were amended as having emanated from the Main Committee.

The Course was therefore 'Officially' opened on Saturday 28 May 1910 when the Club President Mr Atkin Waller, a non-golfer, had the honour of striking the first (official) tee shot. He was, at a later time presented with the ball, which had been '***Suitably mounted in silver and inscribed***'.

The 'Bristol Times and Mirror' described the opening day's events as follows:

OPENING OF A NEW GOLF COURSE AT FILTON

The new 9 Hole course at Filton, which is situated on high ground near the Tramways terminus, was formally opened on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a large number of members and visitors. Fortunately the weather was beautifully fine. Mr Waller President of the Club, who drove a ball from the first tee and declared the Course open, undertook the Opening Ceremony. An exhibition match immediately followed this interesting event between Mr A.D. Ramsey and Mr A.G. Morris, two well-known golfers in local circles. They gave a 'capital exhibition', and played a well-contested match. Mr Morris secured an early lead, and turned 1 up. The tenth he also won, but his opponent reduced the margin at the 12th. Giving nothing away, Mr Morris secured the 13th and 15th, and became dormy 3, but, playing pluckily, his opponent carried the match to the 17th, which Mr Morris won, and with it the match, by 3 up and 1 to play. After tea, the two amateurs were joined in a fourball foursome, Mr Ramsey playing with White the Rodway Hill professional, and Wingate, the local professional playing with Mr Morris. This match also proved most interesting to the spectators. Mr Ramsey and White secured a lead of 3 up and 6 to play, and appeared to have the match in hand, but their opponents fought most pluckily and finished all square.

Considering that only a few weeks ago it was decided to start the course the progress that has been made is most satisfactory, and reflects much credit on Wingate and his assistants. A golf course cannot be made in a month, but, given favourable conditions, the members will soon have an interesting course, which will afford much enjoyment. The situation is delightful. Much enthusiasm was shown at the opening ceremony, which must be gratifying to the promoters, who have worked well, and who have done much for the healthy benefit of the residents of North Bristol and District. The length of the course is 2623 yards, the bogey being 39.

Filton Golf Club was now up and running after only a matter of 6 months following that very first meeting – Quite an achievement considering that land had to be sourced and acquired, the Course laid out, members sought and the Club Structure established. **‘Hearty Congratulations’** to all those concerned.

CHAPTER 2

THE FIRST SEASON (June 1910 – November 1910)

During the build up to the opening of the Club it must have been extremely satisfying to the ‘Founder Fathers’ seeing people of all backgrounds, apparently equally as enthused as themselves and possessing the same pioneering spirit, willing to become new members despite not having a Course available to play.

The Committee must have taken great heart from this, but were, I suspect, a little surprised that despite the continued growth in the membership, a number, for whatever reason, were leaving even after a few months. Why this should happen is not immediately apparent. Perhaps they disagreed with the way the Club was being set up, or were impatient at the apparent lack of progress, but to leave quite so quickly after joining is a complete mystery. As a footnote, even to this day approximately 60 members are replaced every membership year, although this could be due in part to local Aerospace and Technological Industry, which encourages people to move around to advance their chosen careers.

Whatever the reason, admitting Lady member’s, which had been agreed in Committee right at the outset, was bearing fruit as several are recorded as joining in 1910. One such person, a Miss Fawn, starting to play the Course at the earliest opportunity in May, even before the official opening ceremony date it seems.

Another category available was for Family membership, which a number of parents took advantage of and indeed did so right up until 1994, when that category was discontinued.

One thing was for sure, the 9 Hole Filton Golf Club was now well and truly up and running and golf was being played. This inevitably led to the competitive instinct of the members being aroused and on 3rd June 1910 the Club Chairman, Mr Bolton and the Club Captain, Mr Fish signified their intention of presenting Cups, which were to be played for annually. Monthly medal competitions also began and took place on the first and third Saturdays of each month, starting in July - ***One was to be a bogey format and the other, strokes and Medal Silver Spoons were to be awarded to the winners.***

As the year 1910 progressed interest in playing the Course was also being shown by individuals and groups of players from other Clubs and Filton welcomed its first celebrity golfers when the D’Oyly Carte Opera Company asked and were granted permission for its members to use the links during their stay in Bristol.

On the playing side the Main Committee soon realised that problems associated with merely establishing a new Club, soon paled into insignificance, as now it was necessary for them to deal with members! A Committee meeting in September learned that ***Mr George Lane had adopted the practice of betting on the Course on a Sunday*** and the Committee agreed unanimously ***that a letter be sent to Mr Lane suggesting a discontinuance of the practice.***

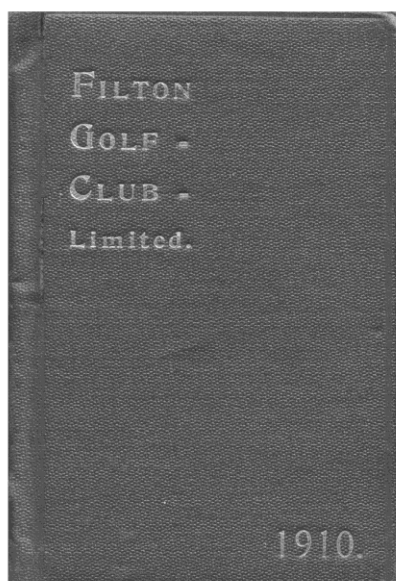
The interpretation of the Rules during a match also created a problem that the Committee had to deal with - nothing changes it seems. In this case a letter from ***Mr E.J. Bird “re his match with Mr Frank Thomas had been received and after fully discussing the same, the Committee decided that Mr Thomas was in order in picking out his ball at the loss of 1 stroke.***

A letter was dictated, which the Secretary was instructed to send in reply to Mr Birds communication.

One further urgent matter that it was necessary to deal with was that having had the loan of a horse for a month, there was a need to replace it, as it now had to be returned. The Captain, Mr Fish was to save the day on this occasion, **as he had seen a horse, which he thought would be suitable for the work required on the Course which could be purchased for £10.** It was eventually purchased, **although this was subject to the horse being sent on trial for a short time.** The Professional Wingate was instructed to provide the corn required by the horse.

Along with these side issues the Main Committee still had to find time to deal with the day to day organising and running of the Club's affairs, look to the future with regards providing a Clubhouse and to increasing the Course to 18 holes.

Other matters of the day included setting up Insurance for workmen's compensation, reviewing the Club's Share Certificate Book and the Seal of the Company for approval, enrolling new members, examination of the Accounts, the printing of Rule Books, arranging the Club, affiliation to the Gloucestershire County Union, improvement of a pathway off Westwood Lane by spreading a few loads of clinkers and ashes, the list was seemingly endless and varied.



. . . OFFICERS, Etc. . . .	
President :	
J. Atkin Waller, Esq.	
Captain :	
Mr. J. Fish.	
Joint Hon. Treasurers :	
Mr. R. A. K. Henderson.	
Mr. S. Shield.	
Hon. Secretary :	
Mr. W. Edward Jones.	
. . . COUNCIL. . . .	
Mr. J. W. Bolton, <i>Chairman</i> ,	
Mr. M. Bertish.	Mr. W. St. Maur-Hill
" S. Cox.	" W. E. Mitchell.
Prof. E. Fawcett, M.D.	" C. H. Reed.
Mr. J. Fish.	" T. Rickards.
Capt. R. M. Knolles.	" H. B. Simmons.
Mr. W. J. C. Millard.	" F. H. Thomas.

RULES OF THE CLUB.

Name.

1. The name of the Club shall be the "FILTON GOLF CLUB LIMITED."

Management.

2. The management of the Club and the power to dispose of its Funds and Property shall be vested in the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") of the Golf Club Limited. The Council shall have power to make such By-laws and Regulations as they from time to time deem desirable and expedient for the well-being of the Club, and all By-laws and Regulations so made shall be binding on every member, and all others using the Links, until altered or set aside by a general meeting.

add

Despite all of these in September the Main Committee were presented with a new challenge with the members insisting on an immediate improvement in the quality of the Course. It was to say the least an unrealistic request when you think that the Course had only been open for less than 6 months, the tools provided to Wingate were fairly rudimentary and the number of tasks he and his staff still had to deal with were many. Nevertheless at the Main Committee on 21st September a question was raised **as to the advisability of, at once engaging a Professional to succeed Wingate, no longer in the service of the Club.** It was agreed that a Professional be engaged at once.

On the face of it this seems to be a little unfair on Wingate, but it must be remembered that he was in March, only engaged as a Temporary Greenkeeper/Professional. Indications are that Wingate's expertise was in undertaking the initial basic ground work to prepare a

Course from virgin land and as that was now completed, an experienced Professional with the working knowledge of running and maintaining a Golf Course was necessary.

The Greens were in need of attention it seems as a **contractor Mr M. Lovell was asked to submit a quotation for the necessary work in connection with the taking up and relaying the greens during the winter.** An alternative option, for the Club Staff to do the work under the direction of Head Greenkeeper, Mr H. Lewis and his newly recruited assistant I. Hyman was also under consideration. To assist them in this it was agreed on 14th October 1910 to ask Mr White the Professional of Rodway Hill Golf Club (reference Appendix 1) to visit the Course to assess the situation and to submit his opinion of the work required.

It seems that this matter was considered to be one of the utmost urgency as at a Main Committee meeting on 7th November, two weeks later, **the report received from Mr White of Mangotsfield was read, and the suggestions contained therein respecting the relaying of the greens and work upon the Course generally was discussed and unanimously agreed to** and that **the Greens Committee be instructed to carry out the work as expediently as possible.** With the decision now made, matters progressed rapidly and just ten days later work under the direction of Thomas Toogood of Durdham Down, started with the Club supplying the materials and assisting with the necessary labour.

The Club was still without a Professional at this time, despite Attwood of the Long Ashton Golf Club having been interviewed. The appointment of Toogood as Groundsman until the following April however, was considered a very good move. Also at this meeting it was agreed that a detailed account of the expenditure and income of the Club, with the approximate liabilities would be prepared, in preparation for future major expenditures such the provision of a Pavilion or Clubhouse.

The best was left until last on this occasion however, when **the Chairman in a short speech asked the President's acceptance of the ball (suitably mounted in silver and inscribed) with which he made the first drive at the opening of the Course on the 28th May last. The President expressed his thanks and pleasure in accepting the graceful and suitable present, a memento of a most pleasant and interesting occasion, and expressed his desire to assist the Club in every way he could to make it a continued success.**

Mention has already been made to members joining and then leaving after a short time and this was also true for the Club's Officers as on 16th November 1910 the Hon. Secretary Mr W.E. Jones in a short speech **expressed his desire to be relieved of the duties as he felt his business employment would not permit of his devoting the time and attention to the game, which was absolutely necessary for the success of the Club.** The Chairman accepting his resignation **expressed appreciation of the work, which he as Secretary, had done.**

Mr Walter Berry Heyward was then introduced to the other Committee members **as a gentleman willing to accept the position of Secretary to the Club.** 'Bill' as he was affectionately known, was the third appointed Secretary during the Club's first year. His appointment was not short lived however as he served the Club until illness prevented in 1941. Bill lived in one of two cottages situated, prior to their demolition in the early 1950's, by the ditch on our now 17th hole.

The resignation of Mr Jones was not to be the last at this time, when at the very next Committee meeting on 24th November 1910, **with expression of regret the**

resignation of Mr R.A.K. Henderson, as Hon. Treasurer, was accepted and a vote of thanks for his past services unanimously carried. It was also agreed that future **Committee** meetings should from thenceforth be called '**Council**' meetings, which still applies to this day.

CHAPTER 3

A CLUBHOUSE & 18 HOLE COURSE (December 1910 – April 1912)

The question of providing a Clubhouse and securing sufficient land for a further 9 holes was now of paramount importance and despite the arrival of winter it seems that the hectic pace of life being led by the Council members, on behalf of the Club, continued unabated. As well as organising the relaying of the greens and overseeing the improvements recommended by Mr White, negotiations were also under way with the Landlord, Mr Waller, with respect to a new lease.

With an anticipated substantial increase in expenditure in the forthcoming years, due to the likely purchase of a Clubhouse and increase in lease payments for the additional land that would be required, it was seen by Council as imperative to **negotiate the longest lease period as possible so that the Club could survive and flourish**; As a result a 7 year period, with an option for a further 14 years was secured.

Now in the knowledge that the Club was at last secure, for the next 7 years and with the added confidence this gave, Council's thoughts were now concentrated on deciding what improvements were necessary and what facilities would be required, to satisfy the members needs. A sub-Committee was established to produce plans for a Pavilion/Clubhouse **for which Club Captain Mr Fish made the generous offer to get free of cost to the Club an architects advice and opinion, which was accepted**, and also to find the necessary additional land to extend the Course to 18 holes. By the end of February 1911 it seems that their search had been a success as it was decided **that land occupied by Tenant Farmer, Mr Hillier, adjoining the present Course, should be obtained if at all possible**. It was felt that the lease for this land should be on the same terms as that negotiated with Mr Waller, i.e. £3 per acre.

As it transpired only an 18 months lease could be agreed with Mr Hillier albeit at a favourable rental or £2.2s.6d per acre, with Hillier contributing £30 for 18 months of grazing rights. Although this was less than satisfactory, for the Club's long term development, the Council still had the fallback of a long term lease on the original 9 Hole Course and as such felt that the time was now right to inform the membership of Council's arrangements at a Special General Meeting on 29th April 1911.

It was reported and proposed at this meeting that it was the opinion of Council that for the future welfare and progress of the Club it was essential that a suitable Clubhouse should erected and that the Course should be extended to a full 18 holes. It was also recommended, that a sum of £400 should be raised by Crediting Debentures, it was considered that this sum would be sufficient to carry out the projects. With these proposals now officially endorsed and the members now firmly behind their Council, you may be excused for thinking that all was now plain sailing.

The 'Bristol Times and Mirror' reported the meeting on 1st May 1911:

"A special meeting of members of the Filton Club was held on Saturday night, when 2 important matters – the extension of the course to 18 holes and the erection of a suitable clubhouse – were considered. There was a good attendance of members and the scheme put forward by the committee gave complete satisfaction and was adopted. The new 9 holes have already been pegged out, and the work of preparing the ground and making

the greens will commence today. The turf on the greater part of the new course is excellently adapted to the purpose of golf, and with favourable weather the extended course will be ready for play in a month or six weeks.

It is proposed to raise the money for the purpose of erecting the clubhouse and to pay for the extra labour on the course by means of debentures, and over £100 was promised in the room on Saturday evening. The idea with regard to the clubhouse is to erect a building in such a way that additions may be made when found necessary, and the amount to be spent will depend on the response of members. Considering the club has been run for eighteen months on one year's subscription, the financial position is regarded as highly satisfactory. The committee constituted as it is with good businessmen, is to be complimented on the spirit of enterprise shown, and the members present at the meeting expressed themselves as delighted with the way in which the affairs of the club are managed.

The President Mr J Atkin Waller has given a handsome silver challenge cup, to be known as "The Waller Cup" and Mr J W Bolton has also promised a similar trophy. A silver button will be given to the winners of the monthly stroke competition, and a silver spoon to the winner of the monthly bogey competitions. There would thus appear to be plenty to play for, and it is to be hoped that members will support the competitions in order that they be the success that they deserve. It has been decided to reduce the green fee on Sundays to 2s 6d, also on Saturdays and Bank Holidays. The subscription will remain for the present at £1 11s 6d, a very low figure, especially the outstanding advantages of the course are taken into consideration. With the extension of the course there will be room for more members, and these shall speedily be forthcoming".

This was far from the truth however, as despite Thomas Toogood, with the assistance of the Secretary laying out the new holes, it soon became evident that all was not well. The reason for this was almost certainly down to a question of Council biting off more than could be chewed in the timescales that were permitted.

When you consider that they had and were attempting to re-lay the original 9 greens and construct a further 9 holes on virgin land, all this mainly during the winter months its perhaps not surprising that they ran into difficulties.

Toogood's ability was also called into question and at a Council meeting on 16th May 1911, when discussion took place with regards the work on the new 9 holes and on the existing Course. It was agreed ***that it was not being satisfactory carried on.*** Because of this situation, Council now felt that ***an advert be placed in the Western Daily Press for a Professional.***

In the meanwhile with work still needing to continue on the Course common sense prevailed and a practical decision to firstly concentrate all efforts on completing the necessary work to the existing 9 greens, before any other task, was taken. To assist the Council with this they had met a representative of Messrs 'Sutton' (Seeds) who had kindly volunteered some advice with respect the care and upkeep of the putting greens.

The Newspaper advertisement that was placed and one other in 'Golf Illustrated' ***attracted a number of applications and testimonials from the various professionals who applied for the post as Professional and Greenkeeper to the Club which were duly considered. The two most likely men appended, were Alec H. Bishop of Reading and Ernest John A. Crook of Minchenhampton and it was decided that they should be interviewed.***

Local Professional, Shoesmith of the Long Ashton Golf Club, had his application rejected following the Chairman taking advice from officials of Long Ashton. Being a Professional

in these days it seems didn't ensure long term employment as it was only 6 months earlier that the Club had spoken with Shoesmith, the then Professional at Long Ashton who had now been replaced by Attwood.

Nevertheless the Greens Committee reported to Council at their meeting on 17th June 1911 ***that as a result of the interviews with the Professionals who visited Filton the appointment of E.W. Crook as Professional was confirmed.*** Not only was he retained, but accommodation found as it is recorded ***the Club should take the House for Crook the Professional who would pay 5/- to the Treasurer weekly.***

With a concentrated effort being made to improve the original 9 holes, work progressed very rapidly and it soon was possible to transfer labour to work on improving the new 9 holes, which incidentally like the original hole's were still being played, presumably on temporary greens. It is fair to assume, that as there were no complaints from the membership at this time, they were happy with the improvements being made on their behalf and were very supportive of Council. It may be of course that in 1911, people were more tolerant and considerate, or perhaps they just saw the Club as a child in its infancy and were prepared to wait for it to grow and mature.

One change that Council did consider on the playing side at this time, having received a suggestion from members, was that Sunday Play ***"might be done away with"*** shows perhaps this attitude quite clearly. Although the sanction wasn't agreed, Council decided that ***'No three or four ball matches shall be played on Saturday or Bank Holidays'***. You can just visualise the reaction such a decision would receive today.

Little has been mentioned to this point about the Club's finances, apart from the likelihood that funds would be stretched to the limit because of the necessary expenditure on Course work and the purchasing of a Clubhouse; The latter despite an attempt to raise £400 in Debentures for its purchase. It had been became known at the first Annual General Meeting of the Club, which was held at the Anchor on 27th May 1911, that there was a financial problem when it was reported that there had been a loss on the year of almost £116, this despite Subscriptions for the year having totalled £274. The amount probably equated to around a 140 shortfall in the membership and would have been worse had it not been that the upkeep of the Course was managed for the princely sum of £29.6s.8d.

The financial situation was thought by Council to be so serious, particularly as Debentures up until then had not realised half of that required for the purchase of a Clubhouse, that only a month later in June they decided to introduce a Finance Committee. It comprised of Messes Millard, Simmons and Virgin, who were responsible to report to Council, the Club's financial position on a monthly basis.

They also introduced a Clubhouse Sub-Committee, comprising of the Finance Committee members along with Messes Pickard and Capern, ***to obtain all the necessary information with regards to the design and purchase a Clubhouse at the earliest,*** as they were unanimous in their opinion that a Clubhouse was absolutely essential to the survival and future of the Club. Indeed their concern was such that they decided in July to write to Sir George White, the founder of the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company at Filton, his brothers Bart and Samuel, asking for financial assistance. A reply was sent to the Club from Sir George through his representative ***that he would give no definite reply until he had conferred with Samuel White, who was away.*** Despite a follow up letter no reply was received and it was agreed ***to proceed with the matter independent of the Whites.***

Not all was doom and gloom though, as at their meeting on 29th July 1911, ***The Presidents Cup was presented to Club Secretary W.B. Heyward***, the inaugural winner.

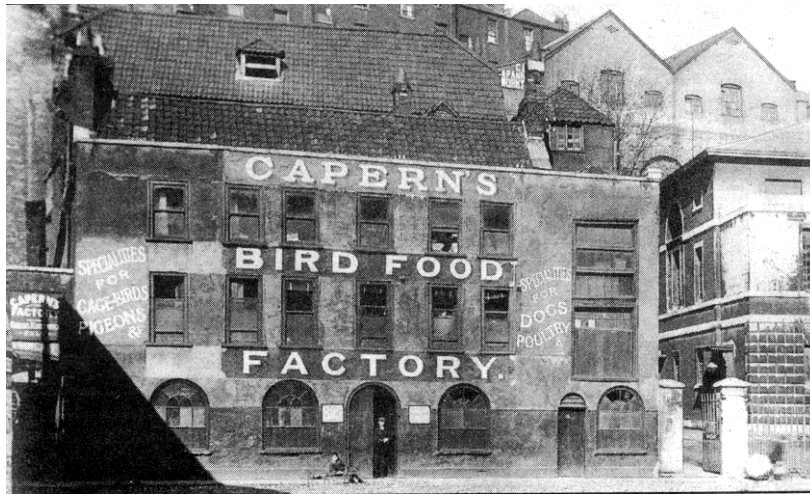
It must also be recorded, that on the 9th September it was announced that ***Mr Fish has left the country and the office of Club Captain was void. Mr Shield was unanimously elected to fill the post, which he agreed to do until the end of the Club Year.*** Despite leaving in a somewhat clandestine manner, this would not be the last that we hear of Mr Fish.

The provision of a Clubhouse and the Club's financial position, still quite rightly, took centre stage although it must have been quite comforting to Council to hear later in the month ***a report that the financial position of the Club was on the whole considered fairly satisfactory.*** For the finances to change so quickly indicates that very much like today, the majority of a Clubs income is generated during the playing season from April until October, with paying visitors and from the introduction of new members playing their part. Nevertheless this improvement was seen as only a reprieve, as there was still the purchase of a Clubhouse to fund. Despite this difficult situation it was ***agreed to write to Messrs Speirs and Co. of Glasgow to say that it was decided to erect a Clubhouse at a 'total cost of about £300 and ask them to send down a representative to go fully into the matter', Friday 22nd September 1911 to be mentioned as a suitable day for an interview'.***

This meeting evidently did happen, as at the subsequent Council meeting on 2nd October 1911 the ***Plans and Specification were discussed and it was suggested that they should be circularised to those who had promised to take up Debentures to be asked to forward the amount to the Treasurer immediately and those who had promised nothing to be asked to subscribe something.*** The taking up of Debentures still remained slow however, but there was one piece of good news in that Club President, Mr Aitkin Waller ***had generously agreed to forgo part of the rent on Hilliers land for the period between September and March, amounting to £15, an offer that was gratefully accepted.***

Other methods of raising money were to increase the subscriptions for new members, from the 12th November 1911, to £2.2s.0p for men and £1.1s.6d for ladies, and to ***charge members 1 penny for scorecards – except for competition use.***

The most valued contribution however came from Mr Capern who offered to take a further £100 in Debentures, making his contribution £120 out of a total of £288 an offer ***that was very warmly received. It was felt that Mr Capern had helped the Club out of a real difficulty and that the Council's troubles with respect to a Clubhouse were practically at an end.***



Mr Capern a Seed Merchant owned Capern Bird Food Ltd. in Lewin's Mead.

This must have been a great relief to the Council who had worked tirelessly to get to a position to start on the Clubhouse, but not to Speirs and Company it seems, who having had their submission to build the Clubhouse not accepted, sent to the Club a claim for services rendered of which £1.10s op was eventually paid to them.

Speirs and Company had lost out to Messrs Harrison of London, their estimate, which included everything except a water supply and drainage, was accepted although this was subject to the approval of the Debenture holders, which Council obtained at a meeting with them on 9th December 1911.



Further **land was now required on which to site the Clubhouse and yet another lease had to be agreed between Mr Waller, Hillier and the Club.** Now that an end product was in sight, there was a real enthusiasm to support the project by members who had previously been non-committal. This is seen when the Treasurer reported **that £317 had been subscribed and that promises when redeemed would bring the amount raised by Debentures up to nearly £400, the original target.**

The next few weeks were now devoted to finalising and agreeing changes to the original approved Clubhouse design. These were to include the building of a cellar, the installation of a water supply and drainage, and the making of doors and windows burglar proof as far as possible. The latter was a suggestion by the builders, during construction, at an

additional cost of £7.10s.0d, which was agreed although the inclusion of a telephone was not thought to be worthwhile at that time.

With all these decisions now having been made all that was left was the small matter of deciding the exact site of the new Clubhouse.

To this end on 5th January 1912 at the Council's first meeting of the New Year, ***the Chairman reported the results of his interview of Mr Bevan the Architect and it was arranged that as many of the Council as possible should meet Mr Waller, Mr Bolton and Mr Bevan on the ground tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock when the exact position should be decided upon.***

Building work now started with a vengeance and by early April the Clubhouse was, it seems, in use, as the Council meeting minutes of 6th April 1912 will testify, 'the meeting having been held in the Clubhouse'.

The 'Bristol Times and Mirror' of 8th April 1912:

"Although the interior is not yet quite complete, the new clubhouse of the Filton Club was opened for the members use last week, and even in its incomplete state the arrangements made for the members and visitors comfort and convenience met with much favourable comment, especially with those with a thirst. The formal opening will not take place until next month when an exhibition match between prominent golfers will be arranged. There has been a good deal of play at Filton lately, especially during the last few days and many nice things have been said respecting the improvements made in the course. I hear membership is increasing satisfactory, and there can be no doubt that the course bids fair to be one of the most popular in the district".

What is strange however, is that after all the many trials and tribulations involved in its coming to fruition and indeed the significance of being the Club's '**New Home**', that there was no great sense of occasion and no official opening ceremony, aside of a proposed exhibition match at a later date. Nevertheless, it must have been a great relief to all concerned that at last the Club had achieved yet another milestone in providing a permanent home for its members.

With the introduction of a Clubhouse it was now necessary to engage a Caretaker, who was soon to be referred to as the Stewardess. Mrs Friend, the wife of the tenant farmer from whom the Club leased part of its land, ***was employed at 15/- per week – she to find any necessary help.***

It was mentioned earlier, that the name of former Club Captain, Mr Fish would once again re-surface, despite his abdication. He had, having promised the Club that he would fund at his expense the services of an Architect, in fact defaulted on this payment to the said Architect. Because of this the Architect wrote to the Club, requesting payment for preparing plans regarding a new Clubhouse. Following a Council meeting The Honorary Secretary was asked ***to write to Mr Fish disclaiming any liability, and to send him excerpts from the minutes of a meeting of the Council held on the 12th December 1910. Also that the Architect, be offered without prejudice a fee of One Guinea.*** A further letter was received from the Architect with a claim for £12.10.0 for services rendered and the Club responded by re-affirming their already stated offer and the matter was ended.

With financial matters still persisting, due the Clubhouse having cost more than that originally budgeted, an appeal was made to raise a further £100 once again by the taking up of Debentures. It is encouraging to record that £30 was immediately taken up by

members attending the Club's second A.G.M. on 31st March 1912 which bode well for the future.

As we take a deep-breath and reflect on the year's hard work and pay tribute to the dedication of many people, to ensure the eventual building of a Clubhouse and an 18 holes Course, special particular mention must be made about one individual member. At a particularly difficult time when financial assistance was desperately needed, **Thomas Frank Capern**, a Corn Merchant who was proprietor of 'Capern Bird Food Limited' and lived at 53 Redland Road, came to the fore. His financial commitment in the taking up £120 of Debentures and his unstinting Committee work did more than most to ensure the Club's success in what was a tremendous undertaking.

It is perhaps then fitting to close this chapter with the words recorded in the Council Meeting of 23rd March 1912, after he had made such a generous financial pledge – ***It was proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Capern for the handsome way in which he had helped the Club, which was unanimously carried.***

CHAPTER 4

CONSOLIDATION & 'THE GREAT WAR' (April 1912 – August 1918)

You could be excused of thinking that life for Council Members was 'Just a Doddle' following the construction of the Clubhouse and the introduction of an additional 9 holes, but not so. As with all organisations and Clubs, work behind the scenes continues unabated and quite often un-appreciated, despite all the efforts made by a few unpaid volunteers on behalf of us all.

At this time the Council still met on a very regular basis to consider and manage the Club's affairs whether they were financial, playing or indeed as recorded in their minutes of 20th April concerning an extra payment to Groundsman Collins. It was agreed ***Collins should be paid 21/- per week, his duties on Saturday afternoons and Sunday to keep the course clear of trespassers and Sunday morning to clean sheep droppings from the Green's***, from top to bottom it seems. If the sheep were a problem other animals also played their part when it became necessary to enclose the Clubhouse to keep cattle away.

Another matter requiring urgent consideration was regarding the Professional, Crook's premises, which required his hut being clad in matchboard. At the same time it was also felt appropriate to erect a cycle shed and store.

With May now upon them the Second Annual General Meeting was called for 31st May at the Clubhouse, 8pm. It is pleasing to recall that ***the President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer and Secretary where re-elected in appreciation for their work and dedication in the past year.***

At the meeting Mr Badger announced that ***he and his colleagues at the Post Office were prepared to present the Club with a Clock for the Club Room***, which they subsequently did and Mr Pretheroe forwarded a Photograph of the 'Old Clubhouse', The Anchor Hotel. Most importantly however and justifiably so it was proposed Mr Willis, seconded Mr Bagualy and ***unanimously carried that a mark of appreciation of the work done by Crook the Professional be placed on record.***

With the Annual General Meeting now behind them Council met on the 7th June to continue as they had left off. They obviously liked the idea of a Photograph of the 'Old Clubhouse' and ***resolved that a Photograph of the 'New Clubhouse' be taken, a***

framed copy to be hung in the Clubhouse and an un-framed copy sent to Builders, Messrs Harrison & Co.

An interesting decision was also made at this meeting, which many of us who play today would find difficult to comprehend. It concerned a commodity, which we are pleased to lose when hit into undergrowth or an un-playable area especially when our provisional is right in the middle of the fairway and one shot only would be the penalty – ‘Golf Balls’. In 1912 a ball was like gold dust, expensive and in short supply. It goes without saying that many balls were lost during play and so it was considered vitally important that should they be found at a later date, they were returned to their rightful owner. To assist in the identification of a ball it was ***agreed that a ball-marking machine be placed in the Clubhouse for the benefit of members, and that the sum of 3d be paid to Crook when a ball is reclaimed; Crook to pay 2d per ball to any Groundsman or Caddie***, how times have changed.

This must have proved a ‘nice little earner’ for a Groundsman particularly when Council ***agreed to position a notice, forbidding members or visitors from climbing over Mr Griffiths Hedge to look for lost balls.***

It perhaps gave the Groundsmen a perfect opportunity for a mutually beneficial arrangement between themselves and Mr Griffiths? What is for sure was that the member was pleased for the return of his ball and the Groundsmen on their recompense.

Both parties were winners and indeed as membership numbers continued to grow so was the Club. Not only that, but the Club’s reputation was travelling far and wide. Well perhaps not, but certainly an application for membership was agreed on ***26th July 1912 enabling M. Jacobs of Johannesburg to become a ‘Country member’***. At the same meeting a very liberal minded ***Mr Lewis made an application to allow his wife’s companion to come under his family membership***, which was refused.

Not so the request at the end of the 1912 playing season that Council once again consider future Course improvement as on 21st October 1912 ***the Chairman mentioned that he had been in communication with Mr Robinson the owner of the field adjoining the course, which would be suitable for extending the length of the course.*** A subsequent letter from Mr Robinson’s Solicitor ***stated that the question of letting the field would not be considered.*** This however, was not the end of the matter as over the next three months a number of different alternative options were being investigated. They were of no avail however, and not for the first time the Club’s President Mr Waller was asked for his assistance. The Chairman reported on the 6th February 1913 that although ***Mr Waller was not disposed to let any more ground near the 9th tee, there was available land the other side of Charlton and Brentry Road.*** To allow a suitable period of time for Council members to view the ground under offer and also to give the owner of a 17 acres field in ‘Westwood Farm’ time to respond to a request for the lease of his field, it was agreed to defer any decision until the next meeting 2 weeks hence.

At this meeting the Chairman reported that they had heard nothing further from the owner of the 17 acre field in ‘Westwood Farm’ although he had written twice to him recently and agreed ***that a telegram be sent to Mr Collis for a definite reply to the leasing of ‘Westwood Farm Field’.***

Also reported was ***that a 17 acre field belonging to Mr Waller on the other side of Charlton Road near the 8th green was available and that it had been***

inspected by Crook and some members of the Committee, who considered the land suitable for golf. Council however, although extremely grateful for the offer were of the opinion, ***that if this land could be secured along with a small corner of Mr Waller's 'Home' field and a strip of his paddock near 9th tee the course would be lengthened by approximately 1000 yards, which would be a great improvement to the Course*** and it was agreed to ask Mr Waller to consider this.

This he did but Mr Waller, with regret, ***could not see his way to let any of the 'Home' field, but was agreeable, provided satisfactory arrangements could be made with the incoming tenant, to let the 17 acres on the other side of Brentry, Charlton Road.*** Negotiations continued over the lease for the additional land for a further 12 months, until 20th February 1915, when on that day the Club Directors formally signed an agreement with Mr Waller. Construction soon followed and they were eventually incorporated into the Course, forming three new formidable holes.

REFLECTIONS BY JACK JEFFERIES - A FORMER MEMBER

"Across the Road Holes" was the gentlemanly description but adjectives were used!! These three holes were certainly challenging!! To others they were the three holes to be cut out at all costs if there was a strong Westerly blowing, which was quite frequently. The three holes were known as ***"The Road"***, ***"The Railway"*** and ***"The Kennels"***.

The Road Hole: was about 350/375 yards with a Bogey 5 (not Par as in those days this term was not used and only came in later as an import from USA). From tee to green the terrain was quite undulating with 'Out of Bounds' throughout its entire length to the right, being the hedge alongside the road. There was deep rough either side of the fairway for the first 250 yards or so, from the tee to a ditch. The average good drive was around 150/175 yards but once and only once did I witness a drive, which threatened to go into the ditch. It finally stopped 2 yards short. The player I later learned was a "left hander" called Pruett who was Head of a Docks Stevedore Company. The 'Road Hole' green was tight against the Out of Bounds hedge and the back of the green was close to the Blackberry Hedge of Charlton Common, the left hand edge of the green was about 10 yards from the railway boundary. The Road Hole was a really challenging Bogey 5 and many players in "Stroke Competitions" deliberately played it for a six.

The Railway Hole: tee was tight against the fence of the railway line property as it emerged from the Charlton Tunnel on the line between Avonmouth to Stoke Gifford (a vital line during the war years guarded by the Home Guard of Charlton which consisted of people like myself and farmers who had six rifles between us and one bullet only to the Company)!! A Ditch and Pond was about 120 yards from the back tee, 100 yards from the middle tee and 80 yards from the Ladies tee. It was not unusual to see some men playing from the latter tee because Out of Bounds was to the right and the grass down to the ditch was almost mowing length. The fairway across the ditch and pond ran back into the ditch and to be safe one needed to land/pitch about 20/25 yards clear of the ditch to avoid "run back" and the likelihood of a lost ball. Between this first ditch and the green there was a further ditch about 200 yards from the tee, which had narrow mesh wire netting on its front. The ditch was unkempt and to actually get into the ditch almost inevitably meant a lost ball with resultant additional strokes. The green quite large and surrounded on three sides was on the top of the slope from the ditch. Provided one was straight the green was reasonably responsive but wayward shots brought very difficult bunkers into play. Again it was a Bogey 5 and if the South Westerly was blowing hard most people regarded it as a Bogey 6. It was not a "Push over Bogey".

The Kennel Hole: was different. The tee was right back against the railway fence. In order to reach the green in two one had to play over the corner of the Kennels field, which

jutted right across a direct line of sight from tee to green. If one took a safe line there was danger on the left by way of rough grass and also several clumps of Hawthorne bushes were just off the left hand edge of the fairway. The Green, which was on two levels, was tight against the road hedge and also that of the actual Kennels. The left hand side was guarded from front to back by a clumpy grass bunker. The Bogey was 4 and provided one played safe and careful a Bogey 4 was achievable. Unfortunately many players having dropped shots on the two previous holes attempted to take it on, much to their sorrow usually.

These three holes were virtually a shrine to me. The day I managed to complete all three holes in Bogey was like heaven. For me they will always be in my mind what golf was all about, joy mainly from the challenge. Sorrow also because they no longer existed and are now beneath people's houses, roads and gardens, the people oblivious of the previous environment that existed there. **Jack Jefferies.**

We may be excused for thinking that every decision taken at this time was regarding matters pertaining to the Course and although many of them were, this was not always the case. It was for example decided on 3rd February 1913 to install a telephone in the clubhouse and on the 5th February accept the resignation of Mrs Friend (stewardess) - it is thought they were not connected.

One Council decision which must rank above most others was made on 5th March 1913, when at a Council meeting it was ***proposed and seconded that Mr W.B. Heyward be appointed paid Secretary to the Club at a salary of £100 per annum, payable monthly, to take effect 1st April next, three months notice of termination of agreement to be given on either side, and the Secretary not to have a vote at Council Meetings, carried unanimously.*** Bill Heyward would have a major involvement in the Club and its progress over the next 31 years in Office and a great debt of gratitude is owed to him for his 'Rod of Iron' Management of the Club's affairs. That said his employment almost ended after only 5 months, when it came to light that there was problem with the 'House Accounts'.

On the 29th September 1913 the Hon Treasurer made a statement of the Clubhouse affairs, and, after some considerable discussion, it was proposed and unanimously carried ***"That a sub-committee be appointed to formulate a new system of keeping the Clubhouse accounts.*** It seems that a considerable sum had been misappropriated by House Chairman, Mr Whiting, and Council felt it to be so serious ***that they engaged a Chartered Accountant to investigate the Clubhouse accounts with the view of ascertaining the amount of deficit during the period between 1st April 1913 and 30th September 1913.*** Mr Whiting's membership was suspended while this investigation took place and at the Council Meeting on the 27th October 1913 ***was 'called into the meeting and gave his explanation as to the state of affairs in the course of which he mentioned that he thought it possible that a friend might assist him to make some restitution of the £154 deficit.*** At a further meeting 3rd November 1913 it was ***reported that Mr Whiting had failed to pay something towards the deficit and Council agreed that Mr Whiting while in a position of trust committed grave and irregular acts to which his explanation was unsatisfactory. As a result it was resolved that Mr Whiting is hereby expelled from the Club and that he be not allowed in future on the Course or in the Clubhouse on any pretext whatsoever.***

Despite Mr Whiting's departure the matter did not end there, as in accordance with the Company's constitution, it was still necessary to inform all the shareholders of events that had taken place, what actions had been taken and what safeguards put in place so that this could not happen again.

A Special Meeting was held on 15th December 1913 at which the Council explained ***that they collectively accepted responsibility for what had had taken place, as too much trust had been afforded Mr Whiting.*** Mr Heyward the Secretary offered his resignation, which thankfully was rejected by those present and the matter was closed.

With the Clubhouse affairs now seemingly under control with the Club having made a net profit of £1.11.11 in December, it's ironic that as ***reported by the Treasurer this amount would have been £2.10.5 but for a burglary, which took place on 21st December 1913*** – you just can't win. As a result of the burglary it was subsequently ***agreed to purchase a watchdog for the Clubhouse, together with a Kennel.***

Despite there being no further mention made of a dog its presence must have given the members a certain confidence and peace of mind.

Likewise, the knowledge that by February 1914 the Course had greatly improved to such an extent, that a request from the Clifton Down Ladies, regarding the availability of Filton for one of their 'Inter Club' matches had been received and approved – recognition indeed.

Also Bristol University Golf Society wished to play their matches on the Filton Links.

Most importantly however, following a visit from the Gloucestershire Golf Union President, Vice President and Secretary the Club was invited ***'to hold 'The Annual County Meeting' in June 1914 at Filton'***, which was accepted with great anticipation by Council at their meeting on 9th February 1914.

Also raised at the meeting was the desirability of extending the Clubhouse which was discussed at some length and it was agreed ***that a sub-committee consisting of the Executive Officers of the Club meet a qualified architect to consider plans for the Clubhouse extensions and that the Secretary send out a circular inviting subscriptions to a second Debenture issue of £500 of £1 value.***

The Clubhouse Plans were subsequently drawn up, amended and finalised by March ready for putting out to tender.

A number of Building Companies including, Cowlin & Sons, Wilkins & Sons, H. Pittard & Company, F. Crown, G. Sanders and Perkins & Son were asked to submit their most competitive price. Once received the lowest at £492 from G. Sanders was decided upon.

It was soon acknowledged however, that having accepted the lowest price submitted the £500 intended to cover the overall cost would not be enough to cover any unforeseen additional expenditures.

It was therefore necessary to call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholder to increase the £500 Debenture option to £550.

The members response was magnificent as ***The whole of this money required for the extension to the Clubhouse had been subscribed***, as reported at the Club's fourth Annual General Meeting on 29th May 1914 and at the same meeting it was agreed ***"That a shilling 'Furniture Fund' be started and the money subscribed be used for the purchase of new furniture for the Clubhouse"***.

Placing the order with the lowest quotation proved a mistake however, as the ***Chairman reported on the 10th April 1914 that Mr Sanders, whose tender to build the new extension of the Clubhouse was accepted, had now withdrawn.***

He further reported, ***that he along with Mr Bevan, the Architect and the Club's Secretary, had met Mess's Bray & Slaughter who they had interviewed and with slight alterations to the specification Bray & Slaughter undertook to complete the work for £506***, which the Council accepted.

Yet again, there was no official ceremony on the opening of the new extension and indeed the only reference made to its completion was ***when it was resolved that the Stewards Wages be increased to 35/- per week as from 1st July to cover the cost of the extra duties that where required.***

What did happen in June at the time of the Clubhouse extension being completed, as agreed by Council at their meeting 9th February, was that the Gloucestershire County Championship held their prestigious event on the course.

The following was reported in the 'Local Press' on 17th June 1914:

The ninth annual meeting of the Gloucestershire Golf Union took place yesterday, on the links at the Filton Golf Club. A record entry had been secured, amateur golfers journeying from all parts of the County to compete for individual and team Championship. All the past champions competed, including Mr D Smith, the only Bristol golfer to have secured the honour. Almost all the clubs in the County sent representatives, and so large was the entry that the first couple started from the 1st tee at 8.30 am. A five minute interval was allowed between each couple, and the last did not leave the 1st tee until 6.10 pm. The player returning the lowest gross score over 36 holes secures the Blue Ribbon.

*The Championship was won by **Mr J H Beavis**, (Minchinhampton), who played two fine rounds. It was his first success, although he has several times returned scores near the winner. Minchinhampton club won the team championship, but Gloucester was a good second and Rodway Hill third. The Knowle representatives did exceedingly well and made an excellent fight.*

The existing Clubhouse was extended to incorporate a second gable extension with a chevron design frontage.

A photograph of the newly extended Clubhouse along with photographs of play on the course in 1914 are featured on the Club's 10th Anniversary 'Souvenir' Booklet published in 1920 by Vickery, Kyrle & Co., Ltd., London, Margate, Paris.



Filton Golf Club House in 1914, having had constructed a new extension, with a chevron gable.



Filton Golf Club. Approaching the 5th Green.



You will see in the background of both photographs 'Pen Park Manor Farm' and its outbuildings. The remains of the farms low boundary wall can still be seen today to the left hand side as you approach the Barn Green.

It might perhaps seem odd to us at this time, with War only months away, life was continuing as normal, but continue it did and for the 'poor old' Council Members, they still needed to make decisions with regards to how much worm killer and grass seed was required, should they purchase a new hand drawn lawnmower and how to tackle the problem of trespassers through Mr Waller's hedge.

This phoney War situation just couldn't go on as it was however, and Council soon had to acknowledge the seriousness and threat that impending events could have. This was very much brought home to them at a meeting on 31st August 1914 when **a letter from D. Goodden on behalf of himself and Mr Statham was read. He asked that some special arrangements as to his membership might be made as they were going to the War. It was resolved that the matter should be left until their return.** The Council reply reflects perhaps their uncertainty at this time in how to address such problems that War would pose and the implications War could have, not only on their lives but those of fellow members and indeed the Club itself.

To their great credit however, at this very same meeting they agreed to seek ways to reduce the Club's expenditure and to organise events to raise money for the War effort. A competition, with the entrance fees forwarded to the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund was agreed. **It was further resolved that the competition should consist of a Continuous Bogey competition throughout September, a Cup, presented by J.H. Pearce to be 1st Prize and a Button Knife, presented by F.C. Haydon, 2nd Prize.** At a subsequent meeting it was reported that **the sum of £39 13s od had been subscribed by the members towards H.R.H. Prince of Wales National Relief Fund.**

Moves were also made to look after their employee's welfare, as at the Council meeting of 5th October 1914 it was reported that Groundsman, J. Hynam, who must have been one of the first to volunteer, was to leave. Council **confirmed the payment of £1 to him on**

his enlisting in Lord Kitcheners Army, with a further 2/6d per week to be paid to his wife for a period of one month.

It was also necessary for the Council to review the Club membership policy at this difficult time, which can be seen with their new attitude toward Lady Members. A change of policy, probably brought about by the loss of male members to the War, ***resolved that ladies should be elected as full members***, albeit with the restriction that ***they must not start a round on a Saturday after 12 o'clock***. The Council were not completely without heart however as it was proposed that ***the Ladies Subscription should remain the same***.

Other steps were also necessary and discussion took place at Council meetings soon after the outbreak of War, as to an increase in subscriptions and once again, ways to reduce expenditure.

As early as 1915 the loss of Club revenue was beginning to have an effect and it was decided that a significant increase in subscriptions would be required. This could see the annual subscription for a 5 days member increasing by half a guinea to 2 guineas. However, as the amount of the subscription was governed by the Club's Rules, an Extraordinary Meeting of members had to be called first to approve the change. This Council duly did and there were no dissenting votes.

It was also agreed, that ***any Club member on active service should be treated as honorary members for the duration of hostilities***; they numbered 54 members plus 1 ground staff at the time. One member suggested that ***as members were prepared to make sacrifices due to the war, perhaps our Landlord, Mr Aitkin Waller, could be prevailed upon to reduce the rent during the war***. As a result, it was announced by the Chairman at the Clubs Fifth Annual General Meeting held on 31st May 1915, ***amid loud cheers that Mr Waller had kindly consented to a £20 rent reduction for the current year***.

Despite the hostilities, general play and the Club's business continued, as best it could, and the Course was still being maintained to a good standard, the latter despite a reduced workforce as J. Hynam's brother, also a member of the Greenstaff, had enlisted in the Army. The number of members who were on Active Service had also increased during the year and by the 1916 Annual General Meeting, 58 were away at War.

At the Annual General Meeting it was reported that financially, despite imposing stringent controls over expenses the Club still made a loss on the year of just over £65 as compared to the previous year loss of almost £290. On a positive note however, the Chairman explained that the Course was still in good order and visitor 'Green Fees' were only slightly down on the year, the amount received comparing favourably with other Clubs in the area. At the same meeting ***Samuel Shield announced to loud cheers that he would surrender his Debentures, together with accrued interest for the benefit of the Club***, this inspired 16 other Debenture holders to do the same and with the Auditors agreeing to forego their Fee for services rendered, this resulting in a reduction in the Clubs' liabilities of £116.

Throughout the rest of 1916 leading up to the 1917 Annual General Meeting, efforts to reduce expenditure and indeed to increase income continued unabated. To raise income a number of diverse methods were adopted:

One of the most original ideas proved to be a 'Starling Shoot' on the Course, although the number of 'birdies' bagged or profit made is not recorded; Drinks in the Clubhouse were increased in price, which saw White Label Whisky increased in price from 4d to 5d, Brandy

from 6d to 8d and Bovril from 3d to 4d; More radically, perhaps, it was decided to put the 8th, 9th and 10th holes down for hay, which when sold raising £55; Hiring out the Horse and Cart to the Aeroplane Works also produced a healthy profit, being let at 13/6 a day.

In addition to these **Mr W.B. Heyward resigned as paid Secretary, although he was re-appointed as Honorary Secretary at an honorarium of £25 annually and also as House Manager at £75 annually**, saving the Club a considerable amount in salaries. As Bill was required to carry out work for the Ministry of National Service it meant that he could not devote himself to full time working for the Club, so this arrangement proved mutually beneficial to both parties. Following his release from Ministerial Duties in 1919, he was able to resume as full time paid Club Secretary.

With all the savings and extra income having been made, it must have been quite a relief to the Chairman on 27th July 1917, at the Annual General Meeting, to report that the loss for the year was again reduced from the previous, down to £58. This was a remarkable achievement and obviously appreciated by the members, as it was proposed, that all those present at the meeting should donate £1 to wipe out the years loss. This was agreed along with a list of subscribers to be displayed in the Clubhouse. In addition Club President Mr Waller would again waive some of his annual rent.

At the time of the meeting 90 members, plus the Club's Steward, A.C. Arscut and the brothers Hynam of the Greenstaff had enlisted.

Throughout 1917 it was inevitable that a greater shortage of essentials, such as food and beverages, country wide, would have a major effect on the Club and the members. An instruction had been received from the Gloucestershire War Agricultural Committee for part of the Course, covered by field 1158 on the Ordnance Survey Map, to be ploughed up and planted with cereals, roots or potatoes for the 1918 harvest. On a less serious note, Council, with supplies drying up, had to ration the consumption of whisky to one case per month, members being rationed to a maximum of 2 units per person a day.

Despite all the necessary hardships endured over the years, with the Great War drawing to a close there was a noticeable mixture of delight that hostilities were ending, national pride at the outcome, optimism for the future and a great sadness that so many had been lost so tragically. Because of the latter there was an understandable residue of bitterness towards the old enemies, as a resolution was unanimously approved at the 1919 Annual General Meeting of the Club **that no German or Austrian naturalized or not be allowed in the Clubhouse or on the Course**. I hasten to add that with the healing of time, this is not now the case and in 2007 at the Annual General Meeting of members a resolution rescinding the original decision was endorsed (The resolution of 1919 having been discovered when re-searching the minutes for this story).

However, what will remain is the memory of those who paid the ultimate price. In the Clubhouse hangs a commemorative plaque inscribed with the names of the 9 members who are known to have lost their lives at the Front.

Commemorative Plaque:



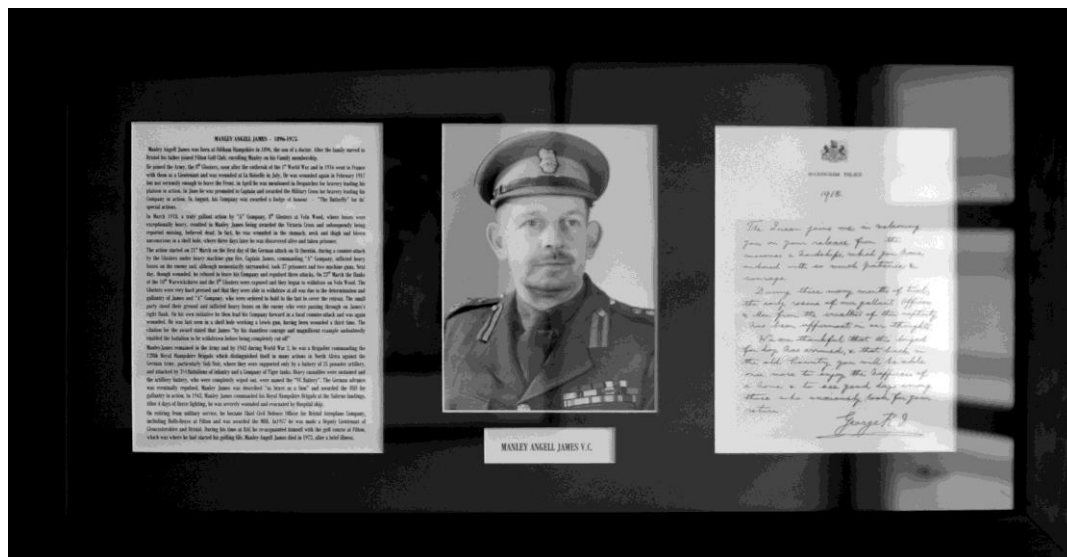
If we quite rightly revere their memory then we most certainly should acknowledge, with great pride, Club member:

Captain Manley Angell James - VC, DSO, MC & MBE

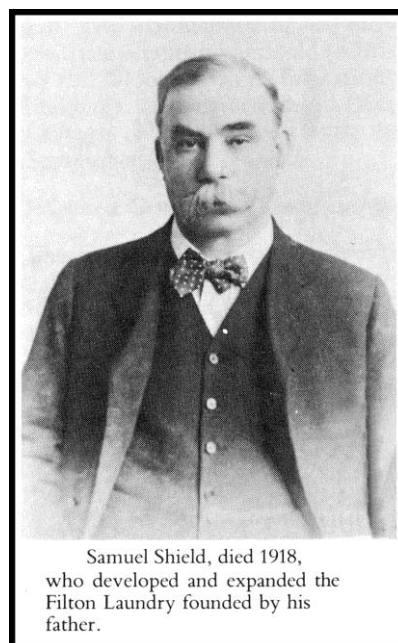
Manley Angell James, born in Hampshire in 1897, was the son of a Medical Practitioner who had moved to Bristol to open a practice in Bishopston. Manley was introduced to Golf, at an early age by his father and together they joined Filton Golf Club as Family members in 1911.

His Golf was to take a back seat however, at the outbreak of hostilities and at 18 years of age, in 1915 he joined the Gloucestershire Regiment. He rose rapidly through their 'Ranks' and by the age of 21 he was a Captain.

With his 'Company' on 21st March 1918, he was in action near Velu Wood in France. Manley Angell James led his men forward, capturing 27 prisoners and two machine guns and despite being wounded, refused to leave his Company and the following day they repulsed three enemy assaults. Two days later however, the enemy eventually broke through, and his Company were forced to fight a rear guard action, making a determined stand, inflicting heavy losses and gaining valuable time for the withdrawal of the guns. After holding out to the last, to enable the Brigade to be extricated, he then led his Company forward in a counter attack, and was once again wounded. Before being captured, he was last sighted operating a machine gun single handed, despite having been wounded for a third time. For this heroism he was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry. On his return from 'Active Service', Manley Angell James re-joined the Club; His photograph can be seen in the Clubhouse.



One further tribute must be made at this juncture and that is to Samuel Shield, Vice President and a Founder Member, who died aged 65 in 1918.



The Minutes of the 8th August 1918 say it all - ***“The profound regret at his death and the appreciation of his support during the ‘History of the Club’ be duly recorded”.***

CHAPTER 5

BETWEEN THE WARS (September 1918 - 1939)

With the end of the War now in sight, Club Chairman John Bolton began negotiations with John Atkin Waller, the Club President and Landlord, to re-establish a Lease for his land covered by the Course; the previous arrangement having been suspended until after the hostilities ceased. Once again our Landlord was extremely co-operative and an agreement was reached, which was signed in February 1919. At the same time as the Lease was being negotiated the Chairman was in communication with the War Agricultural Committee ***as to compensation, following them requisitioning field No. 1158 for crops*** in 1917. Obtaining a settlement was to prove more difficult than originally thought however, for although the ***War Agricultural Committee agreed to allow the Club to lay***

down field 1158 for grass in 1920, 2 years hence, they also explained that, no further claim can be considered until Peace is declared.

It is perhaps understandable that these two matters and others concerning the day to day running of the Club, along with his own business interests, were now starting to take their toll, and it must have come as a great relief to the Chairman when he was able to recommend to the Council ***that the Honorary Secretary Mr Heyward had been released from his duties, by the Ministry of National Service, and was devoting his whole time in the Club's interest and that he be re-appointed paid Secretary as formerly.*** Following discussion Council were very happy at their next monthly meeting to endorse the Chairman's recommendation, particularly because, like the Chairman, they felt that for the Club to again be a success a full time Secretary was essential. Bill was duly re-instated and was instructed ***as a priority, to concentrate his efforts on increasing the Membership and to re-instate the Club to its former self.*** As it transpired it wasn't as difficult as first thought to increase the membership numbers and they rose steadily due in part to people returning from active service. Work on the Course and organising the Club was to prove more difficult, but they resolved themselves, as former employees, on their availability, were re-employed and with renewed enthusiasm, work proceeded at a pace. It was therefore in a relatively short time that once again members enjoyed the service and facilities they had been accustomed to prior to War breaking out.



One interesting side issue discussed by the Council at their meeting on 7th June 1919, which a number of us can relate to perhaps, was when the Council decided ***that two Policemen should be employed to keep the Public to the Footpath on Whit Monday and that three Notice Boards warning Trespassers should be procured and erected in suitable positions on the course.*** Nothing changes it seems, only it's not just Whit Monday now. In addition a letter was sent to members ***warning them against the malpractice of buying balls from boys thereby encouraging them to trespass on the Course.***

Trespass obviously didn't apply to animals, as grazing was still permitted on the Course and their roaming did cause an un-expected staffing problem as it is reported that, ***one of the Greens Staff had left the Club's employ, it was necessary to find someone to take over his duties of clearing the Greens of 'Sheep Droppings' on Sundays.***

In the winter months, when ground conditions determined, the Club did take adequate precautions as it is mentioned ***that barbed wire was to be used to keep the Club's horses in the 'Clubhouse Field' during the winter months so that the wire around the 1st, 7th and 18th greens could be removed.***

If trespass and cattle were an annoyance the Course itself was also a cause of great concern, particularly as three holes had been lost when field 1158 was dug up in 1917, to help in the War effort.

It was therefore considered of paramount importance that the Course should once again be re-instated to have 18 holes. Although three 'Temporary holes', 16th, 17th and 18th were quickly introduced into the existing Course, these proved to be completely un-satisfactory and urgent moves were made to secure additional land. This culminated in ***arrangements being made with Mr E. T. Pierce to take in the 16-acre field, known as "Westwood," on which three new greens have been made and it is hoped that by the coming Autumn they will be ready for play, when the unsatisfactory 16th, 17th and 18th holes will be abandoned.***

With the New Year, came optimism, enthusiasm and the inevitable problems. At the Annual General Meeting of 1920, evidently a lively affair, the ***'Balance Sheet' advisedly was criticised generally and especially of the small profits made in the Catering Department.*** This resulted in the 'Annual Report' and 'Balance Sheet' ***not being accepted*** and following discussion it was ***proposed by a Mr Shillam and seconded the 'Secretary' and unanimously carried that "A Committee of Inspection consisting of five members together with fresh Auditors be appointed to enquire into the Accounts generally and to report to an adjourned Annual General Meeting as soon as possible".***

This one issue proved to be a major turning point for the Club, as the report was extremely critical ***of the lack of control that Council had over the way the Club was being run, with the whole Management of the Club, its Finance, Secretarial Work and Catering; all of which being devolving on the Secretary.*** As a result, the Committee's subsequent recommendations were presented at a Special Annual General Meeting on 25th September 1920 and unanimously carried. Also agreed was ***that the Report of the Committee of Inspection be accepted and their recommendations be adopted as "far as possible".***

Interestingly the basis of the recommendations still holds true today in that; ***Sub Committees are to meet monthly and proper minutes prepared and kept, proper control of Clubhouse trading to be put in place, a depreciation plan for Club assets be set up, an 'Honorary Treasurer' appointed and the role of the Secretary defined.*** In addition to this new accountants were called in to overhaul the 'Book Keeping System' and place it on a sound basis.

Despite the criticisms of the report, Council felt that no individual was responsible for any failings. It is clear from the minutes of subsequent Council meetings that all the recommendations that had been made were implemented and applied with some diligence.

To this day, sub- Committees' reports and financial transactions are all duly recorded. Mr Shillam went on to become the Club's first Honorary Treasurer in 1921.

With this extremely important matter resolved Council now concentrated its efforts, once again, on the day to day running of the Club. The course for instance was still in a state of flux with changes being made almost on a daily basis. In addition, and as a sign of the times, where there had previously been a concern to offer the membership a place to park their cycles, it was now seen as essential ***that waste ground at the back of the Clubhouse be converted into accommodation for' Motor Cars'.*** A recommended to this effect was made to Council on the 1st January 1921, which was adopted.

More trivial but still important matters to satisfy the members' requirements had to be dealt with, and at their February meeting it was recommended that six packs of 'Playing Cards' should be provided, but no extra tables at present and that no charge should be made for playing. Also three Door Mats were to be obtained if possible and most importantly it was unanimously carried ***that Messrs Spackman & Gosling's offer to sell the Club three cases of 'Dawsons Scotch Whisky' was accepted, and that Siphons of Soda Water be provided, 1d per Splash to be charged.***

One innovation that came about at this time was the introduction of a 'Suggestions Book', the contents of which were discussed and dealt with at each Council meeting. The book was to last three years, after which time it was agreed, ***that the Suggestion Book be done away with and a Letter Box for Suggestions substituted.***

Club matters continued unabated throughout 1921 and it wasn't until 19th May 1922 when the next significant event in the Club's history was to take place. At the Council meeting on that day the Chairman John Bolton reminded the meeting ***that this was the last Council Meeting over which he would prescribe. He had resigned from the Directorate having acted as Chairman since the inception of the Club. He felt sorry he was leaving and would always remember the harmonious manner in which his Co-Directors had worked with him but now felt the time had come when another should take his place.*** It was proposed by the Honorary Treasurer and unanimously carried with acclamation ***"That a hearty, Vote of Thanks be accorded to Mr Bolton for his great services in the past"***. In appreciation the members subscribed towards a gift of a 'Silver Tray' to Mr Bolton to commemorate his services to the Club. John was subsequently elected Vice-President and continued to give Council his support and advice on legal matters. It is difficult to put into words the ***'Dept of Gratitude'*** owed to ***'John William Bolton'*** from all members who have been fortunate to be part of the Filton Golf Club. Without his Foresight, Leadership, Professional Acumen and Perseverance, what we have today might never have happened. ***"Thank you from us all"***.

Very much like John Bolton the Professional, Crook, was also experiencing ill health. This resulted in the Club engaging on 15th February 1923 the services of a fellow Professional, 'Paton' from Stirling, Scotland to assist him with the work.

The arrangement only lasted 10 months however, before the gentleman moved away to take up an appointment at Herne Bay Golf Club. Despite Crook's incapacity his duties didn't diminish it seems, as at a Council Meeting on 22nd August 1924 it was ***following discussion regarding 'Caddies' that the Captain Mr Hull proposed that they be only engaged through Crook and the charges shall be 1/6 for first class Caddie and 1/- for second class Caddie which fees to be paid to Crook who shall pay the Caddies 1/3 and 10d respectively***

It is suspected that this arrangement, with the Professional having a share of the takings, was considered by the Caddies to be a little underhand, especially as the Professional and some of his Staff were all Crooks! Well four at least, the Professional E.W Crook, H.D. Crook, C. Crook and H.E. Crook.



In later years members employed their own Caddies, some of them children under the age of fourteen, a practice frowned on by the Club. As a result, members were reminded ***that children were not to be employed as Caddies and that the recognised charge for a Caddie had to be paid.*** A number of long standing members may still recall George who was a Caddie for Ken Hudson, Roy Redman and others, well into the 1980s until the practice ceased.

The employing of youngsters in other capacities didn't stop though, as several boys were engaged to weed greens on 24th November 1924 at a wage of 4 shillings per day. It appears that this arrangement was not working entirely to the Club's satisfaction as it was soon decided to provide them with some supervision in the form of a Mr Oliver, who was paid £1-5s-0d per week to work with the boys and keep them under control.

The members welfare was, quite correctly, always of paramount importance and it was agreed at the same meeting to ***enclose the ground from the 1st tee to the first bunker, this to prevent the cattle taking shelter around the Clubhouse during hot weather.***

The desirability of allowing cattle and sheep to graze on the course, albeit for an annual fee from local tenant farmers, was now called into question, particularly as the Club it seems was becoming more 'Financially Sound'. As a result letters were sent to the respective tenant farmers giving them six months notice to cease grazing their animals on the Course. Regrettably for the Council a 7 years 'Legally Binding' agreement entered into by the Club and the tenant farmers still had 5 years to run and Council members were left with egg on their faces. Not to be deterred the Club following legal advice ***requested the Tenant Farmers to comply with their undertaking regarding their hedges, and that, if necessary the Chairman and Secretary should inspect these hedges with the Tenant Farmers.*** Mr Pierce regarding 'Westwood', ***agreed as long as the Club would pay him another £5 per annum rent, he would undertake to keep the hedges in repair and not put any horned cattle or horses on the course.*** You may be inclined to think that there was a danger to players with animals grazing on the Course, but this doesn't seem to be the case and the only incident noted was in a letter from ***Mr Griffiths, reporting that one of his sheep had been killed by a golf ball and asked for compensation.*** It was agreed to refer the matter to the Insurance Company. What they thought of such an unusual claim is not recorded.

On the 23rd May 1925 at the 15th Annual General Meeting, Mr Harvey Barton ***remarked that he thought the time had come when a proper 'Putting Course' should be made.*** The Captain responded by explaining ***that it had been in the Programme to be started last fall, but the pressure of work had seen it postponed.*** It was he continued, intended that work will start later in the year and it would be completed in time

for the following summer. One further topic discussed was that of 'Membership Numbers'. It seems that despite the Club being in a sound financial position, numbers were falling and stood at 211. ***The Captain hoped those present use their influence to get new members.***

It was also suggested that like a number of other Golf Clubs in the area, the 'Entrance Fee' to join should be waived. This eventually came about in 1927 but only then for 30 players. Around that time membership numbers did eventually start to increase and in 1928 it was recorded that the Club membership now stood at 269.

On a sad note, one of the Club's 'Faithful Servants' reached the end of its working life in the August of 1925, when the Secretary reported ***that the 'Old Horse' was worn out and past work.*** It is best not to ponder too much on its subsequent fate as the Club accepted an offer of £3-10s-0d for the horse from Bristol Zoo.

The 'Grazing Issue' once again came to the fore on 28th August 1925 when a further letter was sent to the 'Grazing Tenants' viz: ***The Directors of Filton Golf Club, Ltd. beg to inform you that according to your agreement with the Club you are required to keep the hedges properly cut and laid, and that they hereby give you notice that they require this work to be completed not later than the 18th March 1926. Non-compliance with the request will result in the termination of your lease on 25th March 1926.***

There is no mention in Council Minutes of any subsequent correspondence from the 'Grazing – Tenant Farmers' up to that date or indeed in the meeting held on the 26th March 1926, so it may be assumed that that the Club's request was ignored. A later reference made at the 1926 Annual General Meeting supports this when ***Mr Cartridge remarked that he hoped the day was not far off when the cattle could be dispensed with.*** Also with the reference at Councils meeting in August, ***'That Notice be sent by Registered Post to the Tenants who rent the grazing to quit the premises on 24th March 1927'.***

What is recorded at that meeting however, which perhaps reflects the attitude and expectancy that came with being a member of a Golf Club in those days, was a letter received from Shirehampton Park Golf Club. ***It referred to the question of "Free Lance" golfers, who while not members of a Club visited various Clubs, without introduction and only paying Green Fees. The Shirehampton Park Golf Club deprecated the habit and suggested that some concerted action might be taken in the matter.*** The Club sympathised and ***suggested a meeting with other local Clubs to discuss and formulate, if necessary, a collective policy against this type of thing***

Oh how times have changed. These days 'Green Fee' players are encouraged and their revenue is more than welcome if not essential.

With Filton Golf Club on the up, it is sad to report that other local Clubs were struggling to survive. For example on the 13th November 1926 ***the Secretary informed the Council that Rodway Hill Golf Club had found it necessary to close down.*** You may recall that at Filton Golf Club's inaugural meeting and on a number of subsequent occasions, 'White the Professional of Rodway Hill Golf Club' had been asked his opinion on several matters, which he willingly gave.

Not to look a gift horse in the mouth however, Council decided to offer Rodway Hill members special terms for the remainder of the year should they join Filton. ***The Secretary was instructed to get in touch with the Honorary Secretary of the***

Rodway Hill Golf Club, and if possible, get a list of the names and addresses of their members so that a letter containing the offer may be sent to them individually. These decisions and recommendations proved to be a little premature it seems, as at the following Council meeting it was reported that Rodway Hill Golf Club Members had held a Special General Meeting and decided to carry on. It was agreed to leave the offer of membership on the Table.

If Rodway Hill was struggling Filton Golf Club was in the ascendancy and the Council now considered it appropriate, that having been in existence for 17 years, they should Honour and record the names of Fellow Members who had played a prominent part in the Club's affairs during that time. **The question of a Panel giving the names of the Chairman and 'Captains' of the Club being fixed in the Clubhouse was discussed** and it was unanimously agreed to accept the kind offer of Mr Maggs, who volunteered to supply it (Reference Appendix 5).



These and subsequent Panels hang on the 'Bar Wall' for all to view.

A bizarre 'U' Turn regarding the 'Grazing - Tenant Farmers' occurred on the 15th February 1927. Despite a year earlier the Club having given the tenant farmers 'Notice to Quit' as of the 24th March 1927, it was now agreed the following will apply:

The Grazing Rents should be increased as follows:

H.J. Macey	remains at £30 per annum
J.D. Griffiths	increased from £25 to £30 per annum
G. Friend	increased from £25 to £45 per annum

It can only be assumed that membership numbers had fallen at the time and it was imperative that the Club secure a regular income from any source available, even if it meant a reversal of 'Policy'. Their change of heart was only partially successful however as Mr Macey was the only tenant farmer to sign a new lease. Both Mr Griffiths and Mr Friend declined explaining that they would cease to rent the grazing from the Club after 25th March 1928 which resulted in the Council on 27th January 1928 agreeing **that the grazing be advertise in the Times and Mirror**. Tenant Farmer Mr Rowley, subsequently took up the Lease offered Mr Griffiths, so all was not lost.

The loss of members was a serious problem however, and this is shown in Minutes of a Meeting on the 25th March 1927 when it is mentioned **that members had left the Club because the Professional was so seldom available to give lessons**. It must be stressed that these absences were more to do with ill health being suffered by Crook than any unwillingness on his part to offer lessons. It seems Council also took this view, as it was agreed **that the Secretary write to the Professional Golfers Association explaining the case and asking what, if any help would be given to Crook in**

the event of his being discharged. Their reply, if any, is not recorded but in any event it wasn't required, as the Club in 1929 engaged F. Boobyer of the Clifton Golf Club as Professional at a wage of £2 10 s per week in place of Crook. In agreement Crook, who was in poor health, was not discharged and was pleased to accept the post of Supervising Greenkeeper at a reduced wage, a position he held until his death aged 55 in 1934.



Little has been mentioned regarding the Ladies to date and it is perhaps unfortunate that when we do on this occasion it is to record that two of their members were asked to resign following ***“Irregularities in marking their cards in competition”***. Both ladies having taken ‘Legal Advice’ accepted their fate and resigned a month later. To non-golfers, the necessity for the Club to take such drastic action might seem strange but for those who play this wonderful game, it is imperative that it is always played with ‘Honour’ and ‘Integrity’.

If you were so inclined, as had happened on this occasion, it would be all too easy to give way to temptation, especially when you consider that Golf in 1929 was being played over a Course very different to the ‘Manicured Park’ we play today. Although greens which previously were hand-cut with scythes where now being maintained using mechanical push mowers, or if you were lucky ‘them new fangled’ Atco or Ransom Motorised Mowers, they were still uneven and you might have been inclined to accept a ‘Gimmie’ rather than putt out. Also the fairways, which were still being maintained using horse drawn mowers, and rough kept down by allowing animals to graze freely, left a lot to be desired and ‘improving a lie’ would have been very tempting. If this wasn’t enough the Golf playing equipment was, compared to the sleek, colourful, aerodynamically efficient, expensive trinkets and go further/straighter balls offered today, was very rudimentary. One innovation that was taking place though was reported in the Council Meeting on 22nd June 1929. ***A letter from “Golf Illustrated” was read. They asked for the Councils opinion as to whether steel shafts should be legalised or not*** - Councils were in favour of legalising steel shafts.

In contrast to this progressive attitude it is heartening to report that some things didn’t change as it ***was agreed to purchase ‘1 Set of Horse Boots’ and that the Club had been offered a Horse and Harness for £18. The Horse had been tried, but not sufficient, to form an opinion of its suitability.*** Whether the horse ever did achieve the required ‘pass mark’ is not known and would have been decided in conjunction with Fred Boobyer the new Club Professional. Fred’s arrival created a problem in its own right, as living accommodation for such a senior member of staff wasn’t readily available.

Despite their best efforts over a number of years to rent a Council property, the Club had been unsuccessful and because of this the Club Council at their meeting 26th April 1929 having read a report ***that 12 Braemar Avenue, Filton Park Estate could be purchased for £425 - £400 of which could be left on Mortgage, agreed that the house would be suitable for the new Professional to occupation and the house purchased forthwith. The Common Seal of the Company, Filton Golf Club Ltd, was affixed to the Mortgage Deed of Covenant relating to No.12 Braemar Avenue in the presence of John Storrs, Walter Ernest Maggs, Directors and Walter Berry Heyward, Secretary.***

This was reported to the membership at the 19th Annual General Meeting held on 25th May 1929, which was not as lively as on other previous occasions it seems. All the same one significant event did take place. A new 'Club Captain' was appointed. Mr H.C. Hull having been in 'Office' for the previous seven years was standing down in favour of Mr F.W. Trory. On doing so Mr Hull, as an ordinary member, proposed ***that in future the Captain should be allowed the privilege of driving first when there is more than one couple on the first tee;*** The new Captain, Mr Trory, was to second the motion, which was carried and the tradition of the Club Captain having precedence on the first tee must still be observed. Finally at the meeting Mr Hull was afforded ***"a hearty vote of thanks for his services as Captain of the Club for the last seven years"***, to great acclamation.



H.C.Hull - Pictured with the Club Trophies he Won

You may have noticed by now, that the wording of a number of topics that have been covered is highlighted and a little dated - they use 'Proper English'. A reference at the June meeting reflects this rather nicely. A letter from Messrs Hygea Ltd. was read. ***They asked if they could supply the Club with Disinfectors etc. and it was resolved that the matter be left on the Table.*** So much for clean living Gentlemen!

The sentiment 'Clean Living' certainly didn't apply to the Club's first 'Corporate Society', ***twelve of who could enjoy the links from 1st August 1929 to 30th April 1930 for an annual fee of £15-15s-op.*** 'Bristol Rovers Football Club where the Corporate Society mentioned and those who remember 'Eastville Stadium' will recall it turning into a quagmire once winter set in, so they were a 'Dirty Lot'. On the face of it the agreed annual fee seems extremely generous, but perhaps there was a reciprocal arrangement with the price of 'Tickets for Games'.

Competitions are always a major part of a Club's activities as we all strive to win, inevitably fail, but still come back for more. So it was on 27th September 1929 that **Mr A.R. Adams offered to provide a Challenge Cup for annual competition on lines, which the Council think most suitable.** Council accepted the offer with thanks and decided **that the Cup should be for the Championship of the Club, everybody to play from scratch;** thus originated the Scratch Cup, which is still awarded to the '**Club Champion Golfer**' to this day. Notable multiple 'Winners' include; R.E. Strange 1951, 52, 53 & 54, J.M. (Max) Clarke 1958, 59, 60 & 65, and Richard White 1986, 88, 92, 94 & 95 '**congratulations to you all**'.

The Scratch Cup – Club Scratch Champion



Council it seems were in a generous frame of mind at the meeting, **when the question of allowing the Professional the privileges of the Clubhouse was discussed they agreed that Boobyer, the Professional, be allowed the courtesy of the Clubhouse,** a momentous decision indeed. Also recorded is that the membership numbers now stood, for all categories, at 306 as compared to the 262 mentioned at the last Annual General Meeting.

Good news indeed and on the strength of that, in October, following a recommendation from the Greens Committee, it was agreed to increase the length of the Course. The work involved changes to 7 of the holes, which made the Course measure 3226 yards on the Outward 9 and 2534 yards on the Inward 9. A total of 5760 yards and having a bogey score of 74: six holes Bogey 5, 8 holes Bogey 4 and 4 holes Bogey 3's.

Along with all the necessary changes it was also agreed to name each individual hole and a 'Hole Naming Competition' was held with the following result:

1 - Shed, 2 - Short Westwood, 3 - Long Westwood, 4 - Wee Westwood, 5 - Hedge, 6 - Elms, 7 - Barn, 8 - Trenches, 9 - Road, 10 - Railway, 11 - Kennels, 12 - Pimple, 13 - Paddock, 14 - Pond, 15 - Orchard, 16 - Plateau, 17 - Pen Park, 18 - Crooks Peak.

Not all was good news however, as in the 'New Year' Mr H.C. Hull, due to financial circumstances tendered his resignation. Fortunately for Mr Hull help was at hand and **it was unanimously agreed that in view of Mr Hull's past services as Captain of the Club and in other ways he be elected Honorary Member for the year ending the 31st of March 1931.**

If the 'Service' of a Past Captain had been recognised, so too was that provided by a 'Horse', as not only did the Club rely upon them to do the heavy Course work, but also to fund raise.

Well perhaps regarding the fundraising not the Club's horse but others of greater speed as ***in January 1931 the Ladies asked if they might hold a Bridge Evening on a Saturday and run a 'sweep stake' on the Grand National.*** Council, never one to miss an opportunity, agreed that the Ladies could run a 'sweep stake' but insisted ***the profit derived there from be spent on a large fireplace in the Dining Room and 'Rugs',*** an interesting combination perhaps. In the event £24-10s-0d was made available for improvements in the Dining Room. The idea of raising money in this way was obviously considered by Council to be a good idea as two months later at their meeting in March, it was following discussion ***agreed as to the possible purchase of a Tractor Mower and to a Derby Sweep being arranged with three prizes £25, £15, and £10. Twelve Directors guaranteed £4-4s-0d each over the Prize money;*** The Derby Sweep to raise money towards its purchase.

At the same meeting ***on behalf of the sub-Committee appointed to arrange the 'Clubs coming of age Celebrations' the Chairman mentioned that the application for tickets for the suggested Dinner was poor and the sub-Committee advised that the idea be abandoned.*** It was agreed to defer any decision and that the subject be put on the Agenda for the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. On the 24th May 1931 it was further agreed ***that a circular letter be sent to the members to say that a 'Cold Supper' at 5/- a head would be served at the Clubhouse on 12th September 1931 and those wishing to attend must submit 5/- not later than 27th August.*** Regrettably only two members forwarded their 5/- and the 'Celebration Dinner' idea was indeed abandoned.

This was not the only setback at this time as regarding the question of a Motor Tractor the Council requested that ***Messrs Pattison and Messrs Rumsey be asked to give a demonstration on the Course on the 8th May if possible and the Tractor, which is deemed to give the greater satisfaction be purchased. It was unanimously agreed on 22nd May that the idea of purchasing a Motor Tractor be abandoned and that a suitable Horse be purchased as soon as possible.*** As a postscript in April 1933 a Pattisson Super Beta (Mark V) Motor Tractor together with Tip Cart and Draw Bar was purchased at a price of £210-10s-0d – less 7.5% negotiated discount. The two Horses and Cart owned by the Club were sold off for £14.

Despite the lack of modern equipment at this time the Course was still held in high regard by others, as on the 24th June 1932 the Club received an enquiry ***as to whether it would grant members of the Bristol and Clifton, Knowle and Long Ashton Golf Clubs the courtesy of the Course on the occasions when the County Union Championship was held on the Course of the Clubs named.*** It was unanimously carried that ***the Secretary should reply saying that the Club would be willing to accede to the request and point out that the Course was much improved since the last County meeting was held there (1914) and that the Scratch Score was 74. Also in view of these facts, that the County might consider Filton as a venue in the future.***

The Gloucestershire Golf Union in reply explained that when the Championship was next due to be played in the South of the County, Filton will receive due consideration. It is pleasing to report that with the Championship being held at Filton in our 'Centenary Year' our letter of 1932 has finally borne fruit.

The Clubhouse was also felt to be worthy of a visit, although perhaps on this occasion for the wrong reason, when it was ***necessary to call a Special Meeting on 2nd July in view of the fact that during the night of 28 June the Clubhouse had been broken into and a certain amount of stock stolen.*** It was agreed ***that steps could be taken to make it more or less Burglar proof and if the price was satisfactory that the work should proceed forthwith.*** The loss of drink didn't dampen the spirits however, and with the summer playing season in full swing, the 9th August 1932 saw yet another first for the Club. A number of the New Zealand touring cricket team played Golf at Filton, and ***were made 'Guests of the Club for the Day'***

Honour indeed, but charity obviously didn't begin at home, which leads us to consider in this 'Male Dominated Golf Environment', Council's attitude towards Lady members, Staff etc. It must be said that ***Times were much different than those of today'*** and a Golf Club was generally only available to those 'Financially Privileged' or successful 'Business Men'. Many saw such Clubs as the last bastions of the 'Class System' and this may in some way explain why the Professional was always addressed by his Surname and allowed, if he were lucky, to be invited to join the members in the Clubhouse.

This is endorsed in a Council Minute, which states that ***it was resolved that except on special occasions if members desire to entertain the Professional to Lunch or Tea, such meals must be served in the Smoke Room.*** The Staff also knew their place, as recorded in Council Minutes, ***it was agreed that at their next meeting the Salaries, Wages and annulments of all the 'servants' of the Club, be considered.***

Ladies also were treated as '***Second Class Citizens'*** and were subject to a number of restrictions and were not regarded as full members of the Club.

They were not permitted to buy shares in the Club, were restricted in the times that they could play, were not entitled to attend meetings of the Club, nor could they stand for election to Council. It is fair to say however, that after 21 years they were slowly becoming accepted and influential.

Albeit somewhat grudgingly, as a Council Minute of 1932 reflects. It was reported that during a match between our Ladies and Weston super Mare Ladies an altercation occurred between a male member and some of the Ladies playing. As a result a letter from the ***Ladies complaining of discourteous conduct and requesting that the 'Local Rule' regarding Ladies giving way on the Course to matches which contain no Ladies, be waived on 'Match' and 'Competition Days'.*** Council agreed that the ***Ladies be allowed this concession for their 2 Monthly Competitions and when their 1st team were playing, but the concession was limited to just two days per month.*** It must be stressed that Filton Lady members were treated no differently to anyone else, ***'That was how life was at that time'.***

While in this reflective mood it is interesting to recall that at the time of the Clubs inauguration Bristol Aeroplane Co. Ltd. was also coming into being and that both parties, after a shaky start were now flourishing. Despite this similarity and their close proximity no contact, apart from the Club requesting financial assistance in its first few years of existence, had taken place.

This changed however, on 23rd December when the ***Secretary reported there was an enquiry from the Bristol Aeroplane Company, who were in negotiations with the R.A.F. for the visit of Reserve Officers to the Aerodrome for a period of four years*** and suggested that these ***Officers be permitted to play golf at Filton as 'Five Day' members for a collective subscription of £26.5s.0d and that those entitled to such temporary membership would be supplied by the Aeroplane***

Company with the suitable passes. This would see the beginning of a number of mutually beneficial arrangements over the years, many of which will be reported when appropriate.

The Club continued unabated throughout 1933 as all it seems was going well until 24th November, when ***the Chairman reported that a Document signed by 39 members had been received. The Document read: 'We suggest that if we cannot play Darts on Sundays then other House games should also be stopped.'*** Following discussion ***Council unanimously agreed that, 'the game of Darts be not allowed on the Clubhouse Premises.'*** The Clubs first 'Mutiny' was quelled it seems and no one had to walk the plank although perhaps the 'Officials' pictures were used for Dart practice.

The Filton Ladies fared little better when on 15th December 1933, their request that they be ***allowed to play on Saturdays at 3 o'clock*** was turned down when ***Council agreed that no further concessions could be made at present.***

For others it was different however, as at the same meeting a letter from Mrs Mannsell, the Clubs representative on the Gloucestershire Ladies Golf Union, was read: The Union enquired whether:

1. The Directors would grant the courtesy of the course for the County Scratch Mixed Foursomes to be held on 24th June 1934.
2. The Directors would elect Miss Bramwell, the County Champion of the South West Counties and eight times the County Champion of Gloucester, Honorary Member of the Club for 1934, in view of her achievement.
3. The Course would be available for trial matches such as North v South, in connection with the County matches to be played in 1934.
4. The Course, be offered to the Gloucestershire Ladies Golf Union as a venue for a County Match in 1935.

Council unanimously resolved that all the requests be granted and the request was quite rightly seen to be a 'Great Honour' for the Club and recognition for how far it had come in such a relatively short time.

Everyone it seems wanted to play at Filton at this time, which must also pay testament to the Course and Club. For example on 19th January 1934, the ***'Evening World' requested that the Bristol Amateur Golf Championship, which is organised by that 'paper', might be held at Filton, which was granted.*** Societies also wished to play and following ***a request in June from the Health Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute,*** it was agreed, ***such visitors who are members of recognised Golf Club would be made Honorary Members.*** This decision did not, it would seem, create too much of a stink amongst the members. The Timber Trade Society requested the use of the Links for their Annual Competition and this was also granted.

On the home front the Club saw the emergence of a group of Lady Members, who are now known in the Club as the Business Ladies. The ***Ladies Committee had asked that Ladies who are engaged in business and who desire to take part in the two monthly Medal Competitions be allowed to start their round at an hour later than that presently allowed*** at the weekend. In the event they were all allowed to

start at 6pm., provided that their names were supplied to the Secretary and that they played together.

Change was also taking place on the Clubhouse, which over the years had been re-painted on a number of occasions, seen railings installed to protect it from cattle, been increased in size to facilitate an ever-growing membership and had also seen a number of internal structural alterations which included the installation of a large open fire as a replacement for the cast iron stove.

The original Chimney Breast is now covered over but its position can still be seen to the left of the bar. In addition Linoleum was laid over bare boards, the furniture upgraded, and a telephone installed, all of which should be seen as just a natural course of events.

A decision reached at their meeting on 25th May 1934, however, would see a major innovation when Council unanimously agreed that ***the Secretary should make some enquiries from the Electricity Department as to the cost of installing Electric Light into the Clubhouse.*** At this same meeting ***plans regarding a proposed road, which would affect a certain part of the Course adjacent to the 11th and 12th Tees, and a letter from the City Engineer*** where reviewed.

The Secretary's enquiry about the possibility of Electricity in the Clubhouse prompted ***a letter from the Electricity Department of Bristol Corporation who would be prepared to afford a supply by means of an overhead line erected along the route of Golf Course Lane, upon the Club contributing the sum of approximately £130 towards the cost of the work,*** their proposal was accepted. As a result things were now moving fast and in August ***the Secretary reported that the Bristol Corporation had called with plans showing the proposed positions of the posts to carry the cable up the lane. He understood however that there might be some difficulty in obtaining the necessary 'Wayleaves' from the Bristol Aeroplane Company.***

This resulted in a further communication in September from the Electricity Department, which stated ***that it was not possible for them to obtain the necessary 'Wayleaves' for the proposed overhead supply to the Clubhouse and they suggested that they could supply a Meter Box abutting on the Southmead Road and that the Club should provide and erect the necessary overhead supply line.***

This was obviously felt to be completely unsatisfactory and Council ***agreed that the Club write to the Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited and enquire whether they were prepared to grant the necessary 'Wayleaves'.*** In the meantime ***the Secretary was directed to obtain particulars of 'private plants' for Electrical Lighting from Messrs Lister of Dursley and Messrs Petters of Yeovil.*** A subsequent ***letter from the Bristol Aeroplane Company in October confirmed that they were prepared to grant the necessary 'Wayleave'*** but regrettably a further ***letter from the Electricity Department indicated that it did not wish to proceed further in the matter.***

As the Bristol Corporation were unwilling to provide a supply the Club were left with no other option but to ***purchase their own 'Electric Lighting Set' with Battery, fully installed, which they did from Messrs Petters Limited of Yeovil for £141.***

Council also agreed that once installed, the Professional, ***Boobyer be offered 2/6 a week to accept the responsibility to keep the Engine in working order.*** A Mr

Reed who supervised the installation, was engaged at £1-1s-0d per annum to visit the Club 4 times a year to inspect the Engine - Let there be light.

While all this was happening negotiations to secure a new lease with our landlord Mr Waller was taking place and also with the tenant farmers over a new lease for their grazing rights. It was essential that a long-term lease with Mr Waller be secured, as without it the Club would be forced to close, but negotiations were not going well. Mr Waller insisted, that as had previously taken place with Mr Bolton, any agreement reached should be between himself, and named individual Directors of the Club, who would give their personal guarantee. This wrangle resulted in the Golf Club holding a 'Special General Meeting' on 23rd March 1935 to inform the members of the situation, at which ***the Chairman mentioned that there were difficulties in connection with renewing the Lease, which expired on 25th March 1935 (two days time). He also explained that notice to quit on 25th March 1936 had been given on the 22nd March to the signatories of the Lease dated 28th September 1927.*** The meeting agreed with ***Council that no new Lease could be entered into except in the name of the Club.***

The situation was somewhat bizarre to say the least when you recall that Mr Waller was also the Clubs President and indeed was re-elected in that position at the following Annual General Meeting on 31st May 1935. At that meeting ***it was reported that no further progress had been made with regards obtaining a new Lease, although every effort had been made to get the Landlord to accept the Club as Lessees. Mr Waller stated through his Solicitors that he would only grant a Lease to individuals.*** A solution was proposed by two members, whereby they were prepared to forward themselves as Guarantors with a Limited Liability not exceeding £50 was considered. A further suggestion ***that the Club offer to pay the Rent, half yearly in advance was made*** and it was agreed to instruct the Clubs Solicitors to ***forward to Mr Waller's Solicitors a letter along those lines.***

Neither of these found favour, with Mr Waller, and the matter was eventually resolved on 2nd January 1936. ***The agreement reached specified that the sum of the Rent should be invested in War Stock (the Club held £250 War Stock at this time) in the joint names of the Club and Mr Waller. A Letter should be given or a Document executed to the effect that Mr Waller should have recourse to this investment or for the investment for the time being the amount representing the Rent in the event of non-compliance of the covenants and/or of the non-payment of Rent.*** The Lease was eventually signed on 25th June 1937.

Reading between the lines, throughout these long drawn out and at times acrimonious negotiations there was a great deal of mistrust and confusion. This in part may have been due to Mr Waller not knowing the new Directors on a personal level, especially as he was by this time 90 years old, considerably deaf and relied upon his son Major Waller to negotiate as a third party.

Also it should perhaps be seen and recognised that 'Mr Waller was of another time and generation', when agreements were made between trusted individuals and were sealed with a 'Hand Shake'.

Initially when the Club was formed Mr Waller and the Club's first Chairman Mr Bolton may well have been good friends, or certainly knew one another from Mr Bolton's Parish Council involvement. As such there was no barrier between them and over the next 12 years they had worked closely and enthusiastically together on many 'Club Matters'.

Even following his retirement as Chairman, in the early 1920's, Mr Bolton was asked by the Club to negotiate with his friend Mr Waller on their behalf and a 7 year Lease had ensued without much difficulty. It was only towards the end of this Lease, when others took over, that the relationship between the Club and Landlord became strained. What is important and worthy of note is that ***the final interview was concluded with general conversation in which the hope was expressed on both sides that relation between the Club and Landlord would be improved.***

Now with the question of a Lease behind them, Council were again able to consider the Club's future with confidence, which was seen as being extremely good.

At least, on the 'Catering Side' so it would appear from the Minutes of 28th February 1936, which records arrangements for the forthcoming 'Supper'. It was ***unanimously agreed that Mr E.J. Wright be asked to supply cooked one joint of Roast and one Boiled Beef about 7 lbs each and that the Ham and Pork Pies be obtained from the usual source. The Charge for the Supper, including Beer to be 2/6 and also that a cask of draught Worthington, be obtained and sold at 4d per Glass, 5d per Sleever and 9d per Pint.***

The event, was no doubt, enjoyed by those in attendance particularly as they would have benefited from the new/second hand Tables, Chairs and other requisites recently purchased from Cheltenham Golf Club at a low figure.

One person to miss out it seems was the Secretary who on the 27th March 1936 was ***on the sick list and had gone into a 'Nursing Home'.*** On his return to duties, having recovered, the Secretary in May reported to Council that ***on three recent occasions the Clubhouse had been broken into by patients from the Brentry Colony*** (Mental Institution/Hospital off Charlton Road). ***Damage had been done, Club Property stolen also members clothes, it was agreed to take the necessary steps to obtain compensation.*** A subsequent offer of £5-0s-0d to settle the Clubs claim of £8-10s-2d was accepted.

Although a month later than was normal, possibly because of the Secretary's illness, the 26th Annual General Meeting was held on 13th June 1936. At the meeting there was no opposition to the nominations of ***Mr Waller as President and Major Waller as Vice President and they were declared duly elected.***

The meeting went without incident it seems, although one topic agreed upon, to form an 'Entertainments Committee' had to be left until later that month. This was because, despite Lady Members becoming more influential and readily accepted into the Club, the Club Rules still prevented them taking an active part at an Annual General Meeting and as such they couldn't be invited onto the Committee until afterwards.

Also agreed was the purchase of Engraved Silver Spoons from N.W. Kemp & Son at £5-3s-0d per dozen, which were presented to winners of a Monthly Medal. At the time of writing N.W. Kemp Jeweller Shop still exists in Broadmead, and until recent years the Club had connections with relatives of the family, one being a member of the Club.



As if the year hadn't thrown up enough problems, in December 1936 ***plans regarding a proposed road, which would affect a certain part of the Course adjacent to the 11th and 12th Tees, and a letter from the City Engineer*** were received and considered. The idea of a road had been mentioned as early as May 1934 and now 2 years later this topic was once again raised. As the Landowner a letter received by Major Waller on the 6th December regarding a proposed road to by-pass Filton, which he had forwarded to the Club was discussed. ***The Chairman explained that if the latest scheme is adopted it would seriously interfere with the 9th, 10th and 11th holes*** and it was agreed that the ***Secretary write to Major Waller and say that the Directors strongly oppose any scheme whereby the three holes between the road and the railway would be interfered with and that the Directors are trying to arrange for an interview with the City Surveyor.***

Once this was concluded an Emergency Meeting was held on 16th February 1937 at which ***the Chairman explained that the meeting had been called for him to report as to the position of the Club with regards to the Filton by-pass which would effect the 9th, 10th 11th and 12th holes. He referred to the interview with the City Estates Surveyor and Planner in December and also as to the three cornered conference between the Surveyor, Major Waller and the sub-Committee held on the 12th January. The Chairman explained that the original plan for the road designed by the authorities did not seriously encroach on the Course, but Major Waller had strenuously opposed this and an alternative route had been suggested. The alternative was most unfavourable to the Club, but in the event of it coming into force the Club could surrender the 17 acres over which the 9th, 10th and 11th holes are laid, in lieu of which Mr Waller had offered to let the Club 20 odd acres on the left of the 18th fairway on terms to be arranged.***

The Chairman mentioned that the Surveyor was very definite that an arrangement with the Landlord must be made forthwith, as he was pressed by the authorities to expedite the construction of the Road as much as possible. Regrettably despite Leasing the Land effected, the Club could only comment on the matter and accept the inevitable. Council did agree however that they would submit a claim to Bristol Corporation, for compensation to cover disruption and the cost of constructing the necessary new holes, which in principle the Bristol Corporation accepted.

As a consequence, **on the 9th July 1937 W. Hawtree of Messrs Hawtree & J.H. Taylor Limited visited the Club and in the company of a number of Directors and the Secretary inspected the Course and new ground. Mr Hawtree's report was read.**

Interspersed with the feverish activity going on regarding the road problems, it is perhaps re-assuring to reflect that 'some things never change', certainly as far as youngsters trespassing on the Course is concerned.

Because of the problem the Secretary had seen **the Chief Education Officer who had written to the Head Teachers of schools in the neighbourhood.** Also he had **interviewed Perry, ex-sergeant of Police who would consider an offer of 5/- an evening – 5.30 to 8.30 – two evenings a week for three weeks, to visit the Course occasionally to warn trespassers.** Although Perry eventually started in June 1938 we can only judge his effectiveness by noting that even today the problem continues and perhaps we should resign ourselves to the likelihood that it will always be with us.

Also voiced at the same meeting held on 23rd July 1937 was that **there was a feeling among the Directors and members that the Professional was not carrying out his duties in a satisfactory manner.** On the 27th August 1937 a **letter from the Professional, Boobyer, was read. He mentioned that he understood that members had been complaining that they had been unable to get supplied with their golfing requirements ordered from him. Boobyer admitted that owing to a very bad summer last year and a poor winter he was in a bad financial way. He was doing his best to pay something off his accounts as he received it from his takings. Boobyer was asked to prepare a statement as to his affairs and present, same to a Sub-Committee.** Following discussion it was agreed that **Boobyer's services be retained for six months under conditions to be arranged. Mr Albany Jones offered to assist Boobyer in keeping a suitable set of books.**

Finally it must be noted that at this very eventful meeting Major Waller was asked to become President of the Club. **He was pleased to accept the Honour of being the President of the Club and would do his best to give the affairs of the Club all the time and attention in his power.**

It wasn't until October that the Club heard anything new from Bristol Corporation about the compensation they asked for. A letter sent to the Club's Solicitors suggested a number of different options open to the Club and **following discussion it was agreed that the first of the Bristol Corporation's options be accepted, but with one alteration. It read that Bristol Corporation Estates Surveyor & Valuer recommends "The Corporation to reinstate the 4 holes on the land recently rented from Major Waller, the Greens and Tees to be in positions indicated on the plan (Hawtree) which was produced at the interview, the whole work to be carried out with the advice and under the supervision of Mr Alfred Vardon of the Glen, Durdham Down, the Corporation to supply labour and materials necessary for carrying out such work".** The Club were happy with this arrangement except that they wished Mr Bradbeer, the Burnham & Berrow Professional to supervise the work, not Alfred Vardon, and the Club were prepared to pay £50 for his services.

As it transpired neither gentleman were involved. Recorded in the Minute of 28th January 1938 is a report with regard to the Club's claim for compensation re the disturbance to the Course by the Filton by-pass road improvements.

The Chairman ***read a letter dated 18th January 1938 from the Town Clerk, which stated that the sum of £1055 would be paid as soon as the work on the construction of the new holes had been commenced. The Secretary was to write to the Town Clerk and say that as instructed by my Directors I write to inform you that arrangements have been made with Messrs Hawtree & Taylor Limited to commence work on the 1st March 1938 and they are drawing up the necessary agreement.*** The Chairman then explained that W. Hawtree had visited the Club on the 17th January and inspected the new ground. ***He expressed the opinion that the draining operations being carried out were satisfactory, also that there was a very good prospect of the new holes being of a good golfing character.*** Work did indeed start in March and completed as detailed in a letter from Hawtree to Council on 25th November 1938, which ***stated that the work in constructing the 5 new holes according to the terms of contract was completed on 19th November 1938 and they would be glad to receive a cheque for £235-16s-3d*** as final payment. The Club still retains the original signed agreement with W. Hawtree and J.H. Taylor in its archives, together with the Course plan showing the length to be 6284 yards, with a bogey of 73.

With the Course changes now underway it was again time to further discuss the Professional Boobyer problem. Mr Albany Jones reported in January 1938 that ***notwithstanding his efforts he had received no satisfactory information from Boobyer as to his affairs. It was decided that Boobyer be asked to produce a full statement as to his trading debt by Friday 22nd April 1938 and what future arrangements he proposes. Also he must attend a meeting with the Directors on Friday 29th April.*** At this meeting ***Boobyer must hand to the Secretary a detailed statement as to what sum he proposed to set aside each week for the purpose of liquidating his debts and if that, was not forthcoming the Directors would take a serious view of the position.***

A subsequent statement was presented to Council in November and it was agreed ***that the position seemed to be much the same as it was in May and as such the Chairman, Captain and Secretary should interview Boobyer.***

In January 1939 there was yet another twist in the 'Electricity Supply' saga. You may recall that some years before Bristol Corporation were unwilling to supply the Club with its electricity because of difficulties over the 'Wayleave' in Golf Course Lane and the Corporation had asked the Club to contact Bristol Aeroplane Company to see if they could assist in any way. It would seem that they were prepared to but a further letter was ***received from the Bristol Corporation stating that they could not see their way to allow the Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited to supply the Club with Electricity,*** a very odd state of affairs to say the least. The Club responded by writing to Bristol Aeroplane Company requesting them to use any influence they may have to induce the Electricity Department to agree to a supply of current to the Club by way of Pollards House (Cherry Rock Farm in Golf Course Lane). As things were to turn out we were to keep our own independent Electricity Plant Engine, running.

If you are still following this story you will perhaps have identified that Council were now involved with running a 'Large Business' and the Council Minutes perhaps reflect this.

It should be remembered however, that as well as work and play the members did enjoy good facilities and 'Social Evenings'. There is mention of a number of Suppers, Dances and other functions being held, including a 'Trick Shot' demonstration, but regrettably reports on these are extremely sketchy. The Club was also popular with Societies and was frequently used for some County events and Finals and all these are recorded.

The Council Minutes also had to report on important matters of the day and none was seen as more so than that ***reported on 26th July when the Tractor had broken down and it was necessary to send to London for a spare part. As the necessity to keep the grass down was urgent, a Motor Car had been hired for a few days, at £1 per day, to pull the Triple Mower*** – how posh is that?

Another matter noted was a concern at this time over the Club's finances which had been greatly stretched mainly due to the Course changes that were necessary because of the Filton by-pass and ***at the Annual General Meeting the Chairman mentioned that the Directors had considered the raising of a Fund by voluntary Subscriptions so as to put the Club's finances, in a better position.***

As it transpired the Club's financial situation was to become far worse, with the news that the Country had once again gone to War with Germany. This resulted in a 'Special Council Meeting' taking place on 10th September 1939 ***to discuss how the Club should be carried on during the 'International Disturbance'.***

At this meeting it was agreed that every effort was needed to immediately reduce the Club's expenditure. ***To this end, Boobyer the Professional was notified that his services cannot be retained and that he should look for another job; also the Groundstaff be considered at the next meeting in a fortnight.*** It was subsequently recorded that ***Boobyer had found employment at the Aeroplane Works and that two of the Greenstaff had left on their own accord.***

Also that arrangement had been made with Boobyer for him to remain at 12 Braemar Avenue (the Club's House) and pay his Rent of 19/- weekly.

Any income was extremely crucial for the Club to survive and despite a long running disagreement with ***Charles Rowley a Tenant Farmer it was agreed that he be again offered the Grazing at £45 a year and if he does not accept the offer a Tenant for the Grazing be advertised for.*** He in fact offered £40, which was accepted.

Regarding the Clubhouse, ***the help Kathleen, be notified, that her services cannot be retained after 29th September.*** This decision was reversed however after the Stewardess Assistant Marion left and the Club was left short handed.

All discussion regarding an Electricity supply was postponed indefinitely and it was ***agreed to keep our own, Electricity Plant running occasionally.*** It was also agreed that the Dining Room should be 'Blacked Out', using suitable material and used as a General Room after daylight.

The Professional Shop posed a different problem, particularly as it had been decided that 'play would continue'.

However, this was overcome when Attwood on the Greenstaff, who had previously 'stood in' for the Professional whilst he had been away ill, was once again asked to undertake both roles for which he ***was to be paid £1 extra per week for three months, at the end of which the position would be reviewed again.***

Council, having to make all these difficult decisions, were without question under great pressure at this time, when even strong men might 'turn to drink', or just maybe they anticipated that there would be a shortage because it was agreed ***that the Secretary purchase if possible three Dozen Whisky at the present price, to be delivered as and when required.***

CHAPTER 6

THE SECOND WORLD WAR – (September 1939 to March 1945)

At the end of 1939 it became clear to Council that things could not go on as they were, especially when it was reported that the Clubhouse takings and Greenfees were down considerably on the previous years. The Secretary by this time had agreed to his salary being reduced by £50 per annum and ***to ride over the present financial embarrassment, Council thought that Guarantors, to the extent of £50 each, to the Bank might be had from some Directors and some members of the Club.*** Also as had happened in 1915 during the First World War, the Club's new Landlord ***Major Waller was asked to consider reducing the rent to agricultural land levels for the duration of the War.***

In a further attempt to raise revenue, the Council also agreed ***that Officers, N.C.O.'s and men in H.M. Forces, serving temporarily in the district, would be offered the following Special Terms 1/6 per day, 15/- per month, £2-12s-6d six months.***

Their efforts were to no avail however as by 5th February 1940 other options were being considered. On this occasion discussion took place ***regarding an informal meeting held in the Clubhouse on 21st January and the position as stated by the Honorary Treasurer was investigated at length, also the minimum membership and income that would allow the Club continuing was reviewed.*** The suggestion to circularise all members informing them of what was discussed had been carried out and this had resulted in 115 replying that they would support an increase with 25 doubtful. Taking into account the possibility of 25 new members 85% of those who had replied to the correspondence agreed to an increase in subscription. It was also unanimously agreed that a further letter be sent to those who hadn't replied which resulted in 70 acceptances and 37 resignations.

With a view to the members response the Chairman stressed the importance of strict economy and presented the following estimate as to the Income and Expenditure for the next twelve months.

Estimate of Income and Expenditure:

150 Full members	@ £6-6s-0d = £945
20 New members	@ £6-6s-0d = £126
30 Women members	@ £3-2s-0d = £93
10 Associate members	@ £2-2s-0d = £21

In addition to this it was estimated that Greenfees would bring in £175, the Lease for Grazing rights £40, Rent from Braemar Avenue £10, Locker Rent £50, Competitions £25, Clubhouse Profit £60 which would bring a Total of £1510. When set against expenditure of approximately £1542, it ***was Council's view that the present and prospective state of Accounts suggested that it would be difficult to carry on the Club and Company to the complete satisfaction of the members on its present basis.***

Various alternatives were discussed and amongst them the ***possibility of Bristol City Council taking on a going concern.***

Other alternatives discussed were:

Carry on the Club by increasing the subscription.

Carry on the Club with a voluntary levy on members to liquidate arrears of Accounts.

Get the consent of a number of members to become Guarantors to the Bank.

'Wind-up' the Company.

At the following Council meeting on the 20th February 1940 the Chairman reported ***that he had a meeting with Mr James the City Estates Valuer and Surveyor, Mr Webb the City Engineer, Mr Martin the Chairman and Mr Bruton of the Town Planning Scheme representing the City. This informal meeting was very favourable towards the Course being taken over as a 'Municipal Course', whilst allowing Filton Golf Club to retain its identity, playing rights, Clubhouse, Professional's Shop and Engine House.***

A Special Meeting of all playing members, including Ladies was called for 29 February at the County Ground Hotel.

At the meeting, which was attended by over 100 members, the Chairman explained that ***the meeting had been called to consider the present position of the Club and suggestions as to how it might be carried on efficiently.*** The Treasurer then reported ***that the Club was currently £300 overdrawn and had a further £200 of unpaid debts. Against this were various assets, including Braemar Avenue, which was valued at £450, but that although the Club was solvent, his view was that the Club could not continue under its present basis.***

The Chairman now informed the meeting about the offer made by Bristol City Council and also that he ***had been in negotiations with a certain body or association, which for the time being must be nameless, and they were pleased to co-operate with the Filton Golf Club to improve the revenue by increased membership of one kind and another. The body was prepared to take over the Lease, employ the Groundstaff, purchase the equipment at a figure to be arranged and agreed that the Filton Golf Club, by paying suitable rent, should be permitted to keep the present Clubhouse for their exclusive use and for the membership to enjoy the same amenities as now. All he could say was that it was a very attractive scheme, there would be no change in the present administration of the Club and it would continue as now. Mr Westcott proposed and Mr Wright seconded and it was carried unanimously with acclaim "That if the second scheme mentioned by the Chairman was likely to fructify the members would support the efforts of the Directors"***.

On 15th March 1940, Council revealed that ***Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited was the body involved and that they were prepared to offer financial assistance on the understanding that one of their nominees would be in regular attendance at all Meetings of Sub-Committee and Council.*** It could be said that it had taken the Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited almost 30 years to respond to our appeal for financial assistance made in 1910, ***"But how grateful we now are"***.

If you are an 'Old Cynic', why the Bristol Aeroplane Company wanted to 'bale us out' at this time may not be difficult to understand as it is thought that they had a long-term plan for the use of some of the land; to build a Hanger for an aircraft they were developing.

Certainly before the War was over and the Course back in play, they had secretly purchased the land from the Waller family and their plans were in place to start building the Brabazon Hanger, which seems rather opportune and very good business.

Now that the partnership with the Aircraft Company was established, on the 26th April 1940 the Club was thrown a lifeline, when 63 personnel from the Aeroplane Company became members, others were to follow. A number would go on to play a significant role as members of the Club over a great number of years, not only as players but in its running. One such person was Alec Booth Liddle. Alec went on to become Club Captain in 1965 and has the distinction of being the Clubs only 'Centurion', he died aged 100 in 2002.

A couple of stories relating to Alec are told by Mike Burns, Secretary 1992 to 1999. Mike recalls, that having out of courtesy invited Alec, who was 91 at the time and retired from playing golf, to participate in the 1993 'Past Club Captains' event, received the following reply: **Regrettably I will not be able to attend the event as I will be in Fleet (Hampshire) celebrating my young brother's 90th Birthday with my 96 year old Sister which makes us a family of 3 'Nonagenarians'. Please convey my apology to all who attend.** Brilliant!

On another occasion 2 years later then aged 93, Alec telephoned Mike to request the loan of a chain saw so that he might saw down one of his trees. It was explained to Alec that this wasn't at all possible, as he was too young, but that all was not lost as one of the Greenstaff would just happen to be calling at his house later that day after work and for some reason would have with him a chainsaw. Grateful thanks were expressed.

One very important matter that was resolved by our union with the Bristol Aeroplane Company was that they installed electricity into the Clubhouse.

The electricity supply, which was generated from their 'Power House', had already been connected into a newly built Observer Corps Control Room beneath their Radar Scanner, so all that was required was to extend the supply cable into the Clubhouse; this arrangement would last for 60 odd years until the Club decided to obtain their supply from the National Grid.

John Charles Gregory – 'Jack' to all the Filton Golf Club members that knew him, lived to the ripe old age of 88 and even to the end had the fondest regards and affection for the Club of which he was once Secretary.

'Jack' Recalls - The War Years

In 1939 war was declared, and the Course and Clubhouse requisitioned by the War Office. Anti-aircraft guns were positioned on the course to protect the nearby Aircraft and Engine factories (*A concrete base can still be seen next to the 1st Green*), and rolls of barbed wire were put around the course to deter possible parachutists and glider landings. Also 100 old cars chained together were pulled onto the Airfield to deter glider landings.

The Clubhouse became the Officers Mess. With barbed wire everywhere the course was soon covered in grass 3 feet tall (*The Greens were kept cut however*). What is now the Radar Scanner behind the Clubhouse was originally an underground Control Room connected to the Observer Corps and Anti-aircraft Head Quarters. Three of us were on duty at a time, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. or 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. There was a complete Kitchen and Bathroom below ground so that we could live there, and a searchlight fitted on top of the tower. We had two Merchant Navy Radio Operators who recorded enemy radio and sent off their recordings to Bletchley for de-coding.

Underneath the bar floor in the Clubhouse (*Now filled in*) is a small cellar where the Colonel used to keep his supply of whisky. The U.S. Army came on the scene in 1943 and the Clubhouse was loaned to them on two occasions for Thanksgiving Dinners, and we were their guests - **Jack Gregory**

Returning to the Main story, with the influx of new members from the Aircraft Company, the Club was now in a much better financial position and as such attention now turned to getting the Course ready for play and the Clubhouse 'Spring Cleaned', with ***Derelict clothing dumped and destroyed if not claimed in due course.***

Machinery was made ready but with rationing in place petrol was at a premium and proving difficult to obtain. It came as a welcome relief therefore to hear ***that the 'Captain' had been successful in obtaining an extra allowance of petrol.*** He had been warned however, that it was unlikely that the concession could be made again and it was suggested that the Tractor should be converted to run off Paraffin. A vaporiser was donated to facilitate this and ***it was reported on 31st May that the vaporiser had been fixed to the Tractor which was working satisfactory thanks to Messrs Shield and Dawes who had spent considerable time and taken much trouble in making the adjustment.***

At this same meeting the Chairman reported that he had just attended a meeting at the ***Head Quarters of the Bristol and Avonmouth Garrison where a discussion took place as to what steps could be taken to render the Golf Course difficult for a landing ground for Parachutists and Troop carrying aircraft.*** As a result it was decided ***that on various positions on the Course posts of certain dimensions should be erected.*** They were 'put in place' in August 1940 and it was agreed that the Club should consider making a claim for the 'Military Occupation' of the Course.

The situation was made worse in the forthcoming months as in September the Chairman reported ***that further encroachments with barb wire entanglement was about to be made in front of the sixth green and on the fairway and near the green of the first hole.*** The Chairman agreed to see the War Department Land Agent to ***discuss various points, such as the encroachment on various parts of the Course, damage done to the Course by the Searchlight Cable, damage caused by the erection of Pill Boxes, Tents, Huts and wear and tear of the Lane and Car Park caused by Army Lorries.*** Being in such a strategic position and on high ground the Golf Club was perfectly placed to host the 66th Searchlight Regiment and 46th Brigade A.A. (Anti Aircraft). Their presence on the Course is recorded in the minutes and also the ensuing upheaval and disruption. A concrete Bunker to the right of the first Green, now grown over, still remains as evidence of their occupation.

All these precautions proved to be very necessary, as unlike the First World War enemy aircraft would now enable military action to take place right on our doorstep, particularly with Bristol Aeroplane Company next door.

This is borne out by the reference made in the Minute on 18th October 1940 when ***it is recorded that on 25th September 1940 a certain quantity of stock in the Store Room had been destroyed, the cost value of which was £8-17s-5d.*** Also that damage was done to the Clubhouse, which had now been repaired, following a bombing raid.

A Letter from Colonel Blyth was also read ***he wished to thank the Club for the accommodation and the hospitality shown to a party of the Home Guard on the occasion of an Aircraft crashing on the Course on 10th October.***

Following these incidents, concern was voiced by a number of members, as to whether some appliance should be obtained to deal with the possibility of Fire in the Clubhouse due to enemy action. ***It was agreed that a 'Stirrup Pump' and three buckets be purchased.***

Despite the hostilities the members' spirits remained un-dampened it seems, as the sum of £3-7s-0d was raised by holding a guess the weight of a 'Bomb Nose' competition. The winner Attwood received 7/- with the remaining £3-0s-0d being sent to Bristol's Own Fund.

The Club's finances, despite picking up after the initial influx of members through the Bristol Aeroplane Company scheme, were now once again in dire straights and a ***special meeting for all members of the Club was called for on 22nd March 1941 to consider the future of the Club.*** The Chairman ***explained that he had interviewed Mr Daniel of the Bristol Aeroplane Company with regard to the present finances of the Club. Mr Daniel, the Chairman said, seemed to think that his Company might assist the Club but he would like to know to what extent the members themselves would help.*** For this reason the Chairman called a meeting of all members at which he ***explained that the meeting had been called in order that the financial position of the Club might be put before the members and considered. He gave details of the probable income and expenditure for the coming year in the event of the Club being able to carry on.*** After discussion it was ***unanimously carried that if at all possible the Club should continue as a playing Club and in the opinion of the meeting, members should pay an increased subscription or contribute donations.*** The Chairman sent out slips of paper and invited the members present to state what amount they were willing to donate to the Clubs Funds. The names of the subscribers and amounts that they would donate would be treated in the strictest confidence, and as a result £204 was promised by the members' present.

Regrettably, at the Council Meeting on 13th June 1941 ***the Chairman explained that owing to the condition of the Course he had not thought it advisable to send out the request for their donations*** and also he informed the meeting that ***the circular letter to Members of Rodway Hill had been dispatched.*** The latter, as a follow up to news from the Secretary of Rodway Hill Golf Club that their Club had been closed because of the War - Filton Golf Club was offering the Rodway Hill members the opportunity of becoming members.

As if things weren't bad enough, at this same meeting, it is recorded ***that Mr Walter Berry Heywards resignation as Secretary of the Filton Golf Company Limited be accepted, his services to terminate on the 30th June 1941. It is regretted that his failing health had prevented him carrying out his duties for some time and in the best interests of the Company and Club another Secretary be appointed as soon as possible. At this time the Council put on record their appreciation of 'Mr Hayward's long and valued service' and it proposed that a pension of £1-10s-0d be granted to him.*** Bill was Secretary for 31 years and his influence and contribution to the Clubs success during his engagement was without question invaluable, if not crucial. It is a great shame that circumstances outside of his control would not allow his retiring to have taken place at a happier time.

At a subsequent meeting it was resolved ***that Mr Hannaford be appointed Honorary Secretary of the Company and Club and that he should be reimbursed for any out of pocket expenses and should be empowered to sign cheques.***



George Edwin Hannaford

In his new capacity on the 22nd August 1941 the Honorary Secretary, presiding at his first meeting in the role, reported ***that Bristol Aeroplane Company had proposed to invite employees to join the Club for half year ending 31st March 1942 at a special subscription of 35/-.***

It is recorded at the following meeting ***that four nominees had come forward as a result of the Bristol Aeroplane Companies scheme*** and accepted as members. Also reported was that ***Morton the Groundsman had been found intoxicated in circumstances, which suggested he had been guilty of opening the Store Room and taking stock.*** A warning had been given and in view of all the circumstances no further action was taken.

Play continued on the Course and indeed because of a forthcoming 'Alliance Meeting' discussion now took place regarding Local Rules to deal with Wiring Obstructions and it was agreed that:

Lateral Obstruction – Drop back in line with the hole without penalty.

Longitudinal Obstruction – A ball lying in the wire or within 2 Club lengths can be dropped out 2 Club lengths away to give a comfortable shot, no penalty.

The Clubs finances still remained Councils greatest concern and it must have come as a welcome relief when they ***received a letter from Bristol Aeroplane Company in which they agreed to implement their previous decision to make a contribution to the Club provided a substantial sum was subscribed by the members. They enclosed a cheque for £225 and indicated a balance of £75 in March. The Minutes of 13th February 1942 record the gratitude of the Council for the generous help given by the Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited.*** In addition to this amount the Honorary Secretary reported that the War Office Land Agent had informed him that he was now empowered to settle compensation previously claimed for damage to the Course.

Armed with this news, a certain amount of optimism seems to have returned to the Club and on a happier note it must be recorded that ***Mr E. Shield presented a substantial amount raised by the members as a Testimonial on the retirement of Mr W.B. Heyward, to mark the invaluable services rendered to the Club during his long association with its affairs. Mr Heyward, happily able to be present, responded to the Testimonial and thanked the members for their generosity.*** Bill was also awarded Honorary Life Membership.

The members optimism wasn't to last however, with events overtaking the Club almost on a daily basis. This culminated in a meeting being called ***7th November 1942, which had dire consequences. The Chairman informed the members of the Committee on events that had transpired and read minutes of the discussions with Colonel Worth and Simpson, where it was revealed that the Formal Requisition by Southern Command of the Home Guard for the whole of the Clubhouse and not a portion. After a long discussion it was clear that the ever occurring difficulties due to military occupation were making golf very difficult and 'In the opinion of the Directors of the Filton Golf Club Limited the Club cannot continue activities as a Golf Club if the Clubhouse is requisitioned. After further discussion on the finances of the Club and its future it was unanimously, if not regretfully, agreed that the Sub-Committee continue negotiations and that this meeting adopts the principle that, provided income exceeds expenditure, the Club and Company should continue in being but suspend Golfing activities for the duration of the War –*** Play was discontinued.

Regarding the Staff:

Attwood (Professional) was offered the post of Greenkeeper at £3 per week, which he accepted, and agreed to keep the Greens and Drains in a good working condition.

Mrs Hooper (Stewardess) was given notice, as her services would no longer be required although if in agreement, she would be taken over by the Home Guard.

Morton (Greenstaff) was given notice to leave his employment and was given a week's money as well as his wages.

During the next month the Chairman, Secretary and Council members attended many meetings with different groups to ensure the change of use of the Clubhouse not only went without hitch, but most importantly that the best interests of the members and the security of their property was secured. The Chairman explained at a Council meeting ***on 11th December 1942 that he had spoken with Mr Daniels from the Bristol Aeroplane Company and advised him that the new occupants would be required to pay £200 per annum for the grazing rights of the Course and the use of furniture in the Clubhouse.***

At this same meeting the Secretary reported that he had received an offer in writing from the War Office Land Agent, which confirmed the terms agreed, at a previous meeting that had taken place at the Clubhouse.

Terms

The Rent of Clubhouse £150 per annum (in addition to rents already paid for 'Gun Site' and 'Wiring') this was on condition that Golf was no longer possible.

The Military are to pay for the cost of wiring off the Greens against cattle.

In order to preserve the Greens a sum of £160 per annum to be paid for the retention of a Greenkeeper, this was to be paid in order to relieve the military from the major claim for dilapidations.

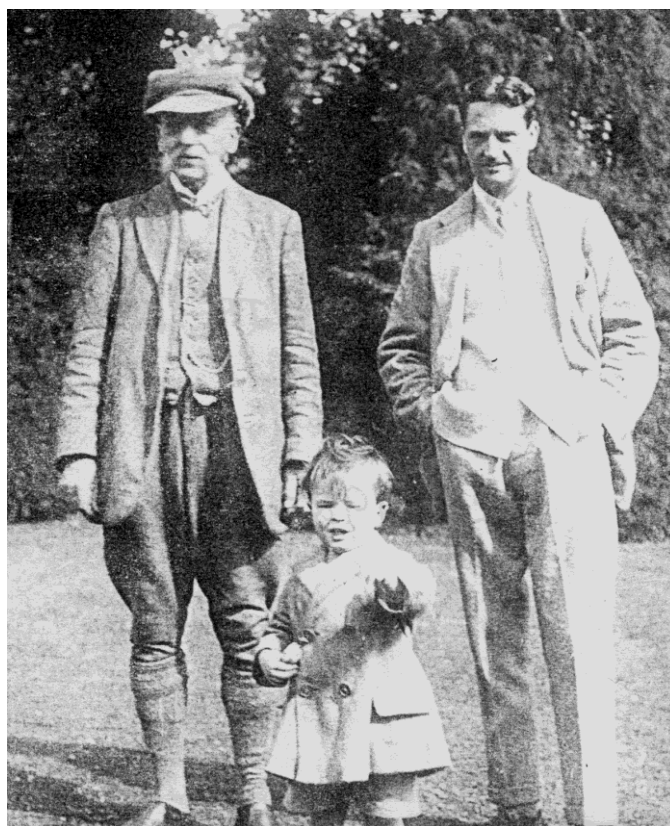
All that was now left for the Club to do; was to draw up an agreed joint schedule of the condition of the Course, on the date of the War Office taking over, the clearing out of the Locker Room and Lockers, the cancellation of the Club's Liquor Licence and to decide on the manner in which the Company activities were to be continued. With the latter in mind it was agreed ***that any future meeting of the Directors to be held in a convenient venue in 'Town'.*** A subsequent Directors meeting, was held on 26th February 1943 at the Grand Hotel in Bristol, the only meeting in that year. The next occasion for such a meeting, was on 9th June 1944, once again at the Grand Hotel. The Chairman apologised that due to pressure of business no summer meeting had been called and reported that the posts and wire protecting the Greens needed strengthening. He then informed the meeting of the excellent service rendered by Attwood, and the ***Secretary wished it be recorded in the minutes and borne in mind by all the Directors that the Chairman and himself had promised Attwood an opportunity to serve the Club as Professional after the War.***

One month later on 14th July an Annual General Meeting was held at the Grand Hotel. ***The Chairman informed the meeting that successful trading had maintained the Club's strong position and he expressed his confidence in the future. He explained that the Clubhouse was well cared for and most important the Greens were in good condition so that there was a basis for re-opening when circumstances permitted.*** The 'Election of Officers' took place and the meeting ended.

There now was a considerable delay before a further meeting of the Directors, which took place on 23rd of February 1945, at Horts Restaurant, Bristol.

*The Chairman and Secretary detailed the correspondence and interviews, which had taken place since the last meeting dealing with regards the 'Change of Landlord', the receipt of 'Notice to Quit' on the 25th March 1945, the proposed new lease and the proposed development on the Course which would mean the loss of the first five holes. All these led to a suggestion from the Executive Committee that the time seemed ripe to re-open the Course. The 'Notice to Quit' it seems, was used as a lever to strengthen the hand of the Club's new Landlords, **Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited** who we were in negotiation with over a new lease as nothing else is recorded with regards to this threat.*

What must be mentioned, at this juncture, is the significant role played by the **'Waller Family'**. Without the support, encouragement and their 'Land' the Club would not be here today. As such, the Club extends its thanks to **'John Atkin Waller, our first President and also to his son Brigadier General Robert Peel Waller who became our second President taking over from his Father'**.



John Atkin Waller (Squire) pictured with his son Brigadier General R.P. Waller and grandson Major P.J.R. Waller.

Major P.J.R. Waller recalls in the Booklet 'Charlton – The Village that Died':

Our family, who originated from Derbyshire made their 'Packet' as Ironmasters and lived at Queens Square. Having made their wealth they decided to become Country Folk and acquired the Pen Park estate in 1848, which consisted of Home Farm, another let farm and land that was later to become the Filton Golf Links. We lasted almost exactly 100 years in this capacity, until we were eventually driven away by the 'Brabazon'. My Grandfather John Atkin Waller (1856–1937), who was known as 'Squire Waller', on his death was buried at Henbury having been taken there on a 'Farm Cart' from Home Farm in the old fashioned way. The Pen Park estate became very run down in the 1930's and my father Brigadier General R.P. Waller sold the estate just after the Second World War.

Major P. J. R. Waller.

Council having had an enforced 2 year break from dealing with the Club's affairs, were now to be rudely awakened with the passing of their resolution, ***That the Company resume active operations as a Club on 31st March 1945 and that old and prospective members be advised of the decision as soon as possible and that an informal meeting be called for 9th March at the Grand Hotel, Bristol.*** At the meeting the Chairman explained that the Honorary Secretary, ***Mr Hannaford, had advised him that he could not possibly undertake the vast amount of detail, necessary to re-start the Club, but would continue some part of the work.*** Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairman be authorised to interview Mr A.L.V. Davies, with a view to offering him the Secretaryship.

The Directors expressed great satisfaction and thanks for the efforts of the Honorary Secretary, Mr Hannaford, during the time he has been in Office. If he thought he had completed his term however, he was very much mistaken as Mr Davies had not been available for interview and as a result, Mr Hannaford remained in the 'Hot Seat' for a further month.

During this time, as recorded in the Council minutes of 2nd March 1945, the Honorary Secretary reported that:

He had written to Messrs Hawtree & Taylor and H. Cotton about Course reconstruction but as yet had not received any reply and had written to the Grazing Tenant asking him to refrain from putting cattle on the Course and permitting the grazing of sheep.

Mr Hannaford also reported that he had advised Mr J.S. Daniel, Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited representative, of the Clubs decision to re-open; it had been agreed with Mr Daniel that pending the decision as to the actual land needed for the new holes, the new lease for 12 years should be on the 'Deeds of Agreement'.

In addition he had enquired with Major Wall, the War Office Land Agent, about the surrender of the Clubhouse and Course and had been informed that the surrender was proceeding along normal channels.

Not bad for someone who had supposedly been replaced, oh and he also made all the arrangements for an informal meeting on the 9th March.

CHAPTER 7

THE AFTERMATH – (March 1945 to August 1960)

At the 'Informal Meeting', which was held at the Grand Hotel, some **120 members and prospective members were enthusiastic over the prospect of re-opening the Course in April. Chairman Mr T.S. Foweraker, who was supported by the Directors spoke on the impending de-requisitioning of the Clubhouse and the work being done on the Course and introduced Mr A.L. Vie Davis as the Directors nominee to succeed Mr George Hannaford as the Honorary Secretary.**



Arthur Lionel Vie Davis

Many topics were discussed at the meeting and it is apparent how times and attitudes had changed, particularly towards the ladies, when it was agreed that **Lady Members should have the same playing rights as the Gentlemen players, subject to any reservations as to teeing up times.** It did take a War for this to happen, however!

Things now moved at a pace and two weeks later the Council at their meeting on 26th March 1945 had much to consider and deal with: the election of Vie Davis as Honorary Secretary was confirmed, the state and repair of the machinery was considered, deficiencies from the inventory had to be addressed with the War Office, the question of appointing a Steward and Stewardess discussed and the possibility of making living accommodation out of the existing kitchen for them was explored. Also a letter from the A.O.C. (Army Officer Commanding) regarding their de-requisitioning of the Clubhouse was read, which would enable the Club to once again have the sole use of the Clubhouse. Because of this it was resolved **to open the Course and Clubhouse on Saturday March 31st 1945. It was also agreed that the prices charged at Henbury Golf Club should be the standard for prices charged at Filton Golf Club.** Letters would be sent out to members informing them of such.

The opening of the Course went ahead as planned and by the 6th April normality had once again returned on the administration side, with the Greens and House Committees being re-formed. The appointment of a Steward and Stewardess was also resolved, **when after discussion the applications for the position of Steward and Stewardess, Fred and Audrey Boobyer were engaged at a joint wage of £7 per week, Fred Boobyer to act as Greenkeeper and help in the Bar during evenings in the week.**

It seems however, that a number of matters still needed to be addressed particularly on the Course, as it was reported that poor old **Percy Attwood, in removing barbed wire damaged his clothing and was compensated £6-10s-0d.** Two months later, suitably dressed we hope **Percy was awarded a £25 bonus in appreciation for all his dedicated work on the Course,** especially throughout the War. More good news for Percy was that the experienced Arthur Ryman, following his demobilisation, was once again taken on as a Greenkeeper.

Having achieved so much it was now felt the time was right to hold the **34th Annual General Meeting, which would take place on 6th May 1945.** The meeting, unlike a normal Annual General Meeting was to be procedural only and for the sole purpose of formally re-affirming the election of all the Club's Directors, who were **in 'Office' prior to the hostilities.** That done the respective Officers could then make arrangements for the holding of the **35th Annual General Meeting, which they set to take place two months later on 6th July.**

At the first of these two Annual General Meeting's **the Chairman made an explanation of the accounts answering questions put by members and again pointed out the strong position of the Club's finances, which he hoped would stand them in good stead for the re-opening. The President, Brigadier Major Waller was re-elected along with his Vice Presidents, and the retiring Directors being eligible were re-elected to the Board.**

Following this meeting the membership numbers increased steadily and play continued enthusiastically, albeit on a shortened Course, **as the 5 holes under threat, because of the possible building of the Brabazon Hanger, were only being worked on in anticipation of bringing them into play,** at this stage. One occasion worthy of note was the official re-opening of the Club with **members being treated to an excellent exhibition on 26th May 1945, between two prominent American Professional Golfers, two times U.S.A. Masters Champion in 1934 & 1936, Horton Smith and Chick Harberd, who went on to win the U.S.A. P.G.A. Championship in 1954** - thus perhaps indicating how quickly events were progressing despite the Course.

HOW TO DO IT.—Sgt. Chick Harbert, U.S.A. golf champion, giving a demonstration at the re-opening of the Filton golf course.



Evening Post – May 28th 1945

I did not think there were so many golf balls in the world as those produced by Captain Horton Smith when he appeared at the Filton Course to give an exhibition on Saturday. He dropped two dozen down on the tee – to starved British golfers a wonderful sight. The famous American Professional who has been one of the world's leading players for the past 13 years is over here making a tour of rehabilitation and rest centres for the benefit of wounded American Forces. With him is Chick Harbert, who he introduced at Filton as "One of the most promising professional golfers in the United States". Harbert settled down to give a demonstration of swinging teaching beginning with short putts and running through all the clubs finishing with the driver. Horton Smith gave running commentary pointing out the features of a faultless swing. There was consolation for duffers when Harbert hit the ball right of the head, but Harbert said "we hold no monopoly on perfection"! One demonstration which captivated the audience was Harbert swinging in slow motion.

The second of the two Annual General Meetings was a much different affair to the first. The Chairman **Mr T.S. Foweraker reported on the very successful re-starting of the Club after it's 'War Time Closure', commenting on the fine state of the Clubhouse and the almost daily improvement of the Course. He welcomed the many new members and strong body of old members who had returned, anticipating that by the end of the year a further increased membership. The Chairman paid tribute to the excellent work during a difficult period of Mr G. Hannaford, Honorary Secretary: and although, through pressure of business he had resigned the Secretaryship, the Club had been fortunate in obtaining the service of Mr A.L.V. Davies, an old member as Honorary Secretary.**

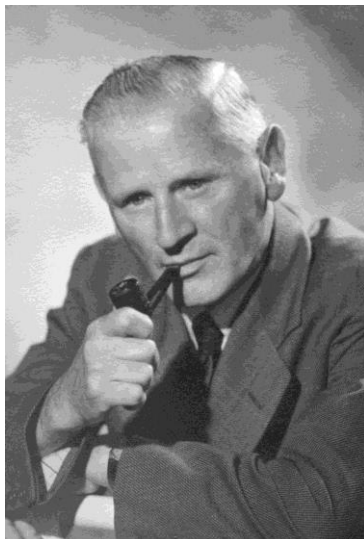
Mr Foweraker spoke in feeling terms of the work of the retiring Directors, also Mr Percy Attwood for his fine work on the Course and Mr and Mrs Boobyer for their work in improving the Clubhouse stewarding.

The election of Officers and Directors now took place and **Sir George Stanley White was elected as President**; his appointment meant that after 35 years the Waller family were to take a less active role in Club affairs.

Although the former Club President Brigadier General Waller was elected as Vice President, his position only lasted for a year before he resigned from the Club, having moved away from the district: **his resignation was accepted with regret.**

The appointing of Sir George White came as no surprise and continued the policy of electing the 'Land Owner' as Club President, B.A.C. Limited having purchased the land on which the Course was situate, from the Waller family. **Finally in recognition of his work and considerable efforts on behalf of the Club, former Club Secretary George Hannaford was elected as Club Captain.** This appointment wasn't the last however, as directly following the Annual General Meeting a Council meeting was held to decide who of the elected members should be appointed into specific roles, for the forthcoming year, namely Chairman of Council, Chairman of Greens and Chairman of House. Club Rules give an explanation as to these specific roles, which still apply even today; in that the Chairman of Council's function is to Chair Council Meetings and liaise with the Secretary to ensure any decision or requirement made by the Council, is carried out. The Chairman of Greens and House are the appointed Council members whose role it is to Chair their respective Sub-Committee meetings and report back to Council any recommendations that their Sub-Committee may wish to forward for discussion and possible implementation.

Change of personal was the order of the day it seems, as despite ***a unanimous desire of the Council that Thomas Foweraker should continue in the Chair, and many Directors spoke in feeling terms of his work in that capacity. Mr Foweraker in regretfully refusing to retain the office said that his future movements would take him away for a considerable time, even out of England and that the Club would suffer from an absentee Chairman.***



Thomas Shirley Foweraker

As a result, the nomination of Mr T.W.C. Glover was unanimously agreed, as was the appointment of George Foweraker as Vice Chairman. With the Officers and Directors now elected, thoughts turned towards the practicalities of running a business. Despite a 'New Lease' still being required the Club was 'Invoiced' for Rent by the B.A.C., which was in itself re-assuring if nothing else, ***'Employers Liability Insurance' with 'The Ocean Accident Company' was taken up and a Sub-Committee appointed to prepare a list of dilapidations and damage etc. for presentation to the War Office Land Agent.***

The Honorary Secretary ***reported that regarding the Grazing Tenants work Mr W. Pullin had assured him that the fencing of the Course would commence the following week.*** It also seems that Clubhouse Security was now thought to be necessary as it is reported ***that the dogs seen by the Honorary Secretary were all deemed un-suitable and the price asked (£25 guineas) for a trained Airedale was considered excessive. It was eventually left for the Secretary to find out experts in 'Burglar Alarms' and also cost of an alarm to ring at 'B.A.C. Police Gate', if B.A.C. agree.*** This topic would once again be raised in May 1946 when it is recorded that the ***B.A.C. be written to asking for some assurance that the Golf Club premises be adequately protected during the hours of darkness owing to the imminent arrival of hundreds of labourers in the vicinity, being engaged on construction work on the borders of the Course (Brabazon Hanger).***

Encouragingly, new members continued to join the Club, as did a number of former members and to induce them to play the Ladies Section was asked to arrange a ***'Mixed Foursomes Match' with the idea of bringing the Ladies together and keeping the Social side of the Club.*** This would not have the desired result today perhaps.

The Course remained the main issue now faced by the Club, with the loss of 5 holes to the B.A.C. for the construction of their hanger.

It was with great interest then, that Council at their meeting on 12th September 1945 reviewed proposed alterations to the Course suggested by **George Hannaford, which would introduce 3 new holes made out of the existing acreage. These alterations would provide 16 holes and the full 18 would be played by re-playing the present 1st & 2nd as at present constituted. The long-term policy was also discussed but left until such time as the B.A.C. could decide what replacement land was available for use of the Club.**

The plan forwarded by George was accepted as a temporary solution to the loss of the holes, although a new green constructed adjacent to the gun site, would remain as our 1st green to this day. A new tee was constructed adjacent to this new green and a short hole introduced, which played to the then existing green, which on today's Course was tee side of the lone fairway tree, just beyond the small lake. This latter arrangement would remain in place for the next 50 years (very temporary).

We may be forgiven, with all that was taking place, for forgetting that the Club still did not have a Lease and had not settled their compensation claim with the War Department. Both matters were being pursued strenuously and regarding the Lease, **Mr Mackenzie of the B.A.C. seems to have been sympathetic to our needs and proposed that a commencing tenancy for a period of 12 years at £250 per annum for land embracing a full 18 holes, including roughly 10 acres for new holes.**

Later that year it is recorded that two new holes were being constructed using heavy equipment supplied by the B.A.C. in Field 112 on the Ordnance Survey Map. The outline of the green for the first of the holes can still be seen as a flat plateau area just before the ditch on Rannoch and the position of the second hole's green was approximately where the 'Oval' tee is now situated; they were opened to play in September 1946. The compensation claim was also it seems moving to fruition as on 14th December 1945 it was **reported that the Club had been in communications from Messrs Gleeds in respect to claims of £209-11s-5d for rehabilitation of the Clubhouse and £1,529-6s-0d in respect to renovations to the Course. Also, that the War Department had decided to remove wire and clean up shelters etc. by military labour (this work had already been commenced and Percy had torn his clothes).** In fact the settlement wasn't resolved until 21st April 1947.

Over the next 6 months numerous difficulties were discussed and dealt with, which included the deplorable state of the Course equipment and tractor, the unsatisfactory condition of the Clubhouse (Internally and Externally), and the 'Internal Decoration' to the Club's house in Braemar Avenue. It was therefore fortunate that the Club were financially on a sound footing, due in part to prudent expenditure, the War shutdown and also the introduction of new members, the number recorded as being 293 as of the 13th August 1946. Because of this the Club were able to purchase a new tractor and afford to have some of the work completed although the Clubhouse decoration wasn't part of it.

Due to national shortages and rationing still in place, it was necessary to obtain a 'Licence' for this work to start and at a subsequent meeting **the Chairman stated that the licence Authority had refused to grant a licence for the painting of the Clubhouse.**

Despite this setback, one progressive action taken by the Council was to introduce a sick pay scheme for its employees, based on their length of service. The Club had always stood by its workers in the event of illness and this would put arrangements on a formal basis.

It seems however, that for every forward step there was always two backwards and with matters apparently progressing well, there came the resignation of the Secretary.

At the Council meeting on 13th August 1946 ***the Secretaries letter of resignation was read, and discussion of the same was preceded in camera.***

The Minutes of this meeting record ***that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Captain paid tributes to the Secretary's work and asked him to withdraw his resignation at the wish of the Committee.*** In fact at the next Meeting, under the topic 'approval of minutes' ***the last statement was amended to agree with the facts and read, the Directors in asking the Secretary to withdraw his resignation was the unanimous wish of the Committee until such time as alternative arrangements could be made.***

Read into this what you may, but it is perhaps regrettable that after all the Secretary's considerable efforts on behalf of the Club, he was unable to make himself available for any subsequent Council meetings until officially relinquishing his position at the end of September 1946. It should also be recorded that the new Secretary requested that it might be placed on record ***that the retiring Honorary Secretary had been most kind and helpful in handing over his duties, and had offered to assist in any way possible in the future.*** A.L. Vie Davis was elected a Life member in September 1948.

With the resignation of the Secretary, ***a special meeting of the Directors was convened to consider applications for the position of Secretary and Manager of the Club, which will become vacant on the 30th September, due to the resignation of the Secretary, Mr A.V.L. Davis.***

One hundred applications were received and out of them 2 applicants were interviewed. As a result ***Commander Moore, Royal Navy (retired), was unanimously appointed at a salary of £175 per annum, plus allowances of £75 per annum for expenses and an annual bonus. The appointment was subject to his fidelity being guaranteed by Insurance. It was also agreed that he would become 'The Company Secretary'.***

On a sad note on 8th November 1946 it was ***agreed by Council that a subscription fund be raised for the provision of a headstone for Mr W.B. Heywards' grave.*** Surprisingly perhaps, there is no other reference to former Secretary Bill having passed away.

The 'New Year' brought with it once again a requirement for a new Secretary as it seems, Commander Moore R.N. had jumped ship. ***The only reference regarding his departure can be found in the Council minutes on 10th January 1947 when it is noted that minutes of the last meeting were not available as they where not entered in the Minute Book by the last Secretary when employment ceased, on the 31st December 1946.***

His wasn't the only resignation that took place at this time, as the Stewardess Mrs Boobyer also decided to leave the Club's employ, which automatically entailed the resignation of Mr Boobyer, as the original appointment, was a joint one for man and wife.

Applications for the Secretaryship were submitted by 3 candidates and after careful consideration the Directors unanimously appointed Mr H.A. Jones as Secretary and Manager for a period of ***three months probation*** commencing 12th January 1947: Taking no chances it seems as once bitten, twice shy.

The Council's caution proved a sensible move however, as by 3rd July 1947 there was concern over his work, and at the Council meeting on 1st September ***the Chairman made a statement saying, in his interview with the Secretary when the purpose of the Secretary's work was discussed and it was impressed that such matters as 'Food Rations', 'Monthly Stocktaking' and preparation of 'Monthly Return Analysis' would be dealt with more promptly. The Chairman informed the Secretary that the Council fully realised the difficulties with which he had had to contend and were willing to sanction an increase in salary of £1 a week as from the end of the three month trial period and stressed the importance attached to prompt attention to the matters discussed.***

One such matter, at this same meeting on a completely different topic was reported by Mr S.E. Gray who explained ***that he had had a meeting with interested parties with regards the formation of an Artisans Club, and it was moved from the Chair and carried. That subject to a satisfactory agreement being drawn up between the Filton Golf Club Limited and Filton Artisans Club as to condition of membership, days and hours of play, the Filton Artisans Club can come into being on 1st October 1947 and its formation be submitted for approval at the next Annual General Meeting of the members.*** One role, enthusiastically reviewed by Council was to ***the desirability of organising caddies and it was suggested that they would take a intelligent interest and gain a knowledge of the game if the were allowed to play on the Course as Artisan members,*** which was agreed with.

On the Course itself the rationing of a number of commodities was still proving to be a headache, as in September the ***Chairman reported his action to the local Member of Parliament regarding the withdrawal of Basic Petrol Allowance from Private Motor, as it would have serious repercussions on the use of the Club's vehicles and to members travelling to the Club.*** Politicians, it seems, were the same then as today in that the non-committal response, was that ***it was reasonable to hope that the allowance would be restored by April next.***

Transport was not however considered a concern on 28th November 1947 when ***permission was given to the Bristol Athletic Association for competitors in their Cross Country Race on Saturday 6th December, to cross the Course provided no paper was thrown on our land and mown Greens were not crossed.*** Nor a suggestion of congested or slow play on this occasion it seems?

With another year drawing to a close the next monthly Council meeting was held in the Clubhouse on 29th December 1947, which on the face of it seems rather an odd date for such a meeting.

This viewpoint was also agreed to by a number of the Council members apparently as they didn't attend and ***the reading of the Annual General Meeting Minutes was deferred for a fuller Council meeting.***

One urgent topic discussed was regarding the Artisans Club who required accommodation, as they were not allowed into the Clubhouse unless invited by a Club member. It was agreed that a ***draft letter from the Honorary Secretary, Filton Artisans Golf Club, and another from the Chairman should be sent to Sir Stanley White without further delay to support a Mr Pollards efforts for a Bungalow Building to be made available for the accommodation of the Artisans members.*** In the meanwhile, it was further agreed that a shelter be provided for the caddies at a cost not exceeding £5.

The problem was eventually overcome when the B.A.C. supplied for their use a redundant prefabricated building, which was positioned where the 'Indoor Practice Net' now stands.

It should be remembered at this juncture, that the members regarded the Course as being less than satisfactory, as a result of losing the first 5 holes to the Brabazon Hanger, despite a number of improvements having already taken place. The changes saw 2 'New Holes' constructed in field Ordnance Survey Number 112, which the Club now leased from the B.A.C., the 'Old' first hole shortened to a 'New Green' adjacent to the 'Gun Site' and a par '3 hole' introduced played from a newly constructed tee adjacent to the 'New' first green to the existing 'Old' first green'. Three temporary holes, which were only intended to have been used as a stopgap were also introduced enabling the Course to become once again 18 holes.

Regretfully, due to financial restrictions and the non-availability of any additional land it was necessary to keep these temporary holes in play longer than originally thought. By the end of 1948 this was to change however, when Council agreed at their meeting on 6th December 1948, to rent additional fields Ordnance Survey Numbers 7, 19 and 82 from the B.A.C. at an initial rent of £2 per acre per annum for the construction of three new holes'.

There is some confusion over which fields were meant, as Ordnance Survey Numbers recorded as Field 7 was in the garden of Pen Park House, field 19 was the field we vacated for the Brabazon Hanger and field 82 was in fact 'Westwood', which had been in play since 1921?

Whether the mistake had any bearing on the calling of a Special Council meeting two weeks later on the 20th December 1949 is open to conjecture, but it is recorded ***that it was to consider the position of the Secretary. A number of matters were discussed and Mr Jones was interviewed by the Council, certain suggestions were made and it was agreed that Mr Jones be given a week in which to consider the matter.*** In fact it wasn't until the ***Council meeting on 24th February 1949 that following discussion it was decided that the Chairman should confirm in writing to the Secretary Mr H.A. Jones that it had been decided to dispense with his services; that his employment should terminate on March 31st 1949.*** It was further agreed that Mr J.C. Jones (no relation), become his successor, in a 'Part Time' capacity.

Notwithstanding all this, Council at their meeting on 6th December 1948 were very keen to proceed with the very necessary Course work required, ***despite advice from the Club's solicitor that they could not support the intent to take over the fields in advance of an agreed Lease.*** Council were presumably confident in their expectation that all would be well, possibly because of the support that B.A.C., had been giving to the Club since becoming the Land Lord and in the knowledge that the Bristol Aeroplane Company Golfing Society played at Filton, having secured access to the Course on a limited number of occasions per year at preferential rates.

With regards to the Society and Filton Golf Club, both parties have enjoyed a happy co-existence since the Society's formation in 1948 and like the Club they too have cause for celebration in 2009, as they will have recently recorded their 60th anniversary.

Long may their Society remain, as not only do they continue to introduce members to the Club from their ranks, but remind us all of the link we once had and the debt of gratitude that the Club owes B.A.C. Limited.

On the subject of membership, the Club continued to lose and gain members on an equal basis having a turnaround of approximately 60 members per year, which still applies to this day. One member, who did stay however, was accepted into the Club on 26th May 1949 and is most certainly worthy of mention: **James Maxwell Clarke** joined as 'Junior Member' and has been a stalwart of the Club ever since. Over the last 60 years, not only has he been an excellent golfer, representing the County Team on many occasions, and winning the County Championship in 1960 & 1961, he has also been Club Captain in 1977, a Trustee Director since 1979 and is now our President.



One story Max always tells, if allowed, is when representing the County against Cornwall at St Enodoc at Foursomes, his playing partner, from the tee, took on an impossible shot across a corner of fearsome rough waist high into a head wind. Needless to say, and to the consternation of Max their ball ended up right in among all the 'muck'. As a token gesture, Max decided to look for it, and to his amazement he not only found the ball but it had come to rest on an old Ladies Tee Ground which was still being maintained but hidden from view. He called to his playing partner and opponents that he indeed was going to play the ball as it lay waving a 'Wood', which was the golf club of his choice. The story is that the shot was superb and the partnership did manage to halve that hole and eventually won the Match by 1 up. It wasn't until well after the match had finished and Max had accepted all the plaudits from both teams that he eventually came clean and explained the actual circumstance to his previously awe stricken partner.

At the same meeting at which Max was elected a member, under any other business, a **general discussion ensued on the desirability of improving the amenities of the Club with the object of attracting more members. The question of encroachment and trespass on the Course was also discussed and it was approved that a Ranger should be employed.** What goes around comes around is once again proven, as this problem is with us even to day. This sentiment also applies to the Club's financial situation, which yet again was a cause of great concern. This wasn't helped with the news that the Club's house at 12 Braemar Avenue, in which Fred Boobyer lived, required decorating both on the inside and outside. Also the Kitchen Geyser and Flue Pipe needed to be repaired by the Gas Board at a cost amounting to £8-16s-6d; yet another unwelcome expense. One surprising request at the time was made by **Mr Boobyer who asked for permission to transfer a spare hand basin in the Men's Lavatory to 12 Braemar Avenue, in view of the fact that no hand basin was fitted in the Bathroom of this House and the consequent inconvenience which the family had suffered.** His request was viewed sympathetically and **permission given for the transfer on the understanding that the fitting of the same would be the responsibility of Mr Boobyer.**

Another request also reviewed sympathetically is recorded in a note in Council minutes **on 8th December 1949 which mentions that a Groundsman recently employed was awarded 10/- per week increase in wages, as he was over 21 years of age;** That person, was W.F. Box who at the time was 26.

For those who remember 'Bill' he was a 'surly old blighter' who loved nothing better than working on his own. His knowledge of the Course, particularly the positioning of 'Old Clay Drainage Lines' when leaks occurred was invaluable. Although Bill left in 1960 he returned in 1966 and remained a member of the Groundstaff until he retired in 1993.

While on the subject of finance it is **worthy of mention that it was recorded that the revised statement of Account together with a cheque for £76-3s-3d received from L.H. Neale & Company Limited in respect of activities in connection with the initial flight of the 'Brabazon' was considered by the Council and the same was accepted in full and final payment.**

The reason for such a claim is not mentioned, but for posterity, we should at least record the 'Brabazon Inaugural Flight' having a bearing on the Club. In addition to this cheque the Club prior to 15th February 1949 had received a payment from B.A.C. of £300 for the construction of three 'New Holes' at £100 each and also £143 for restoration of the Course.

Regretfully concern was being expressed regarding the 'Part Time' Secretary Mr J.C. Jones in that his work was not satisfactory, which in fairness might have been due in part to the workload required of him, which had previously been undertaken by a Full Time Secretary. Whatever the reason, it was decided that a replacement must be sought to take over from Mr Jones. Who would want to be a Secretary?

For that matter, who would want to be the Steward, as like the Secretary, Fred Boobyer who had taken over as Club Stewart from his wife a number of years earlier, was also dismissed, as a body of opinion was not satisfied with his performance. This decision led to great consternation amongst the members as they felt Fred's dismissal to be grossly unfair and 52 members signed a petition to this effect. Subsequently, a number of the signatories were **invited to an Emergency Council meeting on 22nd February 1950, to air their views and so that they may be enlightened on the reasons for Boobyer's dismissal.** Following a long discussion it was proposed that the Council do not depart from its previous decision, which was carried.

Despite Boobyer being sacked the Club were not able to get him to vacate their house in Braemar Avenue, which he occupied with his wife. It was reported later in the year on 31st August 1950 that **Boobyer had been approached regarding the proposal to offer him a sum of money to vacate the premises at Braemar Avenue and Boobyer had stated that he was prepared to leave if he could obtain alternative accommodation, or if the Club would find him accommodation.**

Many of the Club's financial problems at that time were explained by the Chairman at an adjourned Annual General Meeting, which was necessary to consider the Clubs Accounts, as they had not been available at the first meeting. **The Chairman in the absence of the Treasurer explained that 'The Catering Wages Act' and 'Finance Act' had resulted in higher wages and lower gross profits, and were entirely responsible for the drop in profits on the 'House Trading Account' In the main the financial position of the Club was sound, as assets exceeded liabilities, but care in the control of expenditure would be necessary.**

Not replacing the Secretary and delegating his duties to Council members was seen as one way and it was also agreed to pay the Club's Auditors, Messrs Grigg & Perkins, £50 to provide a member of their staff, Mr C.F. Bond, to attend Council meetings and be recognised as the Assistant Secretary with Council member Mr W. Eastwood as The Company Secretary. This proved to be wholly unsatisfactory however and at their meeting on 30th September 1950 it was mooted that a full time Secretary should be engaged. It was further agreed to increase the membership number, a tried and tested solution to fund raising, and to ***introduce a scheme whereby during the months of April and May, 1950, persons who had never held an official golf handicap could become members of the Club with full facilities five days per week, at a fee of 30/- and they would receive 2 free lessons by appointment with the Professional who also would supply them with clubs free of charge during their temporary membership.***

Leasing the Grazing Rights of the Course also continued and Tenant Farmer Pullin agreed to pay the Club £75 per annum to graze 100 ewes and their lambs. One story told by a former member regarding Mr Pullin was that this member having been caught in the act of 'scrumping apples' was pulled through nettles as a punishment. Gordon Taylor was aged 10 at the time.

With regards the Course itself, Greenkeeper Arthur Ryman became the latest member of the Clubs staff to be dismissed. Recorded in the minutes on 28th November 1950, is ***that the Professional Mr Percy Attwood had agreed to take charge of the Course with an assistant engaged to assist him; Mr A.C. Forder of Woodland Down, Almondsbury was the person engaged.*** It would seem the introduction of Mr Forder didn't go down well with everyone as two months later it was reported that a certain ***position had arisen between Box and Forder and despite a number of interviews Box was unwilling to work with Forder.*** On the 27th February 1950 it was recorded that the ***staff difficulties had now resolved themselves by the resignations of Forder;*** a Mr H. Weaver was engaged as his replacement.

Towards the end of the year the finances of the Club were once again a cause of great concern. The Treasurer at a meeting on 21st December 1950 ***presented a draft account up to 30th November and stated that the position was satisfactory and in fact showed a surplus.***

He also ***presented a budget account for the following year based on the last and emphasised that with the advent of the charges for Heat and Light from the B.A.C. Limited the whole picture was changed and said that in his opinion that any additional expenditure sanctioned would produce a most un-satisfactory state of affairs and emphasised the need of finding the finance to carry out any of the projects enumerated.*** Mr R.S. Brown explained the position on the Heating and Lighting costs, and informed the meeting that the B.A.C. had waived their right to invoice prior to January 1950, but in future invoices would be received quarterly. This was a major blow, as the extra costs had not been anticipated, and budgeted for, particularly at this difficult financial time. This resulted in the Finance Committee meeting and formulating the following proposals:

- 1 Mr R.S. Brown should obtain tenders for painting the Clubhouse.
- 2 The House Committee should consider the closing of one room during certain parts of the week to save Heat and Light.

- 3 The House Committee should also consider any other ways and means of cutting down Heating and Lighting expenditure by the use of any other type of heat producer.
- 4 The Greens & Handicap Committee were asked to consider the reduction of expenditure on the Course.
- 5 The appointment of a 'Ways and Means Committee' to consider any scheme to produce funds for the use of the Club.

With regards the latter, one such ***scheme saw the introduction of a 'Fruit Machine', which did make a valuable contribution to Club funds***

The installation of a 'Television Set' provided by 'Marriott's of Bristol', not just for the member's entertainment, but to encourage them to stay longer was also introduced.

Yet another initiative was to reduce the use of electricity, which saw ***a Rayburn Cooker installed and as a consequence the Electric Cooker and Immersion Heater had been cut off for use.*** It was also reported ***that an Electric Kettle had been purchased to assist in having hot water available.***

The situation was perilous entering 1951, as outlined in minutes of a ***Council meeting on 27th March 1951 at which the Chairman thought the financial year now drawing to a close was bound to show a large deficit and that members of the Council should urgently consider the position. It seemed to him that a decision would have to be made as to whether it was financially wise to carry on under the present conditions, as there was a limit to losses, it might even be necessary to 'Wind The Company Up'.*** It was considered vitally important that the Club should attract at least 50 more members.

In such a difficult situation, the Club were very fortunate to have such an experienced and settled Council, who were doing their best on behalf of all the members. One such person, but certainly not the only one, Mr R.S. Brown, the Managing Director of the B.A.C., was to play no small part in attempting to turn things around.

Responding at the meeting to the Chairman's report ***Mr Brown thought that the B.A.C. would show not a little interest in any proposed 'Wind Up of the Company' and suggested that if sufficient funds were available it would be a good idea to add to the amenities of the Clubhouse, such as painting the Clubhouse externally and heating the Common Room and possibly making some provision for a Card Room for Bridge Players so that new members would be attracted and remain. He would also like Council to consider the possibility of selling Braemar Avenue, and if successful, setting aside some portion of the proceeds to this end. Following discussion it was agreed that the Assistant Secretary should pursue the matter further in the light of the position with an Auctioneer, and report back to Council.***

Negotiation between Mr Brown and the B.A.C. regarding the Club's rent took place and he produced a draft letter, which he suggested should be sent to the Secretary of the B.A.C. Limited.

At the following Council meeting on 16th April 1951, called primarily to approve a 'Statement of Accounts', improving the finances of the Club in the future was discussed.

The new Chairman Mr R.S. Brown *mentioned he was of the opinion that the real answer to an improved financial position was to increase the membership, and in order to do so it would be necessary to attract new members by improved amenities. There were monies due from the Landlord in connection with the reconstruction of Greens, War Damage Reinstatement, and with the War Stock now held it would be well worth considering the scheme which provided living accommodation for steward and wife in the Clubhouse.*

The external condition of the Clubhouse was also discussed and former Club Captain, Lewis Benson - 'Benson Brothers Limited', whose premises are located to the right of the A38 going towards Patchway, stated that his *Company would very much like to help the Club and he offered to be responsible for the decoration of the exterior of the Clubhouse and that they would undertake this without charge:* This kind offer, was immediately taken up by the Council who expressed the appreciation of the Club. Not to miss a trick, *Council then asked Mr Benson if he might also undertake re-decorating the Clubhouse interior as well, to which he replied that he was prepared to deal with that under normal competitive terms.* He did, however, suggest that there was a possibility that the Brewers might help to finance the project and was commissioned to go further into the matter with them.

The Minutes of the following meeting held on 30th April 1951 record the Chairman's statement, that regarding monies due from the *B.A.C., they had agreed to pay immediately the outstanding £200 due in respect of Course re-construction, the £80-7s-6d claim for War Damage covered by the surveyors report and would hold the residue amount until a further surveyors report on what additional work had been carried out was forwarded. In addition they would release the £200 War Stock, which is held by them as a guarantee against failure of the Club, to return the Course to its original condition, viz., to that of farmland. This meant that when the War Stock was sold, £480-7s-6d could be credited to the Club's accounts, which would materially assist the financial position. Council then felt it was opportune to go ahead with providing stewards living accommodation.*

With regards this Mr Benson at the Council meeting on 16th May 1951 explained that *he had obtained some advice from an architect friend and that he had estimated the cost of the work in accordance of the Scheme and Plans already discussed at approximately £400;*

He felt, however, that before accepting the tender, if it was the Clubs wish that his firm should do the work, a member of the Committee should be appointed to supervise the costing so that in the event of any contingencies arising, which were not always foreseen at the time of making the estimate, correct supervision would be given to the final cost. After discussion it was agreed that Mr Benson's firm would execute the work, but that in view of possible contingencies, there would be a margin either way of £50 on the estimate given.

Membership was also discussed and it was agreed *that a letter responding to their request would be written to Squadron Leader F.A. Drury, A.F.C. confirming that 20 of the 501 Bristol Squadron 'B' Unit, personnel would be welcome to join under terms and conditions that prevailed for members, although through lack of personnel this arrangement would only be for 1 year.*

In addition to the Squadron ***it was further agreed that the National Smelting Golf Section could have playing facilities on Thursday evenings during the summer months, and allowed a concession on the Green fee of 2/6 per member.*** The direct approach to a number of other organisations and sporting groups eventually led to the B.B.C., B.O.A.C. Speedbird Club (35 members) and the Bristol Rovers through Bert Tann (Rovers Manager), taking advantage of block memberships. True to 'Filton Form', one step forward two back, yet another blow was dealt the Club when ***Messrs Grigg & Perkins announced that they wished to withdraw the services of Mr C.F. Bond, the Assistant Secretary and Book-keeper on as early a date as possible.***

It was abundantly clear that the Club's finances could not carry the expense of a full time Secretary and it was reluctantly agreed that arrangements must be made to engage from within the Club a member on a part time basis. ***In appreciation of Mr Bond's work he was awarded Honorary Membership of the Club for two years to March 1953,*** which was in fact after the Company he worked for, Grigg & Perkins, was re-placed by a Mr M.S. Small, a Chartered Accountant in the employ of the B.A.C., as Auditor. For his services Mr Small was enrolled as a non-paying member, but his appointment only lasted one year as he went to Australia. The next reference to the Secretaryship problem was made at the Council meeting on 31st August 1951 when it was reported by the Chairman that Mr .B. Bullows, of Messrs Bullows & Bond would be taking over the work of the Assistant Secretary.

Also discussed at the meeting:

Was the giving of Notice to Mr Pullin regarding grazing rights as ***the Club was not prepared to renew the agreement and that the sheep must be removed from the Course by the 30th September next. Concern was expressed over the loss to the Club of important revenue and an assurance was given that it was possible to make an equivalent saving in expenditure on wages.***

Under any other business the ***Chairman read a letter from the Housing Manager relating to an application for a Licence to carry out alterations to provide living accommodation for a resident Steward. The context of the letter was that the annual rent of the portion provided would be £30 per annum with the maximum selling price of any such section of the Club set aside for this purpose would be £500.***

The Secretary was instructed to agree the figure as outlined in the letter with the Housing Manager, and it was subsequently reported at the next meeting by Mr Benson, that a Building Licence had been obtained and that he awaited instruction for the work to commence.

It is perhaps a coincidence that on 19th December 1951, as if in celebration of the Licence, a piano was donated to the Club by Messrs Pepler and O. Dahl who transferred from Social to Full playing member the following month. It obviously played the right tune.

Also at this Council meeting the Chairman reported that he had asked the Landlord to ignore the period of seven years during which the Club had been tenants of the property without a formal Lease. The negotiations of a Lease did not appear of immediate concern.

Very little has been mentioned regarding the Course over the last year or so, except to say ***that work on the 'Pimple Hole' was going well and the Captain reported that the programme of work was substantial and required the use of heavy equipment such as a bulldozer.***

Worthy of note, at this a time of austerity, was the fantastic profit the Club made by running a 1951 Christmas Draw, which was organised by Mr Millhouse. Prizes of £25, £10 and £5 along with 8 Turkeys, 6 Geese, 12 Fowls, 2 Bottles of Whisky, 2 Bottles of Gin and 2 Bottles of Bristol Cream to the total value of £100 were on offer and in total £236-5s-0d was made by the Club; You would never guess, by the prizes, that Mr Millhouse was a very successful Butcher. With the success of the 'Christmas Draw', **Mr Millhouse now volunteered to organise a Derby Draw on the understanding that any profit made would be used to clear existing debts.**

This amount must have been of great relief to the Club as on 3rd February 1952, not only were they committed to paying £400 for Clubhouse Alterations but now it was reported that the Tractor needed re-placing at a cost of £400 of which £50 would be offset with its sale; **The Tractor was subsequently purchased from College Motors and the Greenkeeper was sent on a course of instruction on maintenance of the Tractor.**

Other equipment also gave cause for concern but not so the poor old 'Pattison Truck' which was apparently useless and scrapped.

On 24th March 1952 it was reported that work on the Clubhouse was progressing well and a sub-Committee, having considered replies by 60 applicants to the advertisement for a Steward and Stewardess, had selected thirteen for interview.

Following the interviews, it is reported that **Mr and Mrs Byrne were engaged and the necessary fidelity bond and tenancy agreements were being obtained. The Council noted that the minimum joint remuneration payable under the Catering Act was £8-19s-5d per week** and free accommodation on the completion of the Stewards Living Accommodation.

Mr and Mrs Byrne did take up the offer of employment, but for only a very short time, as on **28th April 1952 at the Council meeting it was reported that the trial period for Mr and Mrs Turner, yet another Steward and Stewardess was coming to an end and it was necessary to decide whether to retain their services or to make a change.** Mr Millhouse said that he felt they were suitable and asked for the view of the meeting. **It was finally decided that Mr and Mrs Turner be engaged subject to a months notice on either side, their terms and conditions as that already agreed for the Byrne's.** No reference is made as to why Mr and Mrs Byrne left and it may be assumed that they met with a frosty reception as it is recorded that a letter had to be sent to Mr and Mrs Byrne regarding the disappearance of an electric fire. The Turners didn't last long either as in May it was reported that **Mr and Mrs Mitchell, from the Worlebury Club would be commencing their duties as Stewards.** Their appointment, although lasting longer, was terminated on the 31st January 1953.

Despite the Club's numerous problems concerning the Course and Clubhouse alterations, machinery breakdowns and its Staff, Council at their meeting on the 28th May 1952 had something to 'Cheer About'. It is recorded that the **Council noted with gratification, that Mr Reg Strange had won the Gloucestershire Amateur Championship at the meeting on Sunday 25th May 1952. It was recorded that Mr Strange is the first Bristol Golfer to hold the title since 1938 and the first Filton Member to win the Championship for 40 years. The 36 Hole final was played on the Cotswold Hill Course when Reg Strange beat Mr Mungo Swanston of Long Ashton and Weston by 6 and 5; the Council offered their congratulations to him on his triumph.**

Also recorded is that having paid all the expenses, ***the Derby Draw showed a profit of £92 and Council once again extended their grateful thanks to Mr Millhouse, the organiser.*** The amount raised was indeed not something to be sneezed over, but walked on, as £56 of it went to purchase Lino for the Clubhouse, with the remainder used for painting the Locker Room.

Throughout the Council minutes of these times the name of **Percy Attwood** continued to surface as a tireless worker for the Club, going well beyond that expected of him in his role as Professional and Greenkeeper. ***At the 1952 Annual General Meeting, Percy was elected a life member for his services to Filton Golf Club.***

That same year **Ralph H.A. Richards** joined the Filton Golf Club and very much like Percy would play a major part in its future, but more on that later.

Fund raising was to be the dominant topic for the remainder of 1952 and despite improvements to the Course and Clubhouse the membership numbers showed no improvement over the previous years. In fact they were down, as it was reported on 13th November 1952 ***that the membership at 31st October 1952, was 276 compared to 289 at 31st March 1952, and gave the variations between the various classes of membership. It was appreciated that some of the reduction of 13 in the total membership was represented by a clarification of the members' register, i.e. duplicated names etc. The figures also ignored the special group membership.*** With regards the latter it is recorded that ***in view of the success in obtaining bulk membership income, there was probably further potential income, which could be secured and it was thought that every effort should be made to attract such income before the end of the current season.***

There was some good news however, when the B.A.C. agreed to reduce the Club's rent to £1-10s-0d per acre from the original £3. This saving proved extremely helpful as the Exterior of Braemar Avenue required painting at a cost of £40 and one of the Greens Machines needed repairing at a cost of £75.

It often said that it pays to have friends in high places and this was proven when the Chairman reported at the Council meeting on 24th February 1953 his ***discussions with Sir Charles Allfrey concerning the catering position. Sir Charles had kindly offered to introduce suitable applicants for the position of Steward, and to help cover the next few months to get the bar running efficiently. Mr and Mrs Roberts had been interviewed and it was considered they would prove suitable replacements for Mr and Mrs Mitchell.***

Without explanation though, Mr and Mrs Roberts upped and left after just one month despite protest and a request that they stay until some arrangement could be made.

On subsequent investigation it was revealed that, late hours, were being kept by Club members and the Steward had been obliged to continue beyond his closing time. Because of this ***it was agreed that the bar must close at the correct time and that the members might continue until 12 midnight, when the Clubhouse must be vacated and properly secured, without the necessity of the presence of the Steward;*** this decision was something else that was too late it seems.

It has been continually mentioned throughout that the financial position was precarious and including the full 'Financial Statement Minute' from the meeting will give a greater understanding of the situation in 1953.

Financial Statement.

It was noted that the balance at credit of the Clubs account at 21st February 1953 was £589. This was sufficient only to meet the outstanding account for December, in addition to which January and February accounts would require to be financed.

The Assistant Secretary was authorised to pay the December, and January accounts as practicable.

The heavy increase in the electricity cost for December quarter was noted.

The Council considered the trading statement prepared by the Assistant Secretary, for the year ending the 31st March 1953. These were approximate figures, but indicated that a loss of up to £200 could be expected.

The gross profit on trading showed a marked reduction from 19.8% to 12.5% during the year, and this position was discussed.

It was suggested that the scale of charges might be too low and that an increase in charges might be coupled with an increase in subscriptions. It was agreed that the House Committee should examine the figures and recommend suitable action to the Council, bearing in mind that the overall position should yield a gross profit of at least 20%.

The increase included some £500, which it could not be assumed would recur as a regular source. Expenditure could not be expected to reduce. The Meeting was of the opinion that the trading results must be improved substantially. It was obvious that the subscriptions must be increased, and on the basis of an extra guinea approximately £190 would be obtained. This sum, with the better trading figures should be sufficient to cover expenditure next year.

The Assistant Secretary was instructed to prepare a Budget for 1952/53 based on 8 guineas subscription, assuming a gross 15% return on trading. Consideration of the appointment of a permanent Secretary would need to be postponed.

On a proposal moved by Dr Maunsell, seconded by Mr Eastwood it was agreed that the subscriptions should in general be increased by 1 guinea, as follows:

Full Member	£7-7s-0d	to	£8-8s-0d
Family	£10-10s-0d	to	£12-0s-0d
Lady	£5-15s-6d	to	£6-6s-0d
Country	£2-12s-6d	to	£3-13s-6d
Junior	£2-2s-0d	to	£2-12s-6d (up to 21 years of age) £3-13s-6d (up to 22 years of age) £4-14s-6d (up to 23 years of age) £5-15s-6d (up to 24 years of age)
5 Day	£5-5s-0d	to	£5-15s-6d
Social	£1-11s-6d		(no change)
Artisans	£2-2s-0d		(no change)

The Council approved the suggestion that a subscription of £4-14s-6d should be fixed for a 5 days membership for a member of another Club.

At the same Meeting it was reported that the Chairman, R.S. Brown would be unable, due to pressure of business, to seek re-election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The Club continued to struggle both in attracting members and on the financial front, but not so ***the new Steward Mr Townsend, who caused a 'difficulty', in August, by winning the 'Jack Pot' on the Gaming Machine.*** At the next Council Meeting ***it was reported that the Steward had been interviewed and advised that it was undesirable for the Staff to play the machines.***

One significant decision made at the Council Meeting on 22nd September 1953 is that the Club handed over the catering arrangements to the Steward and increased his salary by £12-10s-0d accordingly. It was stated that the arrangement would benefit the Club by relieving it of any loss on catering, and with more catering the bar sales should increase.

It was appreciated that the Club must be in control of prices, and after discussion it was agreed that, if the results for August were reasonable, arrangements could be made with the Steward for a limited period. Otherwise, the matter would be deferred for a further period. The arrangements would be of a temporary nature, which could be terminated by the Club at short notice.

One worrying aspect regarding this was the apparent inability of the ***Steward as reference is made in minutes that the banking of trading receipts was still not satisfactory, the quality of the catering was called into question, and the untidy state of the Kitchen.*** With regards the catering it was agreed to discuss this with the Steward and also ***that a tactful notice should be put up in the Clubhouse requesting that comments should be addressed to the Chairman of the House Committee.*** The Kitchen was another matter however, and it was decided that the ***utmost cleanliness was essential during preparation of meals; A suitable clause was inserted into the catering agreement with the Steward along with the right of inspection of the Kitchen and Living Quarters by a representative of the Club.***

This did seem to have had the desired effect however, as records of the Annual General Meeting on 27th March 1954 show. The Chairman in presenting his report to the members mentioned that ***the financial position had been greatly improved, despite abnormal expenditure, which had been necessary, notably repairs to the approach road (Golf Course Lane). The improvement was in no small measure due to the good work of the Steward in maintaining the trading revenue.*** He also referred to ***the long term plans to increase the accommodation at the Clubhouse and how it was proposed to appoint a full-time Secretary;***

Mr A.B. Inchboard was subsequently appointed the full-time Secretary on 1st April 1954.

The recording of Minutes, over the next 5 years that Mr Inchboard was Secretary, although efficiently undertaken, regrettably are devoid of background information and only record the topic, who proposed and seconded the motion, and the resulting decision.

All is not completely lost however and we are indebted to our Club President, who quite coincidentally, forwarded a resume of his early days as a member, which covers this period rather well.

1949 – 1960 Reminiscences from our President Max Clarke

My father, W. Stanley Clarke, a Past Captain of the Club, joined Filton before the Second World War. There was no more enthusiastic golfer than Dad, and as a very small boy he would take me to Aust on a Sunday afternoon (he having played in the Better Ball Bogey in the morning) to hit a ball up and down on the foreshore. As soon as he thought the Club would put up with me he persuaded the then Chairman, Cliff Glover, to propose me as a Junior Member. That was just before Easter 1949. I was ten years old; and at that time, it seemed as though I was the only junior in the Club.

David Strange - A couple of months later, fortunately for me, another boy joined - David Strange. He was fifteen years old, and the son of a really remarkable golfer, Reg Strange. Through the winter of 1949/50 David and I played each other every Sunday morning for the princely stake of six tee pegs, starting at the tenth. Being four years older than me, David had a distinct advantage off the tee, but as I had taken up the game earlier initially I could give him a game.

The two of us were given every encouragement and very soon we were told that once we had obtained an official handicap of 24 or less, we could enter all the Club's competitions. David quickly got a handicap and within a year won the President's Cup (in 1950). The Professional, Percy Attwood, a kindly old gentleman who also served the Club as part-time Greenkeeper, told us that once we broke ninety with a card marked by an adult, he would give us a new golf ball. Golf balls were then very expensive, and for me, several weeks' pocket money. My new ball was a Penfold with no numbers but yellow dots, and I saved it for several months, un-wrapping it for my first entry in the Sunday morning Better Ball Bogey (having just achieved a handicap). Regrettably for me, David was not my regular playing companion for long, as the following year he joined Edgar Boone at Knowle as Assistant Professional, but occasionally he still returned to play with me on his half-day. David recovered his amateur status a few years later, and subsequently enjoyed a long career in County Golf; He became Captain of the County in 1975 and President in 2005.

Ted Jackson - In 1952, Ted Jackson became a junior member, joining his father and elder brother. Ted who was then sixteen years old, two years older than me, asked me a year later to partner him in the Captain's Foursomes. That was the first time we played together. We won in 1954, and a year later retained the trophy. In one of the finals we played Duncan Wood and Jack Oxland.

Duncan worked for the BBC, and later produced for television two extremely successful comedy series, 'Hancock's Half Hour' and 'Steptoe and Son'. Ted and I remain very close friends and share the distinction of being each other's Best Man. He won the City & County of Bristol Championship at Henbury in 1966, with scores of 68 & 72, and setting the Amateur Course Record in the process and also won the Failand Cup the following year. Ted played for the County for many years and became their County Captain in 1969/70 (in his second year Gloucestershire won the English Counties Championship), was County President in 1993 and President of the South West in 1996. He, together with another prominent Club member in those early years, Peter Hurley, won the County Foursomes Championship in 1964.

I took my 'A' Levels in June 1955, when aged just seventeen, and as I was too young to enter a University my father decided that I would benefit by working rather than me spending a third year in the sixth form. He did not share my mother's passion for education, and probably wished that in time I would give up the idea of a University Education altogether (but if he did, had the good sense to keep his thoughts to himself).

He knew C.E. (Bert) Neath, who became Club Chairman and President for many years very well through business and through Golf. Bert was the Managing Director of Welch & Co Ltd, the Vauxhall distributors for Bristol and much of the West Country. My father asked Bert if he could find me something to do to fill a gap year and he obliged by making a position for me as a Junior Accounts Clerk in a large office headed by a young Chartered Accountant, Ralph Richards. Both Uncle Bert (as he was known at Welch & Co, but only behind his back) and Ralph have played a large part in my life, as they have done in the life of the Club.

Peter Hurley – Employed, as a salesman at Welch & Co, was a young man, aged about twenty-four, Peter Hurley. He had taken up Golf recently, was extremely enthusiastic and rapidly improving. Peter had been a fighter pilot, flying Gloucester Meteors, while doing his National Service, which required him to be intelligent, well educated, and very well co-ordinated physically, attributes helpful for playing Golf. Mr Neath too had been a pilot, in his case as an officer in the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War, and no doubt he had a soft spot for Peter for that reason. In recognition of Peter's status, he had the use of a new company car, - a great privilege in those days. The car was a Vauxhall Wyvern, colour blue. I can still remember the registration number, VHY 215. Peter was very keen to improve his game by playing on really testing courses. We often played at Burnham on a Sunday, green fee 1/-. Later we both became country members at an annual subscription of £2-.2s-0d. The experience I gained playing there and on a variety of other courses stood me in good stead when it came to playing for the County. But we also played a great deal at Filton and in the late fifties a typical Fourball would be E.T. Jackson, P.J. Hurley, J.C. Oxland & J.M. Clarke.

The Fifties were a 'Golden Era' for Filton Golf Club

In addition to Reg Strange, the Club possessed a number of very fine players; three playing off scratch - Graham Griffiths, Alf Benson and Dr Dennis Maunsell. These three, Captained the Gloucestershire County Team successively from 1957 to 1962 (each Captain holding the office for two years). There were a number of others with handicaps in low single figures at that time and Filton Golf Club had the strongest team in the area. In the ten years from 1952 the Club provided the County Champion on five occasions: Reg Strange in 1952, Dr. Maunsell in 1955, Graham Griffiths in 1956, and me (Max Clarke) in 1960, and again in 1961.



Gloucester Golf Team playing in the South-West Counties Golf Team Championship includes the following members of Filton Golf Club - R.E.Strange, A.Benson, G.C.Griffiths, J.M.Clarke and E.R.B.Wills. 1958

Reg Strange - Reg had a handicap of one, thanks to a brilliant short game. He was a master of the chip-and-run, an extremely valuable skill at a time when few greens were watered. He was Club Champion in the years 1948, 51, 52, 53 and 54, and County Champion in 1952. The County Championship, in those days, consisted of 36 holes Medal Qualifying, the top sixteen going forward to a Match Play Knock-out, concluding with a 36 holes Final. Despite his win in the County Championship, the County never pulled Reg to scratch, but at our Club in the early fifties he reigned supreme. In 1951 he won the President's Cup, the Chairman's Cup, the Michael Pruett Cup, the Maggs Mickleburgh Cup, partnering Fay Glover, the Chairman's wife, as well as the Club Championship. Reg's success in the County Championship brought him to the attention of the County selectors, and subsequently he represented Gloucestershire in the South Western Counties Championship in the years 1953-59, winning a large majority of his matches. In 1959, at St. Enodoc, he played one Foursomes Match partnering his son David (I am told the only time a father and son have represented the County as a pair). Two years later, at Stinchcombe Hill, the two of them won the Counties Foursomes Championship, the Final of which I watched and I can remember very clearly that Reg was already very ill and could hardly speak; Months later he died from lung cancer.

Graham Griffiths - Graham as a boy had been a member of the Club before the War. By the time I knew him he was in his thirties and already a very rich man, having introduced commercial mushroom growing to the U.K. He was a member of a number of Clubs, but on a Sunday morning in the early fifties he always played at Filton, with a caddy called Snowball (he had very blond hair). He won the Club Championship in 1947 and the County Championship in 1956. In addition to his Golf, Graham was a brilliant 'Bridge' player, who represented England and founded the Bristol Bridge Club. After a day's work he often drove up to London to play bridge in the evening at Crockers (the Mecca for all top class bridge players). This was before the days of the motorway - Graham was a very fast driver, owning initially a Triumph sports car with a dicky seat, but later a succession of Aston Martins.

Alfred Benson - Alf who won the Club Championship in 1946, 1949 and 1955 was good enough to play for the County for many years, was its Captain in 1959/60 and President in 1967. He was very generous with his time and always extremely encouraging to young players and it was thanks to him that I got my first opportunity to play for the County, in 1956. Freddie Love, the County Captain, was a good friend of Alf, and when somebody had fallen out at the last minute Alf suggested me. We were due to play Glamorgan at Southerndown, and we travelled across on the Saturday by way of the Aust ferry, staying overnight at the Seabank Hotel in Porthcawl. In the morning Foursomes Alf and I played bottom and were the only pair to win, although in the afternoon singles I lost comfortably. I remember Alf with much gratitude and great affection as we often played together in League matches, and not always with success. He enjoyed a drink, though never to excess and when asked what drink he would have, he would think for a moment, pursing his lips before answering, but the answer when it came was always the same - "I think I'll have a light ale". It was always a bottle of Whitbread. One evening before a League match at Shirehampton (incidentally Alf was also a member there), we were standing on the path between the clubhouse and the putting green, the two separated by a low privet hedge. Alf announced that it was his fiftieth birthday, and for a man of his age he was "damned fit".

In a rash moment he said that he could make a standing jump over the hedge onto the putting green. We said, "Prove it". He did, but jumping back again he landed in the middle of the hedge, breaking it down to the ground. We helped him restore its shape as best we could.

Lew and Alf Benson worked tirelessly on behalf of the Club quite often at their own expense, not just as members of Council but because of their building knowledge as Consultants and in a maintenance capacity. We are certainly indebted to them both. Alf was Club Captain in 1954 & 1959, which was following in his brother's footsteps, Lew having been Club Captain from 1942 -1944 and in 1952.

Dr Dennis Maunsell - Dr Maunsell, practiced as a G.P. in Gloucester Road North and when "on call" would often only play a few holes, before being called in by the Steward, when an emergency arose. He was a very fast walker between shots, but when addressing the ball, indulged in a protracted waggle, the length of which was determined by his confidence at the time. At his best he was a very fine player with an exceptional long game. In addition to winning the County Championship in 1955 he became our Club Champion in 1956 & 57. When playing at Long Ashton in the Ashton Vase (a 36 hole scratch medal which was then, as it remains today, one of the most prestigious events locally) he set the Amateur Course Record at 65, which is still today a fine score, notwithstanding our better equipment. After playing in the South Western Counties Championship in 1962 at Trevoise in Cornwall, on the way back to Bristol in his Dennis's Jaguar, he announced to me that to break our journey we would call in on Graham (Griffiths) for a drink; Graham, had been a member of our team but had left earlier and lived at Wrington. We arrived at his house and Dennis rang the bell and as there was no response he tried the door handle and the door opened. He commented to me that Graham must have popped out for a moment and we would go in and wait for him. We sat in the lounge, and after ten minutes or so, Dennis, eyeing the cocktail cabinet, said we might as well have a drink while we waited and proceeded to pour us two gin and tonics. After drinking them slowly we gave up and left. A few days later Dennis 'phoned me and said, "You know why Graham wasn't there? He's sold the house!"

In subsequent years Filton had a succession of fine young players, who had the Promise to win the County Championship one day. I can think of John Livingstone, David Woodman, Chris Kaminski, Jeff Hall and Simon Hurley, but unfortunately for the Club, all of them turned Professional before they had fulfilled their potential as Amateurs.

John Oxland - Filton had a strong school of bridge players, including Doug Lockyer and John (Jack too many of his friends) Oxland. John wrote a weekly article for the Bristol Evening Post entitled "Bridge Notes" and as it has to be said, a very clever man. For example, he travelled to Filton from Zetland Road by bus and claimed he could complete the Telegraph Crossword during the journey. Many members found his manner rather patronising, with the result that sometimes he found it difficult to get a game. He had a mixed assortment of clubs, including a rusty, hickory shafted mashie-niblick. He tended to slice, but when he did not cut the ball he hit it miles, even with his ancient equipment. One day when Ted Jackson and I were playing with him, we arrived at the first tee, having started at the tenth, with an unusual wind blowing from the right. John took a "Spoon" (more or less a cross between a three and four wood) and pitched and stopped his ball on the green, carrying the bunker on the right. He was an extremely loyal member of the Club, and had a wonderful record in League Matches.

The Course as it used to be.

In the Fifties the Course was very short, about 5,500 yards, with virtually no trees apart from those standing in the hedges, and no water on the greens except the three nearest the Clubhouse. We had a Greenstaff of two apart from our Professional, Percy Attwood, who helped out part-time, and certainly we had very little equipment. Today's members would be horrified if they were forced to play in the conditions that we took for granted in those days.

The fairways were never fertilised, so there was no depth of turf and they were also full of weeds, or from a different point of view, wild flowers; a little story will emphasise the point it involved Gordon Taylor.

One spring evening, probably in 1959, I was playing a few holes with my girlfriend, Helen (now my wife), when Gordon, aged about twelve, picked a large bunch of cowslips and presented them to Helen. It was one of those touching magic moments that could not be repeated today.

Because of the lack of any depth to the turf, in a dry summer the ball would run for miles. The greens turned brown and the only viable approach shot was the chip-and-run. On the other hand in the winter the fairways were a mass of worm casts. The upshot of this was that "placing" enabled you to take a driver if required. Between tee and green there were a large number of poorly maintained grass bunkers, unlike today, as we now have no bunkers, either grass or sand, between tee and green. Instead we have introduced groups of trees and shrubs to act as hazards, as well as to make the course more visually appealing.

The Clubhouse and Professionals Shop

The Clubhouse was an entirely wooden affair with a veranda facing the First Tee and with no heating apart from a cast iron stove in the Main Bar. Women were not admitted to that Bar until 1979, when we were obliged to change the Club's rules in order to secure a grant from the Sports Council to enable us to buy the Course from the liquidator of Rolls Royce. The change was long overdue, but we still had as members, a group of diehards who were very unhappy about the change; in fact, in the event, it caused hardly a ripple.

The washing facilities in the men's changing room were very basic, to say the least, with one crude shower which was hardly ever used.

There were a large number of Lockers, which were extensively used, because members who did not possess a car (the majority) were obliged to leave their Golf Clubs at the Club. Trolleys, which were introduced progressively from the early fifties, created a storage problem, and a shed was commissioned for the purpose. Those trolleys with their clubs attached were accessible to everyone during the day, but theft was not considered a problem.

Before trolleys became common many members stored their clubs and shoes in the Professional's Shop. The inner sanctum was racked out to take both clubs and shoes. Bags, which were designed to be carried, were much smaller than today's monsters, and consequently many sets could be stored in a relatively small space. For a very modest subscription the Professional, Percy Attwood, would contract to clean both clubs and shoes after every outing. The work was carried-out by Percy's assistant Bert Weaver, who used a mixture of 'Brasso' and sand to clean the clubs, and in the winter coated the shoes with a mixture of Mansion Polish and linseed oil in an attempt to render them waterproof.

The outer shop contained Percy's limited stock of clubs. Hickory-shafted clubs were a thing of the past, but in 1949 chrome shafts had not arrived and were coated in brown enamel paint. Woods were all made of Persimmon and Laminated Woods arrived a few years later.

In those days the course was virtually deserted during the week. A few tradesmen played on a Wednesday afternoon (early closing), and I believe the ladies played on a Tuesday, as they do today. During the school holidays I played almost every day, usually by myself. The course was short and I played quickly (too quickly), so, many a day I played two rounds in the morning, before cycling home to lunch.

When it rained I joined Bert in the shop (Percy was usually out on the course in the week). Occasionally, we were both joined by a young man home on leave from the navy, Brian Fowler. I remember very clearly the two of them discussing the merits of Doris Day's latest film. They were both big fans. Brian was not a member then but joined soon afterwards and remains as one current member whom I remember from my earliest days at the Club.

The Social Make-up of the Club

Before Drink-Driving became a serious issue more alcohol was consumed than is the case today and the Social Make-up of the Club was wider than now. On the one hand we had an 'Artisans Section', the members of which, were not allowed to go into the Clubhouse, but had the use of a hut and they played very early on a Sunday morning. At the other end of the scale we had as members a larger number of 'Prominent Bristol Businessmen'. There were, of course, the Benson brothers, Lew drove a new Bentley and Alf a Bristol and several of the Senior Management of the B.A.C. were members, including R.S. Brown, the Managing Director, and Dr. Russell, who played a significant role in the design of Concord. Ernie Shields owned Shields Laundry, and, of course, Bert Neath.

My gap-year at Welch & Co. started in September 1955. The day before my starting at the Office I played in my first League Match, partnering Reg Westmancott at Sham Castle. On the third hole I scored the only "one" of my career (although later, in the Club Championship, did score a remarkable "three" at the "Pimple" (a short hole that no longer exists), after an "out of bounds". If anything, the "out of bounds" to the left, and therefore not a shank, was more remarkable than the holed nine iron, which went straight down the hole without touching the green.

The financial state of the Club in the fifties

All through this period the finances of the Club were shaky. As mere tenants of the B.A.C., we owned no assets of any value apart from a house, 12 Braemar Avenue, which was tenanted by the widow of our pre-war Professional, Fred Boobyer. This lack of security made our relationship with the Bank uncomfortable; The Bank in question was the National Provincial.

Later, in 1963, their lack of enthusiasm forced us to change to Lloyds, who had a rather more "enlightened" approach to our needs. Lloyds were prepared to make us a loan of £8,000, plus an overdraft facility of £1,000, whereas National Provincial where only prepared to provide a total of £4,000. The higher offer made possible the extension of the main bar and Men's Changing Rooms.

Earlier, in November 1959, the Council was so worried about the Club's finances that the Chairman, Sid Gray, wrote to every member, warning them that the following year we would be obliged to increase subscriptions by 20% for a Male Full Member.

This would see his annual subscription increase from £10.10s to £12.12s. He gave as his reasons substantial increases in Rates, Wages, Fuel & Light and an anticipated fall in the income from our gaming machines. Curiously, he made no mention of the additional costs stemming from two major projects which were then underway: the extension of the Course to include the land abutting B.A.C. playing field and the installation of water on the Greens. I will cover those two developments later.

All the administration was carried-out by a part-time Secretary, Mr Inchboard. At that time the Statutory Accounts were prepared by Eric Phipps who also did the Auditing and for his trouble was given temporary honorary membership. At Council Meetings Mr Inchboard presented a simple account of recent Income and Expenditure. Given the seasonal nature of the business and the normal fluctuations in Bar Stocks, such accounting was too crude to give the Council adequate control.

FILTON GOLF CLUB LIMITED

Club House,
Filton.

26 NOV 1959
Dear Sir,

Dear Member,

A forward review of our finances has shown quite clearly that we shall be faced with quite a sizeable deficit at the end of our Club year in March next.

An optimistic estimate is £500. Whilst it is hoped to cover some part of this from the proceeds of the Xmas Draw, details of which have already been sent out, the imperative need will be to increase our regular income.

In 1960/61 we shall have to meet additional expenditure on rates, wages, fuel and light, to mention three main items, and if present trends continue our income from Ways and Means may well be down by £150.

Your Council has given the matter very careful thought and it is their intention to propose for 1960-61 a subscription increase of approximately 25% on the basic rate of £10.10. 0. Other rates would be increased pro rata.

Here are some figures which I think will show how necessary it is that the Council's proposal should receive your support.

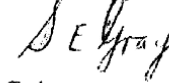
Additionally it can be expected that increased general maintenance and upkeep costs for both Course and Club House will have to be met.

	<u>1958/59</u>	<u>1960/61</u>	<u>Increase</u>
	£	£	£
Rates	90	230	140
Wages (Course)	1230	1330	100
Fuel & Light	150	220	70
W & M	700	550	150 decrease
			<u>£460.</u>

Writing thus early will give Members time to think about this proposal and to suggest alternative and/or additional means of increasing income.

Accordingly your Directors feel that this longer notice of their intentions is in the interests of all concerned.

Yours sincerely,



Chairman

Ralph Richards - In view of the dire state of the Club's finances and the need to convince the membership that no money was being wasted, Mr Neath suggested that one of his colleagues at Welch & Co Ltd., Ralph Richards, who was also a member of the Club and a Chartered Accountant (and as I have mentioned earlier, my first boss), should be asked to assist in the preparation of proper Management Accounts.

Ralph was later to become the Club's first Treasurer, and Chairman of our Trustee Directors, a post he held for twenty-five years. He, with the assistance of Ken Gooder, our Chairman in the late seventies, was principally responsible for negotiation of the purchase of the course from the Liquidator of Rolls Royce Ltd, the successor of the B.A.C., and also for raising the finance to pay for it. It should go without saying that over the years Ralph has played an enormously important part in the development of the Club, mostly behind the scenes.

He tells me that he was proposed for Council at the next Annual General Meeting in the spring of 1960, but for some reason he failed to attend the meeting and was not elected and the Council was obliged to co-opt him. The first Meeting he attended was on 9th August 1960. The "Ad Hoc" Meeting was 'Chaired' by Dr Maunsell, who had recently succeeded Sid Gray as Chairman of the Club and a Budget for the current year was presented. The 'Office for National Statistics' in 2006 says that the value of money has fallen by 15.5 times from 1960 to 2006. For your interest I show comparative figures, setting 1960 against 2006. The first column contains the original budget, the second those figures converted into today's currency, and in the third our budget for 2006.

	1960 Budget	1960 @2006 Prices	2006 Budget
Income			
Bar Profit	1400	21750	43000
Subscriptions	2400	37250	385000
Green Fees	600	9300	47500
Competitions	10	150	2300
Social Events & Sundries	200	3100	4700
Lockers & Trolleys	70	1100	3000
Rent of House	70	1100	NIL
Gaming Machines	500	7750	3500
Entrance Fees			6000
Total Income	5250	81500	495000
Course Expenditure			
Salaries & Wages	1225	19000	120000
Other	570	8850	71090
Total	1795	27850	191090
House Expenditure			
Salaries & Wages	1170	18200	53803
Other	566	8750	70500
Total	1736	26950	124303
General			
Overheads	1269	19700	138460
Depreciation	350	5450	52461
Total	1619	25150	190921
Summary			
Total Income	5250	81500	495000
Course Expenditure	1795	27850	191090
House	1736	26950	124303
General	1619	25150	190921
Total Expenditure	5150	79950	506314
Profit (Loss)	100	1550	(11314)

You will see that, after taking into account inflation, our expenditure has increased more than six times. Why is that?

There are three reasons:

1. We are supplying a service.
The retail price index is an average of the cost of goods and services. When the general standard of living is rising, the cost of services (which by definition are labour intensive) is bound to rise faster than the cost of goods. This fact is ignored by those who complain every year that our Council Tax is rising faster than the rate of inflation. It can only be held down by a reduction in services or by a bigger proportion of the cost being met by central government.
It follows that our costs have risen much faster than the fall in the value of money. For example a new Secretary, Leo Brown, was appointed in 1959 at a salary of £300 per annum, or £4,650 in today's money. Admittedly, he only worked part-time, but clearly the job of administering the Club could not be undertaken today at anything like that cost.
2. We are now supplying a much better service, with a much better Golf Course and Clubhouse facilities.
As an illustration of the change over the years, in 1959 we employed two full-time greens staff, assisted by a part-time professional. In July 1960 the wages of the two men were increased to £8 per week, and Percy Attwood was paid £225 a year. Now we have a full-time Greenstaff of six. No one would now accept the playing conditions of fifty years ago.

The quality of the Service we offer, both on the Course and in the Clubhouse, has to be competitive with other Clubs in the area. There is, and always has been, a sizable turnover of members every year. To attract an adequate number of replacements we have to pitch the quality of what we have to offer and its price at just the right level. Members and prospective members demand the highest quality they can reasonably afford. In a members' club it is the members themselves who determine the standard.

In the fifties our membership of all categories fluctuated between 275 and 300, - at around 275 at the end of each subscription year after the usual crop of resignations had been received, and 300 towards the end of the year after a steady flow of new members had been added. There were those who thought 300 too many, - in 1953 Lew Benson raised the issue at a Council Meeting, saying that in his opinion the course was becoming overcrowded; and years later, in 1962, Mike Hull wrote a letter to Council saying numbers should be restricted to 250 – 275. I remember this issue being raised again a few years later when I was a member of the Council. A colleague proposed that the subscriptions should be increased substantially, with two beneficial results: the course would become less crowded and in addition we would weed out the “riff-raff”. I pointed out that there were many nice members I could name who I knew struggled to pay the subscription at its existing level, and on the other hand I could name one or two with plenty of money who would please us all if they left the Club. There was general agreement that this was the case. With regard to “overcrowding” many members' expectations were un-reasonable. They believed that they should be able to turn up on any day of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays, without the need for starting times, and start at the first hole virtually without a wait. Apart from the Club Championship, in those days we did not use starting times.

Competitions for singles were held on three Saturdays a month: a Medal, a Bogey and a Stableford, and a Fourball Better Ball Bogey, was held every Sunday. We used a ball chute, and nobody expected to have to wait too long. We seemed to know everyone who was competing, and consequently on a Saturday afternoon (you must remember that most of us still worked a 5 ½ day week) we usually paired up as we arrived.

This practice made for a much more cohesive Club. If 300 were too many then, what about today? At the time of writing we have 743 members of all categories.

J.M. Clarke – 11th March 2006.

We now once again return to the Club Minutes, specifically, that of the 4th December 1956 which records that Mr Inchboard's appointment was not to everyone's approval as ***the Steward Mr Townsend resigned his position, due in part to a clash of personality with the Secretary.*** Mr and Mrs Farr were subsequently interviewed for the vacated position and Mr Farr became Steward on the 4th February 1957. They were to stay for two years. One further topic recorded that must be noted, was the decision by Mr Ernie Shield to stand down from Council. The Council regretted ***Mr E. Shield's decision to withdraw from re-election as a Director after 25 years valued service on the Council, and they wished to record their high appreciation for the work, trouble and labour put in by Mr Shield during his term as Director.*** Ernie Shield remained a loyal Club member until his death in June 1974.

Throughout the remainder of 1957 one of the Council's main objectives was once again to provide an 18 holes course for its members. Their considerable efforts were to no avail however, until in July 1958 the Club learned that three fields amounting to 7.5 acres (where the present 3rd, 4th & 5th holes are) would become available in the following February, and could be rented at an annual cost of 30/- an acre.

A delighted Council immediately negotiated a lease for the additional land and commissioned golf architects, Hawtree & Son, to produce a scheme incorporating the fields.

This they did having taken into account that the existing Course was played clockwise and as a consequence a player could slice to his heart's content without getting into real trouble. To balance things up a bit, the new holes they designed were to be played anticlockwise, with an out of bounds on the right. The construction of the holes would start in the spring of 1959 and the Council was confident that ***the project could be financed very economically, utilising the Club's own resources and with Benson Brothers Limited providing the equipment and labour to undertake the initial Ground Work.*** As a sequence to this it is recorded on 20th August 1959 that ***Council expressed their deep appreciation to Messrs Bensons for their practical and financial help in preparing foundations for the new Course.*** At the same meeting the resignation of the Secretary, Mr Inchboard, was accepted for 31st March 1960

Things didn't go exactly to plan, despite the groundwork being completed by the Council Meeting on the 7th October 1959; the records confirm ***the payment of three invoices from Benson Brothers Limited totalling £371-6s-7d on completion of the Ground Work.*** The lack of resources meant that the project took much longer to complete than originally intended and as a result the holes were not officially opened until June 1962. At the same time as the new holes were under construction it was decided that it would be prudent for the Club to install an irrigation system.

This project created a great deal of controversy - even acrimony - with many members believing the high cost (£2,100) and resulting high water bills could not be justified. ***The scheme's proponents were fully aware that most local Courses were embarking on similar schemes, and we would find it very difficult, if not impossible, to maintain our membership at a viable level without watered Greens.***

One thing for sure is that it didn't prevent Mr K.P. Gooder, the next significant member to join the Club, from doing so on 12th November 1959.

Ken would go on to become a Club Captain and its President, a position he held for 5 years. ***Also he, with the assistance of Ralph Richards, the Clubs Treasurer in the late seventies, was principally responsible for negotiation of the purchase of the course from the Liquidator of Rolls Royce Ltd, who had acquired the Course from the B.A.C.***



Ken Gooder

Yet another important change took place on 10th December 1959 with the announcement that Mr L.G. Brown was to become the Honorary Secretary, from 4th January 1960, Mr Inchboard having left before the previously agreed official date it seems. Leo Brown, must have wondered what on earth he had let himself in for particularly as it was necessary for him to become involved in the Club's 5 year, ongoing dispute with the B.A.C. over a Lease, and as the Clubs representative along with the Chairman they had their wrists slapped by the B.A.C. It is recorded in the Minutes for the 1st March 1960 the Chairman reported on a Meeting he and the Secretary had had with ***Mr H.T. Fream, Assistant Company Secretary, B.A.C. Mr Fream had said that the Company was tired of waiting as the matter of the Lease had been going on since 1954. They were not prepared under any circumstances to extend the Lease beyond one year and he expressed his own personal view that the Club would be better off with a Lease than without one.***

The rent charged was a very low one and there was no intention, as far as he knew, to increase it. Neither was it likely that the clauses relating to Hedges, Drainage, etc. would be rigorously applied. The matter was very fully discussed although Mr Fream did not know the viewpoint of the present 'Rulers' of the B.A.C. It was unanimously agreed that the Lease be signed as now amended. Harry Fream, subsequently joined the Club.

Now that a lease had been sorted out, the previously distinct possibility that all was going to collapse in a heap was dispelled. Well, not quite, as on 27th May 1960 it was reported that ***Woodworm had been found in the Clubhouse Structure and a disinfection programme commenced which would be completed in a week or two.*** Dry Rot had also been found in the Cellar underneath the Bar.

As if this wasn't enough something else would once again raise its unwelcome head with the continuing saga over trespass on the Course. On the 28th June 1960, concern was expressed, by members over trespass and the Police were asked for assistance. To support their request ***the Club offered the Chief Constable of Gloucester use of the Course for the training of Police Dogs*** and although we don't know whether this tactic worked, the local Inspector did promise more Policing of the Course.

Very much like the latter, some problems may never be resolved and you can only minimise their impact, but how fortunate we were that on 9th August 1960 – ***The Chairman Dr Maunsell extended a welcome to Mr R.H.A. Richards, a new member of Council. After a discussion regarding 'Budgets' for the forthcoming year, Mr Richards undertook to confer with the Secretary as to the best method of effecting economies and of presenting periodic 'Financial Statements' to the Council.***

Ralph would go on to serve the Club, not only as a Council Member and its Treasurer but also as the Chairman of the Directors right up until 2004, when he finally decided that 'It might be nice, just to play golf'.

To his great credit Ralph never wished recognition for any of his considerable work on the Club's behalf, particularly in the 1970's when he and Ken Gooder, played a very significant part in the Purchase of the Course from Rolls Royce. **Ralph, we thank you most sincerely.**



Ralph Richards

CHAPTER 8

THE SWINGING SIXTIES – (August 1960 to November 1969)

One of the first tasks to befall Mr Richards, as a Council Member, was to prepare a Legal Notice on the Tenants to quit 12 Braemar Avenue in an attempt to get Mr and Mrs Boobyer to vacate the property. If this wasn't tricky enough, at a Council meeting on 21st December 1960 he along with all the Council members had to come to grips with an entirely different matter, when the Chairman reported that on the 10th December 1960 an ***altercation arose between a Member, Mr Pook and the Steward, in the course of which the latter was struck by Mr Pook and had received Hospital treatment.*** It was further explained that ***Mr Pook, was seen by the Chairman, Captain, Mr Benson and Secretary on Monday 12th December, when he agreed to the facts as stated. He was told that this un-official Committee took a very serious view and it was suggested that, in his own interest and in the interest of the Club and all concerned, he should resign from the Club. He expressed his thanks for the consideration shown him,*** but despite this no Letter of resignation was received. A full discussion took place and it was proposed and seconded that ***under Rule 19, paragraph 1, Mr Pook should no longer continue to be a Member of Filton Golf Club.*** Mr Morris the Steward left a few months later in March 1961, although there is no suggestion that his leaving was due to the incident.

Things were not all bad though, as the next topic raised on the 25th January 1961 was certainly one to please many of the members. A proposal to ***present all Club Trophies on one night, possibly on the occasion of the 'Stag Party', was carried.*** This decision established a tradition, which is still considered to be one of the 'Highlights of the Annual Social Calendar'. The 'Presentation Evening' is one of celebration, when along with their guests and fellow members, all of the 'Competition Winners' for the year gather to be awarded their respective trophies. There is no finer sight than to see all the Clubs 'Silverware' on display for this occasion.

Time for change, it seems was also the view expressed at the Council Meeting on 1st March 1961 by the ***Chairman, Mr Maunsell, who said that owing to unforeseen circumstances he had been unable to present his views earlier. It was now too late to recommend any alterations he had regarding the 'Future Management of the Club' at the Annual General Meeting, this year.***

However, he had had in mind that the system followed by the Club for 50 years, of having a Council with two main Committees each reporting to a monthly meeting of the Council was cumbersome and out of date.

He then expressed his views on how, in his opinion, the Club should be managed in the future, explaining, that four individual Committee's, 'Greens', 'Match & Handicap', 'Juniors' and 'House & Social', each with equal importance, should be free to get on with their jobs without constant reference to the Council, thus obviating much of the time wasting of the past. Breaking with tradition and altering the 'Articles of Association' would present some difficulty, but he felt members of Council should think along these lines.

It would seem from the May Council Meeting, that Council member Mr Clifford was also of the same opinion as the Chairman as it was ***agreed to circulate his memorandum to all members of Council before the next Council Meeting.***

A number of ***amendments were made to Mr Clifford's proposal and it was agreed to accept the proposal, in principle. It was further agreed that the various suggestions made with reference to alterations in the management of the Club be left until after the Rules Committee had made their report.***

Rules were also to play a big part in the life of one person, Mr D.F. O'Leary, who was enrolled as a Country Member on the 8th May 1961. Don became a Full Member in 1969 and would play a significant role in future Club affairs, and there will be more on this later.

On a sad note for the Club, **Percy Attwood announced his retirement after 24 unstinting years of 'Loyal Service', as the Club Professional and when required also the Head Greenkeeper.** This wasn't the last we would see of Percy as he was offered 'Part Time Work', at an hourly rate, up to £3 or £3-10s-0d per week. Percy accepted, having ***expressed a wish to continue to work on the new Greens until they were fit to play.***



Percy Attwood Retirement

With all these issues ongoing, it must have been quite a relief to Council, to just deal with the real and tangible issues of the day to day running of a Club. Two of these were raised on the 6th June 1961, when it ***was reported by Mr C.E. (Bert) Neath, who was enrolled as the new Chairman of Council, a position he held for the next 15 years, that the Course badly needed rain and the Gang Mowers required a re-grind; the first was hoped for and the second was in hand.*** Also that the ***appointment of a new Professional was still under consideration, as one of the difficulties about appointing a full time Professional was that the Club had no practice ground.*** It was intended however, to use the old 18th tee, when the new 18th was in play.

The Club finances were still of great concern, but at least Council were now being kept fully aware of the situation. This was, in no small part, due to Ralph Richards becoming more involved and influential, and ***thanks were expressed to Mr Richards for his excellent work in keeping Council posted on the current financial position.*** In addition Mr Richards ***undertook to peruse and revise, if necessary, the Draft Service and Occupancy Agreement in respect of the Steward.***

A point of interest, in this time of austerity it is reported in the Council Minutes of 3rd July 1961, that it was proposed to award the new Steward, Mr J.L. Anderson, formally of the 'White Hart', Park Row, **a Bonus calculated on the amount of fuel he saved.** As it turned out, records show that the winter of 1962 was one of the coldest ever recorded and as such proved not to be very lucrative for Mr Anderson.

Another topic discussed, was that of Trespass; Council agreed that a **'Ranger' might be employed and to an expenditure of £50 per annum on this project.**

This wasn't the only appointment made as it was also recorded that **John Fergus of Potters Bar had been appointed Club Professional as from 1st July 1961. His retainer would be £4 per week, plus meals allowance of 30/-.** With his appointment, came certain alterations **in the Professional's Hut; the shop would now be in the inner room and would not be accessible to members unless the Professional was present. It was proposed to move shoe racks to the Locker Room and set up racks for Clubs in the Trolley Shed.**

The proposed prices to be charged by the Professional were:

Shoe Cleaning	1/- per week
Teaching	6/- per lesson or 12/- per hour
Playing with member	15/- per round
Playing in a 4 Ball	£1 per round

One other matter discussed and agreed at the meeting, were the final **arrangements for the 'Open Bill Heyward Trophy' to be played on the 12th August, with prizes to the value of £20 on offer.** It was subsequently reported that on the whole **this had been a successful 'Open' event, although support by other Club's had been disappointing. On future occasions a 'Starting Times' list should be published.** This, wasn't the only 'Open' to be played at this time as mentioned at the Council Meeting on 14th August, was **arrangements for the 'Open Day' in aid of the 'Percy Attwood Testimonial Fund' were well in hand; £104- 16s-4d for Percy's 'Testimonial Fund', had been received to date.**

Fund raising was also underway in support of the **'Water on the Greens Fund'** and it was **reported that £532 had been collected with a further £245 promised. Mr Hull stated that several members had said they would not subscribe to the Water on the Greens Fund unless action were taken regarding the Steward, who along with his wife were felt to be unsuitable.** Other Council members gave instances of unsatisfactory work. It was decided that **Mr & Mrs Anderson be given a month's notice to terminate their engagement. Mr Morgan said he could now promise to get a further £300 subscribed and it was also agreed that a list of subscribers be exhibited in the 'Club Room'.** True to their word, at the next Council Meeting it was reported that the sum subscribed now stood at £1,242-10s-0d. The 'Notice' didn't go down too well with all members however, as a **letter was received from a Mr R.G. Hewitt criticising the publication of the list of subscribers.** It is not known whether Mr Hewitt subscribed to the fund but it is suspected he didn't.

On the playing front, at their Council Meeting held on the 25th September the Chairman of the Match and Handicap Committee, mentioned that **Filton Golf Club had again won the Championship of the 'Western Daily Press' League. Also that the 'Open Day' in aid of the Percy Attwood Testimonial Fund had been very successful and he felt the new Steward, coincidently a Mr Steward, had done remarkably well.**

One significant breakthrough, for Lady Members, or so it was thought, came with the recommendation from the House Committee, ***that the Men's Club Room should be made available to all members after 8.30 p.m. on Saturday evenings.*** This affront, as 31 members saw it, forced Council to change the original recommendation, on receiving their letter of complaint. It was eventually agreed that the Men's 'Club Room' should be made available to all members after 8.30 p.m. on Saturday evenings, ***when deemed necessary.***

Regarding the Course, it was reported to Council at their Meeting on 27th October that, many members had ***expressed appreciation of the 'New' Holes*** and it was agreed that the ***order of their play would not be decided until after the Special General Meeting.*** Also recorded was that ***several Clubs had been stolen from the 'Trolley Shed' by boys who had entered through an insecure window. The culprits had been apprehended and would be brought before the Courts.*** It was subsequently reported that the boys had been fined and most of the property returned. The good news was to continue when at the following Meeting on 22nd November it was announced that collecting for the ***Percy Attwood Testimonial Fund had now stopped and a cheque for the £200 raised, which would be paid to Percy by Mr E. (Ernie) Shield, the Club's oldest playing member.***

At this same meeting further discussion took place about the scheme to install 'Water on the Greens'. ***The 'Fund' now stood at £1,553 and the Chairman expressed the hope it would reach £2,000. Continuing, the Chairman reported on an interview he and the Captain had had with the Chief Engineer of the Bristol Water Works Company. It appeared that there would be no difficulty in getting sufficient water for the scheme, but the Chief Engineer was insistent that it be picked up at one point only, preferably near the B.A.C. Canteen. It would be necessary to get permission from B.A.C. to connect to their main. A distribution pump with a 500 gallons tank would be installed near the clubhouse, but before sizes of pipes could be determined, it must be agreed as to the number of greens, which were too watered at any one time.***

Correspondence between himself and Mr R.S. Brown of the B.A.C. was read and from this it would appear that the Club could anticipate the fullest co-operation. It was therefore agreed that Council would go to the Special General Meeting, and ***tell the members that the Club can go ahead with the scheme, provided water was indeed available and that the fund is sufficient to start.*** As a postscript it was recorded in the Minutes of a Council meeting held on 25th June 1962 that the ***'Scheme' was now completed and working well, that the approximate cost of the Scheme was £2,037 of which £1,935 had been donated.*** A further Council Minute states that ***in consideration of their having subscribed appropriate amounts to the Fund, the following elections was approved:***

Family Life Membership (£150)

Mr and Mrs C.E. Neath.

Full Life Membership (£100)

Mr L.J. Benson, Mr W.S. Clarke, Dr G. Morton Evans, Mr W. Greenfield, Mr P.F. Hawkins, Mr A.S.C. Meredith, Mr A. Benson, Mr S.H. Johns & Mr P.J. Hurley

5 Years Membership (£75)

Mr and Mrs Westmancott

5 Year Membership (£50)

Mr R. Hartley, Mr D. Hitchen, Mr R.H.A. Richards, Mr W.J. Roach & Mr J.M. Clarke

Full Annual Membership was £14-0s-0d at this time.

A further matter considered by Council at the meeting, was raised by ***the Steward, who complained that, on occasions, conversation emanating from the Men's wash room was unfit for children's ears and had been heard in their quarters; it was agreed that a notice would be put up.*** How times have changed, it's now the adults that need protecting from the children's language. Also recorded is that the Secretary was asked to ***write to Norman Wisdom to become an Honorary Member of the Club during the period of the Hippodrome Pantomime.*** Oh no they didn't, Oh yes they did!!

The most important issue was left until last when the Chairman mentioned that ***Mr Clifford challenged the validity of the election (for Officers and Directors) held at the Annual General Meeting on the grounds that they were a contravention of Rule 14(d) of the Club Rules. Whilst he had no doubt that Mr Clifford had written in the best spirit, the Chairman of Council had deemed it wise to consult the Club's Solicitor. He had advised that, whilst Club Rule 14(d) is inconsistent with the voting rights conferred on members of the Company by the Articles of Association, the Articles of Association must prevail so far as voting rights are concerned. A letter on these lines along with a copy of the Solicitors letter was sent to Mr Clifford.*** At their next Meeting a further letter from Mr Clifford was discussed and ***Mr Richards agreed to consult with Mr Lyons, the Club's Solicitor with reference to the proposed change of Club Rule.***

If all this wasn't enough the Club Professional John Fergus, as reported to Council at their Meeting on 23rd July, was unhappy in his work at the Club:

He felt he was not getting the support of the members and he was sorry more members did not ask him to play with them, particularly in local Alliance Meetings.

He would like to be invited to attend meetings of the Greens Committee, where he could give his views on the Course.

He regretted putting up the notice in his shop about credit not being available, but he was coming to the end of his financial resources because of the large amount of money owed him.

He felt he was not getting sufficient support from members requiring lessons.

After a full discussion, it was agreed that ***John Fergus should be invited to meetings of the Greens Committee and that the Secretary should ask him for a list of money owed him, for the confidential information of the Captain and himself. It was further agreed, that he be invited to attend a special meeting of the Greens Committee, at which his grievances would be further discussed.***

At the Council Meeting on 13th August, which was prior to the Annual General Meeting, ***Mr Rees asked, what steps had been taken to alter the Club Rule relating to election at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman replied that the Club's Solicitor was being consulted with a view to obtaining the necessary amendments to the Articles of Association.***

It would seem that the amendments were not forthcoming in time for the Annual General Meeting and the Chairman gave his assurance that things were indeed in hand.

This wasn't good enough for some it would appear, as at the following Council Meeting on 14th September 1962 the Chairman **said that he had been insulted at that meeting when certain questions had been asked. He had since received a letter, which in his opinion was also insulting. The people concerned had already been informed that it had already been decided to consult a Solicitor with reference to the election of Officers and Directors. If the attitude shown by the non-acceptance of the Council's word continued, it would be a very bad thing for the Club.**

The Club Solicitor had advised that it was not possible to take away the rights of shareholders without the Company going into liquidation, which would be an expensive procedure. The Chairman said he was convinced that the agitation on this matter, if continued, would ruin the Club and unless he could feel he had the backing of his fellow Directors, he was unable to continue; a hearty and unanimous vote of confidence was accorded the Chairman.

On the 19th October the **Chairman informed Council that he had again been in touch with the Solicitor on this matter, but the cost of amending the Articles of Association appeared to be prohibitive. He hoped to have an authoritative opinion in the next 14 days.** In fact it was a month later that Council at their meeting on 21st November 1962 were informed by the Chairman of **consultations the Club Solicitor had had with 'Counsel' as to the possibility of altering the Constitution of the Company to cover points raised by certain members at the last Annual General Meeting. In Counsel's opinion the Constitution could so be amended but it would entail an enormous amount of work by Club Officials and would cost about £150 guineas plus certain other cost.**

As an alternative, a Club distinct from the 'Company' could be formed and the Company could then lease its assets to the Club, which would operate as a separate entity. The cost of making this change would be about £50 guineas but the liability of individual members would become un-limited. Mr Rees argued that the shareholders can alter the 'Rules of the Company,' but was reminded by the Chairman that they cannot interfere with Company Law.

After further discussion, it was proposed by Mr G. Hamilton and seconded by Mr R.H.A. Richards, and unanimously resolved that having gone fully into this question the **Council does not feel justified in spending money in this manner and should now allow the matter to drop.**

With no specific regard to the above, what is particularly sad and depressing with incidents such as this, is that despite working tirelessly, diligently and voluntarily on behalf of all a Club's Members, who, it must be remembered, would have elected their trusted fellow members to 'Run a Club' on their behalf.

A Committee or its individuals might at their own expense, in time and money and at any whim need to justify their credibility and honesty, all because they may be called into question, by one or more, unfortunate individuals. Invariably such people do not wish to become involved as 'Officials' but are merely satisfied to criticise and discredit others, from afar, generally with no tangible evidence, basis or concern about any of the consequences. **Fortunately they are but a few.**

That said, it is reported that the other Club activities were being enjoyed by the members. Social events were being arranged throughout the year, which included 'Whist Drives', 'Bridge Evenings', 'Stag Nights' and 'Dances'. These events as you would expect, were encouraged, not only for everyone's enjoyment, but also to augment income. A dedicated House Committee was actively involved and special praise was expressed to **Mr Howland and Mrs Westmancott for their work in organising the Annual Dance and selling tickets, also to Mr Evans who confirmed that final arrangements were made for the Stag Party; 60 members had promised to attend and there would be some guests. A pianist had been engaged and Mr Evans had arranged a 'Golf Quiz'. Prizes for a short 'Bingo' session were donated by the Chairman and supper would be served at 7.30 p.m.**

To facilitate these events the Clubhouse interior was painted by volunteer members, this in an attempt to control expenditure. Mr Richards reported that the present financial position was satisfactory but caution was expressed.

The 'New Year' saw the resignation of Mr and Mrs R.S. Brown and Dr and Mrs D.S. Maunsell, on 30th January 1963. **Appreciation of many services rendered to the Club by Mr R.S. Brown was placed on record** and it was unanimously resolved to offer him Honorary Life Membership. **Dr Maunsell's outstanding service as a Director, as Captain and as Chairman,** was also marked by a unanimous resolution that he too be offered Honorary Life Membership.

At this same meeting it was reported **that due to the extremely wintry weather of the past few weeks the Steward had had to face quite intolerable conditions. The water storage tank had been frozen for 5 weeks causing the hot water supply and all but the ladies toilet to be out of service. In addition the roof would require re-covering and the plumbing re-organised, at an approximate cost of £1,500.** It was decided to place the whole situation before the next Annual General Meeting but in the meanwhile **Mr Benson promised to look into the matter and make any necessary repairs, when the weather was suitable.**

As if this wasn't enough, on the 5th April it is recorded that **Mr Lew Benson should call in an Architect to draw up a 'Master Plan' of improvements and extensions of the Clubhouse.** One benefit from having the Course closed at this time was that the Greenstaff could be engaged in the Clubhouse to augment decoration work being undertaken by the members. For those of us who are 'old enough to remember', Bristol was brought to a complete standstill, due to an exceptionally heavy fall of snow and it was one of the worst winters on record.

On the 1st March, prior to the Annual General Meeting, **the Chairman of Council thanked the Committee Members for their support during the year. He was particularly grateful to the Captain, Stanley Clarke, for his work on the Course and for obtaining suitable staff. He applauded the courage of the Council in putting water on the Greens and looked forward to seeing its benefit in the future.**

He felt sure that all Members of the Council had the Club's interest at heart and had the time to assist in successfully running the Club. The Club Captain went on to explain that **the question of opening the Course had been considered in February, but the Greens Committee had agreed to keep it closed,** as the weather didn't permit, despite the Course having been out of play for three months. On the resumption of play three new holes, Rannoch, Bowling Green and Long Hill were introduced.

Their opening wasn't problem free however, as a letter of complaint from the **B.A.C. Welfare Association with reference to the danger to the members of their Bowling Club, from golf balls** was received. A number of suggestions to overcome this problem would be discussed over a period of time, which included constructing a high fence. It seems moving the tee eventually resolved the matter.

Following the Annual General Meeting the Council met on 5th April 1963 to discuss the issues raised and to elect their Council Chairman. Having been re-elected **Bert Neath extended a warm welcome to the new members of the Council and he reminded all members that they were freely elected and not a gathering of 'yes men' but a body of people gathered together to improve the Course and improve the Club. He also hoped that they would be able to put the finances of the Club on a better footing. He reminded them also that the Council is 'In Committee' and he particularly asked all members to keep what was said in Committee within the four walls.**

The Chairman then went on to read a **letter from Sir Stanley G. White in which he regretfully declined the office of President.** It was agreed to **write to Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith asking him to become President of the Club and assuring him that this was the unanimous wish of the Council.** Sir Reginald-Verdon Smith subsequently became President in August and asked that he be elected a Full Playing Member.

Discussion now ensued regarding matters arising from the Annual General Meeting and the **Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Auditor were asked to prepare a statement of their views on the question of changing the financial year in time for the next Council Meeting.** It was subsequently agreed on 2nd July 1963 that although no real advantage would be gained by the Club in altering the present arrangement it would be more convenient for the Honorary Auditor if the Financial Year ended on 31st December. It was therefore resolved **that the Subscriptions and Playing Year should continue to be from 1st April to 31st March, but that the Financial Year should be from 1st January to 31st December.**

A suggestion **to organise a Lottery, for a Motor Car, was also discussed and Mr W. Stanley Clarke, owner of 'City Motors' was appointed 'Official Organiser' to look further into the matter.** It was also decided that the **Lottery should be in aid of the 'Building Fund' and Mr Richards undertook to enquire into the legal position.** It was subsequently reported that an article in the 'Journal of the National Association of Golf Club Secretaries' made it clear that although a Lottery on the lines proposed would be illegal, it would be in order to run a 'Competition' on a much smaller scale.

Through a lack of support the Lottery did not materialise and a bank loan was necessary to carry out the Clubhouse building work.

You may recall that an Artisans Club was formed in October 1947 to increase membership at that time.

It now seems, **that in view of the increase in membership of the Parent Club, it was necessary to restrict membership of the Artisans and that the future of the Artisans Club should be seriously discussed in the near future.** The Artisans were not the only people under discussion, as it was also necessary to review applications for a new Club Professional, following the resignation of John Fergus, who had joined 'Brough Golf Club'. John's reason for leaving was the lack of income.

He wasn't the only member of Staff to depart however, as yet another Steward resigned. **Mr & Mrs Steward would leave on 5th December and Mr & Mrs R.W. Morgan, their replacements, would commence work on the same day.** At the conclusion of the Meeting on 2nd December 1963, Council received Mr & Mrs Steward and thanked them for all they had done for the Club during their stay and presenting them with a cheque for £14-0s-0d.

One piece of good news was that the year long, Greenstaff 'Merry Go Round' had finally come to a halt. Mr P.L. Tooley had left in June and his understudy Mr R.J. Stewart had replaced him. This arrangement was to last for only 1 month, before he was downgraded following the Club taking on Mr Clive Ball as Head Greenkeeper: Clive it seems had **had several years experience at Shirehampton Park Golf Club and Bristol & Clifton Golf Club.** If Council thought that Clive's appointment would now provide a period of stability then they were in for another shock, as his appointment didn't last very long either, being replaced by Geoffrey Hutton in May 1964.

If trumpets heralding all these many changes were not heard, one thing was as **music emanated from the new Record Player and Radio that was purchased and installed in the Clubhouse, thank to the generosity of Peter Hurley.**

A lamentable tune was heard at the Council's first Meeting on 27th January 1964, when the **Chairman said he felt he must express his concern about the future finances of the Club. At a previous meeting, the question of future extensions to the Clubhouse and the necessity of raising funds to meet the cost had been discussed. The Captain had estimated the upkeep of the Course to be cost £4,000 per annum, which was approximately the amount received in Subscriptions and Greenfees. The Clubhouse was not self-supporting and the Bar was not being sufficiently patronised. The Club must run as a business and in order to pay its way it was obvious more income was required and this meant more members.** Yet again the Club was to start a year under pressure. Nevertheless, a Loan for £5,000 was arranged with Lloyds Bank at Filton so that once a decision was reached, Building Work, may proceed. Consideration was also being given to the purchase of a second property, which might be necessary if the Club needed to find accommodation for a Head Greenkeeper.

Also at the meeting the Honorary Treasurer presented a **Statement of Income and Expenditure over the year ending 31st December 1963, which showed a deficit of £935.** He pointed out that an Income of approximately £8,000 per annum was required to run the Club and in addition, Standing Loan charges would have to be met.

After discussion it was unanimously resolved that the **Annual Subscription for Full Members be raised by £1 to £15-0s-0d and other rates pro rata.** It was further resolved that **no Entrance Fee be charged for a period of not less than 2 years.**

If this financial position wasn't depressing enough it was reported on 24th February 1964, that during the last **7 weeks of Morgan's period as Steward there had been a deficiency of £88-16s-3d, for which he could offer no explanation and had left, taking the Scales?** It seems he had not left an address, but efforts were being made to find him. A Mr and Mrs F.E. Brown, it appears, **had made a promising start and seemed anxious to please,** although the couple were only to last for 10 months being replaced by **Mr and Mrs Cornish in December 1964.**

There was some good news however, in that, the new Club Professional, Peter Mawson, **had made a good start and his shop was well stocked.** Peter would serve the Club for the next 12 years.

Change wasn't only restricted to the Club's personnel as Council at their meeting on 14th April agreed to once again implement a 'sub-Committee Management Structure' back into the Club. This meant that there was now the '**Greens**', '**Match & Handicap**', '**House**' and '**Social Committee**', **each one reporting directly to the Club Council**. It was further agreed that at the first meeting of each Committee the **responsibility of each member should be clearly defined and incorporated in the Minutes**; Quorum of each Committee to be two. It was also noted that the **proposed Amendment to the Articles of Association, this change entailed, was unanimously passed at the Annual General Meeting** and it was resolved, that this be registered with the Registrar of Companies.

This was indeed a meeting for change, as the tradition of presenting the **Outgoing Captain with an Inscribed Tankard or some suitable memento** was started. At a subsequent Council Meeting it was agreed, **that the 'Captain Elect' should be chosen each year by an ad-hoc Committee of 'Past Captains'**, which remains to this day.

If consideration was being extended to the Captain then pity the poor old Chairman. One thing the Club couldn't be accused of is looking after the Chairman of Council's interests as on 22nd May 1964 it was reported that **the Truck loaned by the Chairman was now completely unserviceable**. He probably didn't express his appreciation on its return.

The Professional on the other hand would have been delighted with the news, that following a meeting on 26th June 1964 **steps were being taken to provide some sort of communication between the Kitchen and Professional, which would save much time in calling the Professional to the telephone**. This perhaps conjures up a picture of two tins connected by a long length of string.

More importantly, a decision that would have more effect on the Club than any Rule change was reached. It was unanimously agreed to accept **Mr Howland's offer to organise a 'Seniors Section' on the lines of other Clubs**; now we know, who to blame!

Throughout all the troubles and strife over many years, it is encouraging and reassuring to realise that the Club's currently elected representatives on Council are very much like their predecessors, in that they are also made of 'Stern Stuff'.

Well at least that's what it seemed, as it was reported that at their September Meeting, during a discussion regarding 'Private Parties' the discussion was interrupted by the arrival of the **Fire Brigade who were looking for a fire in a hedge on the Course**.

The 'Fire Brigade Party' obviously didn't realise that there were much more important matter to discuss, and the meeting continued following the interruption, without a single member of Council going to see what it was all about. At the meeting It was eventually agreed that **Private Parties were welcome, but that they should be arranged through the Secretary and a Notice warning members and giving the day of the event should be posted**; The Fire Brigade please note!

This was a long meeting indeed, as following a complaint discussion also took place about Trolleys being left in the Locker Room. The Secretary was asked to '**Warn the Delinquents**'.

The delinquents were not Council's only cause for concern, as the Bristol Council notified the Club that under consideration was a '**Proposed New Road**'.

Fortunately the road, which was to have gone right across the Course, linking Charlton Drive with Southmead Road was not scheduled to be built for at least 15 or 20 years, or as it happened, never.

The matter had to be taken very seriously at the time however, so much so that ***the Club were actively looking for a new site to construct a Course.*** How they intended to finance such a plan, we will never know, but at least if they needed to then help would be at hand in the form of ***Mr R.H.A. Richards***, as on the 18th May 1965 Council received a Financial Statement from Ralph ***in his new role as Honorary Treasurer.***

As if he hadn't enough to do Ralph along with his fellow Council members would attend a 'Special Meeting' on 13th August 1965, to discuss a ***written complaint of unsatisfactory behaviour on the Course by a fellow member***; the first incident reported had been discussed by Council in May and a second in June. Following the second incident, Council had agreed to take no action against the individual but a new development appeared to necessitate prompt action. ***The member along with two boys had 'cut-in' on a fellow member and his wife while the couple were playing their round, and had himself played 2 balls on several tees with a result the couple had to wait on every tee.*** The Captain reported that the following day to the latest incident two members had reported similar incidents to him and the day after that four other members had complained. ***The Chairman remarked that the individual concerned had been a member of the Club for many years and was a good member for a long time. He had, however, never been quite the same since a serious illness a year or two ago. He was apparently anxious that his boy should become a good golfer, but we could not get away from the fact of these numerous complaints.*** After a full discussion it was agreed that the member ***be interviewed and warned quite defiantly that any further substantiated complaints would result in his resignation being requested.*** When interviewed the member ***admitted he had been at fault on a number of occasions and undertook to apologise to one member whose name, he said, was not previously known and said he would do his best not to give offence again.*** It is a credit to Council that after taking into account the members mitigating circumstances, that they took such a sensible decision.

A lesson, from this for us all perhaps, is that should we be involved in similar incidents, follow the procedure adopted in this case, and report it to the Secretary in writing. There may after all be a genuine personal reason for a ***fellow member's*** irrational or abusive conduct, which in no way is an acceptable excuse, but two wrongs don't make a right. If on investigation a fellow member was out of order then at least the matter can be dealt with under Club Rule 11 concerning Discipline. As a postscript to this the individual ***remained a loyal Club member and in 1967 become involved in the control and encouragement of the Junior Section.***

Over the years relatively few disciplinary matters have needed to be addressed in this way by Council but one that was, is recalled by a former Secretary who while on duty in the Clubhouse was verbally attacked.

This, unprovoked and irrational incident from such a normally placid and private individual although completely out of character, was reported to the Council by a member who had witnessed the incident. As a result the individual's membership was suspended for one month, and he was warned over his future behaviour. A year later he died from Cancer and it was surmised that he had been told of his illness around the time of his outburst; the tragedy is that despite being given the opportunity on a number of occasions he was unable to share with someone his problem.

A message from this perhaps is that no Club member should feel isolated and fearful of asking for help. The Secretary, Club representatives or indeed fellow members, would be only too pleased to help, if at all possible, and the Club should be thought of as an extended family.

A surprising topic raised at the Council Meeting on 21st September, was that a ***Sub-Committee consisting of the Captain, Vice Captain and Secretary was appointed to assess priorities for admission from the 'Waiting List' and to interview prospective members if necessary***; membership numbers now stood at 400 in all categories. Concern over this change of emphases, was shown in a letter from the Secretary of the 'Filton Artisans Golf Club' asking that ***their members be given the opportunity of joining the Parent Club when the Artisans Club closes down***. This was referred to the Sub-Committee. The Club ***Secretary was to take any necessary steps to complete the winding-up of the Artisans Club and to ask the B.A.C. for permission to use the hut (supplied by them in 1947) for other Club purposes***. After almost 20 years the Artisans Club was wound-up in April 1965.

Interestingly perhaps, one name recorded in the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 4th November 1965, who was subject to being ***placed on the Waiting List and admitted as vacancies occur, subject to a satisfactory interview by the Membership Sub-Committee*** was that of a Chairman of Council Mr Maurice S. Staggs.

From the Club's perspective the mood was buoyant, now that talk about proposed Clubhouse improvements, increased membership numbers and an indication that the Club's finances, were all under reasonable control.

The only matter remaining requiring immediate attention was to negotiate a new lease with Landlords B.A.C., which once again took centre stage. This time though, rather than taking 6 years to secure an agreement, Council on 2nd December 1965 agreed to enter into a 14 year lease, at £750 per annum, which the B.A.C. had offered. B.A.C. also mentioned that an addition ½ Acre of an adjoining field next to the Clubhouse was available for an extension to the Car Park, for which a further lease for this option was taken up.

The remainder of 1965 seems to have passed without hitch and the next significant matter came by way of the Chairman of the House Committee, ***Harry Fream, (former Assistant Secretary of the B.A.C.)***. ***At the Council Meeting on 24th February 1966 he said that he had nothing to report, except to say that the repeated burglaries are becoming somewhat of a nuisance and he hoped all possible precautions were being made to safeguard our cigarette and spirit stock; 'good man'.***

It was reported later in the year that a 'Burglar Alarm' was installed

More importantly the question of improvements to the Clubhouse was discussed at length at the meeting and the following possibilities talked about.

- 1 An approach to be made to the Athlon (Driving Range) Company regarding the possibility of a con-joint new Clubhouse.
- 2 Raising a loan of about £25,000, say over 20 years and completely rebuild.
- 3 Approach the members, as had happened for the 'Water on the Greens Scheme', to raise money for modest improvements, say £2,000 - £3000.
- 4 Go to the limit of our available Bank overdraft (£5,000) and carry out a slightly more ambitious scheme.

When you consider that at the same meeting the ***Chairman of Greens mentioned to the Council, that his Committee had been working on a 'shoe-string' and requested an increased budget for 1966 of £4,000***, it does make you wonder why discussion over such a significant financial undertaking was taking place at all. But like most businesses standing still isn't an option and through luck or good judgement their future is determined. In the Club's case there was another ingredient to 'put in the mix'. We were fortunate to have a shrewd and prudent Honorary Treasurer in control of the purse strings. This regrettably wasn't to last however, as ***Mr R.H.A. Richards said that owing to very heavy business commitments he found it impossible to carry on as Honorary Treasurer and expressed his desire to resign from this position at the end of March***. He wasn't to escape entirely though when at the 1966 Annual General Meeting he was appointed the Club's Honorary Auditor.

Ralph's influence is perhaps seen, from the draft account of the Clubs position to date, also presented at the same meeting. It showed that ***despite writing off completely the Water on the Greens loans (£916) the Mills Fruit Machine (£451), there was a credit balance of £92***. He also mentioned that ***regarding the Chairman of Green Sub-Committee's budget request, he felt sure such a sum, possibly a little more, would be available***.

If Ralph Richard, was influential in the Club's financial affairs, it would be remiss at this time if we did not acknowledge the immense contribution made by two brothers, who without question, had over the last 25 years, and would in years to come, play a significant role on the Club's behalf. Apart from playing very good golf, they were actively involved in Course improvements, construction projects, Clubhouse maintenance, and both even found time to serve the Club as its Captain, Lew in 1941-1944 & 1953, Alf 1954 & 1959.

If this wasn't enough, they were also Council and sub-Committee members, who were always willing to assist if asked. Recorded in the minutes of a Council Meeting on 27th April 1966 is that Lew was co-opted onto the ***Clubhouse Alterations sub-Committee, set up to take all necessary steps to carry out alterations to the Locker Room and Toilets and was given power to spend up to £2,000 on Phase 1 of the Scheme***. It was noted that the ***cost of the suggested alterations to the Clubhouse was estimated at £4,000 and that Planning Permission should be sought immediately and that work should be put in hand as soon as possible***. With the brothers assistance the planning permission was granted in November and arrangements were made with the bank to have an extended overdraft rather than a loan.

Lew and Alf's support and influence was to continue until Lew (91) passed away in 1995 and Alf (87) in 1996. **Thank you, Lewis John and Alfred Benson.**

On the playing side, we might be forgiven for thinking that competition play had ceased, what with all the Course changes and disruptions that had been taking place, but not so.

To view all the Winners for the year and indeed for every 'Major Club Competition' since the Club came into existence, take time to sit quietly and peruse the '**Honour Book**', suitably encased in leather, which is kept in the lounge.

Over the years a number of Trophies have been donated, to be played for in Competition, and on 27th July 1966, the Council accepted with thanks from ***Mr Stanley Jones, a former Artisans Club Member, his offer of a Cup for the 'Best Nett Score in the Filton Junior Championship***.

Stan, when aged 92 1/2, "the half is very important you know", showed former Secretary Mike Burns a Score Card of an Exhibition Match that he had enjoyed watching being played at Filton between Max Faulkner (68), Brian Huggett (71), George Will (67) and Christy O'Connor (70), in 1966.



Exhibition Match 1966 - Christy O'Connor, Max Faulkner, Brian Huggett and George Will

The Council minutes for the 8th June record ***that it had been a successful day in every way and the balance sheet showed a nett profit of £344-18-0d, which had been paid to the Cancer Relief Fund. The four players had had a happy time and had expressed their willingness to return on some future occasion to help the Club.***

The Course they played was very different to that of today, as many holes have subsequently changed (reference Chapter 10) and also it was considered to be a fairly barren featureless landscape.

This would soon change however, as Council at their June meeting were shown a ***Scheme for planting Trees on the Course. It had long been felt that judicious tree planting would greatly enhance the appearance of the Course and would provide more interest to certain Holes. Members were asked to donate an individual tree or a copse and to see the fruits of their labour now would have make their hearts leap.***

Although we must give sincere thanks to them on their foresight, 'they should try playing the Course now!' Still one consolation is that as the tree planting continues, we will get our own back on future members.



Filton Golf Course in early 1960's

The Clubhouse was another matter altogether, as on 9th November 1966 under Matters Arising, it was reported that ***Mr and Mrs Cornish had left and that Mr and Mrs Lewis had taken over as Steward and Stewardess.*** Why these changes happen so frequently is open to speculation; perhaps the demands and expectations of the members was too much, or perhaps it was because of the un-sociable working hours involved. In the case of the last three Stewards, when they had left there was a considerable deficit in the Stocktaking which to be fair may well have something to do with not keeping accurate records of sales, spillage, waste etc.

At this same meeting it was reported by the ***Chairman that the Club had gained notoriety, when a member had recently had been sentenced to four months imprisonment for offences against the Companies Act and that, during the proceedings, the name of the Club had received some prominence in the Press.*** A debate on the matter followed and on a majority vote it was agreed that the ***person be asked to resign under Rule 19 of the Club's Rules and Bye-laws.***

A letter was received requesting that the Council re-consider this decision but the ***Chairman expressed his view that the decision reached was the right one and offered his resignation should Council wish to change its mind.*** It was agreed that the decision should stand.

The final topic mentioned at the meeting, was that B.A.C. had informed the Club that they had lodged a planning application in respect of the Golf Course and other lands, in anticipation of its refusal. They did stress however, that ***the continued occupancy of the Club under their lease would not be affected.*** This came as a great relief to Council as their thoughts once more returned to the 'Clubhouse Extension Plan'. It was at the meeting on 21st November 1966 that details of an ***estimate, received from B.A. Halliday (Bristol) Ltd were given by the Secretary. The cost of carrying out the work in accordance with the Plans and brief Specification would be £4,857, although heating presented a difficulty.***

A new boiler, gas or oil-fired, appeared to be the solution, but this would add approximately £750 to the cost. Council agreed to see the **Architect with a view to reducing Messrs Halliday's estimate and Mr Alf Benson was asked to serve on the sub-Committee, which was given authority to spend up to £5,500.**

The project was completed by June 1967 and the August Minutes reflect that the cost for 'Extensions, Alterations, Decoration to the Common Room and Other Works came to £5,993-6s-5d, which equated to an overspend of £493-6s-5d. It should be remembered however, that the amount was only for Phase 1. Because of this overspend **Phase 2 of the extension scheme was postponed for at least 2 years.**

Despite smart new changing facilities now being available, two issues dominated discussion at the meeting on 11th January 1967, which many will be familiar with, that of Trolleys and Lockers. **Regarding the Lockers, it was apparent there was a strong feeling in the Club for retaining them, although other members felt that the new 'Changing Room' would be better without them.** The Lockers did stay and were rented by members to keep their personal possessions and golf equipment in, right up to 2001. At that time they were replaced with smart new 'Communal Lockers', many it seems, rarely used.

The second issue over trolleys came about as their use became more and more popular and 'a must for the modern day golfer'. Whereas players once carried a few golf clubs in a pencil bag during the winter months they now could load everything onto a trolley, which caused many problems to the Course. Not only because of the excessive weight of a trolley and the equipment it carried, but also from its wheels continually going over the only accessible route possible for trolleys, causing mud tracks.

As a consequence Council was forced into taking action and they explained that, **it was appreciated that a ban may be particularly onerous to certain individuals, but it would be impossible to make exceptions.**

On a sad note, at the same meeting, a short silence, as a tribute to the late **Mr R.S. Brown, who had given un-stinted service to the Club over many years,** was made. A new 'knock-out competition' for members with handicaps over 16 was introduced and a Trophy donated by his widow. In addition B.A.C. Golf Society offered to provide money for trees and it was agreed that **trees near the 3rd Green be designated the 'R.S. Brown Copse', to his memory** (between the present 9th Green and 10th Tee).

Also reported, was that **yet another Steward, Mr and Mrs Davis left, being replaced by Mr and Mrs Dancey.** At least they would remain for 2 years before being replaced by **Mr and Mrs G.A. White in 1969.** Goodness knows what had happened to Mr and Mrs Lewis, who had been replaced by Mr and Mrs Davis – do keep up!

One piece of good news however, announced by the **Chairman was that 1966 had been a memorable year, in that the Club financially had made a good Balance.** Council's thanks were expressed to Eric Phipps and Ralph Richards for ensuring this. The Club was now enjoying a successful period, membership numbers were up, the Course was in good order and the Social side was thriving. So much so that it was reported at the Council meeting on 16th August 1967 that for the coming season, **6 Bridge Matches had been arranged and Whist Drives organised as in previous years. Five Film Shows had been booked and Dance Tickets were now available and the Posters were up.**

Also for the member's entertainment and to encourage them to 'stay on', a Colour Television was installed and was proving popular.



The Clubhouse, shown prior to it being extended and modernised in 1967, is shown on the left. It can be seen from the photograph on the right that following the changes 'Carpet Tiles' had taken the place of Lino, 'Folding Doors' had been installed to gain access into the extension, a 'Suspended Ceiling', had been fitted, the Bar modernised and 'Furniture' up-graded. Also a Colour Television sits on a high stand in the corner and the Fruit Machine is waiting to pay-out.

The Clubhouse external decoration was also under discussion and it was reported that Council had received one quotation from W.J. Naylor, Ltd., which was accepted. In addition the Stewards' quarters were to be painted, a new Gas Boiler had been installed and an Extractor Fan fitted in the Bar Store Room.

There were still problems on the Catering front though as a ***letter complaining of poor teas supplied by the Steward for Match Teams*** had been received. A further concern regarding the Clubhouse, with specific reference to the recently completed new extension was that of keeping it clean. Considerable difficulty was being experienced in finding suitable cleaners and the ***Council were exploring the possibility of engaging a full-time woman as cleaner and general help.***

With all the many improvements being made the Club was also keen to provide additional practice facilities and had had discussions with B.A.C. over the ***terms and conditions, regarding use of a piece of land adjacent to the Course and numbered 4321 on the Ordnance Survey Map*** (Left of the present 18th 'Solitary Tree').

Regrettably, it appears the Club were negotiating with the wrong people, as the land in question, was owned by Rolls Royce. This is confirmed in the Minutes for December, that the proposed ***Practice Ground was awaiting a decision by Rolls Royce.***

At the same Council meeting on 8th November 1967 it was agreed to implement a ***'Starting Board for the Day' to be used as and when necessary.***

1 st Tee	4 Ball Matches	8.30 – 10.30 a.m. (Sundays only)
	2 Ball Matches	12.00 – 2.30 p.m.
11 th Tee	4 Ball Matches	2.30 – 4.00 p.m.
	4 Ball Matches	12.00 – 2.15 p.m.
	2 Ball Matches	2.30 – 4.00 p.m.

The second start position, the 11th hole, which is the 'Barn' Hole of today, was considered by a number of the Clubs 'more mature members' to have been a source of great frustration. Following a long walk from the Clubhouse to the tee via 'High Point' (1st hole green) they would discover when the 11th tee came into view, that invariably a queue was waiting there to commence play.

In an attempt to alleviate this problem and to gain extra land the Club now entered into negotiations with **Mr L.W. Everett, Bristol Corporation Land Surveyor and Valuer for additional land** to incorporate into the Course.

This was essential as difficulties were being experienced on the Course, which are recorded in the Minutes of the 28th February 1968. **The close proximity of the houses on the 13th and projecting building near the 16th were creating a difficult situation.** It was agreed though that the **13th be retained if at all possible and that a wire fence should be erected if necessary to protect the adjacent houses if this should prove necessary and re-alignment of the 16th fairway tried to overcome the problem caused by the buildings.**

The Chairman stressed the **need for additional land, not only for a 'Practice Ground', but also to build new holes, again if this should prove necessary.** Negotiations had been initiated with **B.A.C. for the practice ground and possible additional land** and following discussion it was agreed that the **Club employ a Golf Architect to lay out any new holes or if any existing holes were materially altered.**

Regrettably the suggested measures had not been implemented by the Council before their next meeting on 10th April 1968, as **Mr Bell, of 4 Charlton Mead Drive alleged that 9 balls had landed in his garden since March. One of these had gone through the open window of his sitting room and another had hit his roof.** Further incidents were reported. In May for example **Mr Bell had been struck on the shoulder by a ball played from the 13th tee by Gordon Taylor** (yes the same person who gave Helen Clarke the flowers in 1959) and it was decided that this situation could not possibly go on. It was therefore agreed by Council at their meeting in July to sanction the proposed erecting of a fence on both the 13th and 15th holes and re-align the fairway.

An interesting twist to all this is that at the same meeting a letter was received from a **Mr E.W. Hodgson asking permission for his ashes to be deposited in the right hand bunker at the 15th and also offering to place £50 in the Bank for the accrued interest to be paid to anyone scoring a hole in one in the Scratch and Presidents Cups, Open Mixed Foursomes, Michael Pruett Cup, Captain's Driver and Lady Captain's Day Competitions:** Mr Hodgson's request was granted and his offer accepted with thanks despite the possible loss of the hole itself.

On the subject of holes in one, one bizarre item recorded under 'Any Other Business' was that a **Mr R.A.F. Fransz had claimed he had 12 tee shots in one at Knowle Golf Club previous to joining Filton.** Enquiry at Knowle had revealed that there was no record of his doing so; judging by his initials he may have thought he was a high flyer.

Back down to earth, a request was granted at their meeting on 31st July 1968 by the Council to **Peter Hurley who asked that his 2 small sons be permitted to play on the Course on payment of a subscription of 10/- each.** Simon Hurley, one of Peter's sons would go on to play for the County Team and become a Professional Golfer, playing on the Professional European Circuit.

Coincidentally, the following month on 25th September 1968 Council accepted the application for membership from Jeffrey Hall, age 11, who was also destined for the Professional Ranks.

In the past a number of fund raising ideas had proven to be a very successful method of attracting additional revenue to pay for various projects, and Council on 6th November 1968 were more than pleased to support the latest proposal. **Mr R.E.S. White asked that he might form a '100 Plus Club', with the object of raising funds for some specific amenity for the Club.** It was hoped to enrol upwards of 100 members each subscribing £2-10s-0d. A Draw for a Prize of £5 would take place each **Saturday evening for 20 weeks and for bigger prizes of £40, £20 and £10 for the Special Christmas Draw.** This would leave a profit of £103 for the Club; 82 members had already enrolled.

The Professional was also to enrol, but in a different sort of union, as at the Council meeting on 29th January 1969, prior to starting their meeting proper, it was reported that a wedding present for the Professional had been purchased. **Mr & Mrs Mawson had expressed a wish for a refrigerator and Mr Hudson had the matter in hand;** must have been a small model!!

At the start of the meeting proper, Council were informed that **Mrs Boobyer had vacated No. 12 Braemar Avenue on 27th January 1969, after paying the rent up to date.** This news must have come as a great relief to the Club as they had been trying to evict the Boobyer family since 1960, Fred having at that time left the Club's employ. The Couple had first moved into the property when Fred Boobyer was engaged as the Club Professional/Greenkeeper in 1929, on the understanding that they might stay as long as he was working for the Company.

Following the property being vacated it was agreed to offer the house to Club Professional Peter Mawson and to obtain estimates for putting it in order. At a subsequent meeting it was reported that **this house had been valued at £2,400 and that estimates for putting it in order amounted to £836 and that Mr Mawson had now definitely said he did not wish to occupy it. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to sell the house privately or by auction.**

In April an **offer of £2,750 was received and accepted for 12 Braemar Avenue and arrangements for the sale were proceeding.** A final settlement payment of **£2,612-5s-5d was deposited in the Club's Bank Account in June.**

The Secretary then gave details of the present membership, from which it was **noted that out of the total 580, there were 475 male playing members; a subscription for a Full Male Member in 1969/70 was £22-10s-0d.**

It seems incredible that just 15 years earlier a complaint had been sent to the Council regarding 'overcrowding of the Course' and this with only 289 playing members.

There is no suggestion that the increase in membership was to blame for the next item reported, in that the **Club had trouble with the drains from the Cess Pit, which had necessitated the laying of a new drain. The Council were indebted to Mr Benson for his prompt and invaluable assistance and to the Greenstaff for the extra work they performed in connection with this.** A grant of £1 each was made to the Greenstaff to cover the cost of cleaning their clothes; it may have caused a stink if Council hadn't.

One item, which was received with great sadness by the Council at their meeting on 14th March 1969, was the news that former Club Professional **Percy Attwood died in hospital on 30th January. At the funeral on 5th February, the Club had been represented by, the Chairman, several ex-Captains and other members. At the request of his family Percy's ashes had been scattered on the 18th Green on Sunday, 16th February, in the presence of members of the family, and the Chairman, Captain and other members of the Club.**

It would be nice to say that a Flag had been flown at half-mast as a mark of respect to Percy, but in truth a Flag Pole donated by George Hamilton was not erected until a month later in March. Now that it has been **positioned on the corner of the putting green, Council authorised the Secretary to enquire about a Club Flag.**

Perhaps its purchase was in preparation to celebrate the introduction of Course improvements to overcome the continuing problem on holes 13 and 15, which had been reported a year earlier. But regrettably no, the matter was still being pursued as on the 30th July 1969 as the Secretary reported to the Council on a meeting between the Lands Sub-Committee and Hawtree & Son. He explained that **three alternative layouts prepared by Mr Hawtree were examined, but it was agreed that only the first, which entailed using the Corporation Land but no additional B.A.C. Land was worth considering. Following discussion it was finally unanimously resolved that that the Club enters into a lease with Bristol Corporation for the piece of land at Pen Park Manor House as soon as possible.**

At this same meeting the Chairman of the House Committee reported, that **'The Honours Book' had been delivered and steps were being taken to get it 'written up'.** The Minutes of the following meeting in September record that the **House sub-Committee were indebted to Dr Stock for his assistance in doing this.**

There was also good news, for one Junior Member, on the playing front, when at their meeting on 17th September 1969 **Council expressed their thanks to Club members who had contributed to the cost of sending Christopher Kaminski to the 'Boys Amateur Championship' at Dunbar. The news of his selection for the England Team was also received with pleasure;** Christopher's name would appear on many occasions in the Honours Book.

Former Club Captain E. Jock Smith recalls: I first saw Christopher, walking across Filton Golf Course, when he was a '13 year old kid' with a cheeky grin. He approached me and asked "can I get a job as a caddy" and I told him "he could start now", handing him my golf bag containing a full set of clubs.

For the next eight months or so he caddied for both the Club Professional Peter Mawson and myself and while doing so showed his keenness. Chris would swing a Club whenever possible and his action didn't go un-noticed with many members overheard to say in awe "have you seen the lad's swing?" His obvious enthusiasm and dedication for the game led to a number of members getting together and purchasing for him a number of golf clubs, which he used to great effect. Although Christopher wasn't a very big or long hitter his greatest asset, without doubt, was his short game, which was beyond belief. This was achieved as a result of a great deal of help from Peter Mawson and many, many hours spent practicing. Because of this he made very rapid progress in the game and become an outstanding Amateur golfer, representing the Gloucestershire County Senior Team and playing for the English Boys Team when aged 16.

Christopher under the direction of Peter, who trained him, became a Qualified Professional in his own right and was engaged at Royal Blackheath Golf Club as their 'Teaching Professional', before eventually moving to Cornwall to ply his trade. Not bad for a member of a non-golfing family living on a Council Estate, who did so well against all the odds; **Christopher Kaminski we are justifiably proud of you.**

48—EVENING POST, FRIDAY, APRIL 2 1971

Golfer Chris Kaminski turns pro.

Chris Kaminski, Bristol's outstanding teenage golfer, is to turn professional next week.

On Monday, the 18-year-old former England Boys international becomes assistant to Peter Mawson at Filton Golf Club, where he has been working as a greenkeeper for the last three years.

But long before he opens up the shop at 9 a.m., he'll be out on the course practising.

"It's a great opportunity for me and I'm very grateful to Peter and the club for giving me the chance. I'll be kept pretty busy in the shop, learning repairs and things

"But I'll play as much as I can and I'll be up at first light to practice most mornings," said the

by ROBIN PERRY

former Greenway Schoolboy, whose Southmead home overlooks the Filton course.

"I regret not being able to play in any more amateur events but I felt I needed to get away from greenkeeping," said Kaminski, whose eventual aim is to become a top tournament professional.

He plays off a handicap of one and has twice appeared for the full Gloucestershire side. He has been a member of the county junior side for four years and the Colts team for two.



Learning the ropes . . . Chris Kaminski being given tips of the trade by professional Peter Mawson (right) at Filton Golf Club today.

One item that catches the eye in the minutes of November is that the Secretary had attended a meeting of Golf Club Secretaries at Henbury Golf Club. **Thirteen Secretaries from Bristol and District were present and many items of mutual interest had been discussed. Further meetings were to be held;** they continue to this day.

A former Club Secretary recalls that much of what was discussed at these meetings was of great benefit, but on occasions a number of the more pompous Secretaries, who just liked to hear the sound of their own voices would raise trivial items. While attending a meeting at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, a question was asked, "how many Golf Clubs provided their Head Greenkeeper with transport for his personal use". Answers were thoughtfully given around the table, which included, "yes he has a van which he is permitted to use even outside work" and "yes a car that he may use and go on holiday with". The latter from two affluent Bristol Clubs, until it came to the Filton Secretary who's truthful reply was that yes we do provide transport but in the form of a tractor and we insist he or another member of staff makes use of it for 40 hours a week; the Commander, who asked was not amused.

With yet another year drawing to a close, the Council's attention and efforts were now concentrated on three main fronts. The re-introduction of Phase 2 of the **Clubhouse Improvement Plan**, which had to be postponed in November 1966, because of lack of funds, **Course Alterations**, necessitated by the on-going Charlton Road situation and on negotiating a **New Lease** with Rolls Royce and Bristol Council, for the existing and possible additional land.

CHAPTER 9

TROUBLED WATERS – (February 1970 to March 1979)

With regards to any Course Alterations and a New Lease, at the Council Meeting on 25th February 1970, the Secretary read a letter he had received from ***Rolls Royce Limited, who advised that they were not prepared to give an assurance that the Lease will be renewed as it stands or to agree to lease additional land to the Club. The possible future of the land leased to the Club was under consideration.***

The Letter and its implications were fully discussed and various possibilities considered. Finally it was agreed, with two abstentions:

- 1 To sign the Bristol Corporation Lease.
- 2 To proceed with the Clubhouse extensions.
- 3 To see Mr Reader Harris (Rolls Royce Representative) and seek clarification and to discuss the future of the Lease.

It was also reported that Mr Hawtree hoped to visit shortly to prepare final plans for the new holes (Bristol Corporation Land).

These decisions may be considered by many to be irresponsible in the present circumstances, but not so for the Council, who it seems adopted the attitude of 'Who Dares Wins'. This is clearly shown as at their very next meeting on 16th April 1970 it is reported that the ***Plans for the General Lounge had been submitted to the Planning Authority and were now also available for inspection.*** The Club were now attacking on three fronts over a 'New Lease', 'Additional Land' and 'Clubhouse Improvements'.

With regards to additional Corporation land, on 13th May 1970 the Secretary reported to the Council that ***Mr Lyons, the Clubs Solicitor, had suggested that in order to expedite matters, it might be wise to withdraw our application for the diversion of the footpath.*** This suggestion was wisely adopted, as to gain approval for diverting footpaths is 'nigh on impossible' and even if successful, would have taken years to achieve. As a post-script the footpath 'Officially' as seen on Ordnance Survey Maps, runs directly down the centre of 'Blackberry Hill Fairway', to a 'Boundary Marker Stone' situated in the ditch adjacent to the tee of that hole. Don't tell anybody!

Also reported was that a letter was received from ***Rolls Royce with reference to the Club's proposal to extend the Lounge etc. Their Company did not oppose the Planning Application, but suggested it would be prudent for the Club to wait until we had their assurance that they would not exercise their right to terminate the Lease in 1973.*** The Secretary read the Club's reply of 8th May 1970, ***in which he informed Rolls Royce that it was extremely likely that the Club would proceed, with the scheme in any case and also asked for the Club to be consulted before a final decision was taken on the future of the Course.***

It was suggested that although it was reported that ***Rolls Royce already had Planning Permission for the land facing Charlton Road, it would be wrong to take too pessimistic a view.*** Mr O'Leary (a Secretary in waiting) undertook to enquire as to the extent of the planning permission from the Planning Officer. At the Council Meeting on 17th June 1970, Mr O'Leary ***reported that he had seen the Assistant Planning Officer, who assured him that no part of the Golf Course had been sold, and that the Course was now listed as a Park, not open to the Public.***

No Planning Application had been made and therefore not granted, and further that if such application were made the Golf Club, as tenants, would be consulted. The present situation would stay in force for 10 years.

The Secretary was asked to write to the Chief Planning Officer in order to obtain this ruling in writing. On 22nd July 1970 it was reported that the ***Planning Officer in a letter confirmed that no application had yet been made for anyone to use any part of the Course up to the date of this letter.*** He also mentioned that the ***Golf Course is not within a Green Belt but is zoned in the Development Plan as open space for a Golf Course.***

If that wasn't good enough news then what the Secretary reported next certainly was. He announced that on the ***26th June 1970 Planning Permission for the proposed development of Corporation Land (Pen Park House) had been granted and a Lease for the land had been received and awaited signature.*** In September it was reported that a start had been made to clear an area to construct one of the new Greens.

Discussion now took place regarding the Clubhouse and a question was raised, ***if it was wise to re-decorate and re-furbish both the Lounge and the Club Room now and defer the extension scheme until later. It was finally agreed to proceed with the whole scheme.*** Estimates were sought and a Contract for work costing £4,300 was awarded to E.J. Callaghan, subject to him being able to promise early starting and completion dates. The project was eventually completed in April 1971.

More good news followed with an announcement, prior to the Council Meeting on 16th September 1970, that both the ***Club's Teams won their respective Divisions of the Western Daily Press League. Also that Christopher Kaminski won the City and County of Bristol Championship.***

Honours also for The ***Gloucestershire County Team***, who under the direction of their Captain ***Ted Jackson***, a Filton stalwart, won the ***English County Championship. To mark this unique achievement of one of our own members, Ted was awarded Life Membership of the Club in appreciation of the honour brought to Filton Golf Club.***

Although matters appeared to be running smoothly there were still problems as at a Special Council Meeting on 21st April 1971 two matters came to the fore.

The first concerned the Steward ***Mr White who had been sent a letter outlining the services expected of him and his wife after the Club had received a number of complaints from members. After a prolonged discussion, the consensus of opinion was that the letter had got the Club nowhere, as reading between the lines the couple had no intention of catering to the standards required and they were considered a 'stumbling block'.*** It was finally agreed that the Chairman of the House sub-Committee Mr Fream would personally speak with the couple and report back to the Council. Although initial improvements in standards were made it seems the couple soon returned to their old ways as their employment was terminated in November.

The Club's Advertisement for a new Steward had resulted in over two hundred replies. The couple who, eventually took over, like many before them only lasted a short period however, as Mr and Mrs Hayward were employed on April 1972 but only lasted eight months before submitting their resignation.

The second was regarding 'Club Administration'. ***The Chairman explained that in view of the now large number of members and the increased facilities, consideration should be given to the employment of a Full Time Secretary. He said he had talked to Mr Brown over the question of his future and Mr Brown had told him he would be prepared to go into retirement at anytime the Council wished him to do so. The general feeling of Council Members was that Mr Brown having reached retiring age should be permitted to retire as soon as a suitable successor could be found.***

The Chairman spoke very highly of Mr Brown and reminded those present of the very good work he had done through some very difficult years. He felt very strongly that Mr Brown should not go into retirement without some tangible token of appreciation.

It was proposed and carried unanimously that Mr Leo Brown be made an Honorary Member of the Club and receive a farewell gift of 12 months salary, also the members would be asked to contribute to a Testimonial on his behalf. Leo Brown handed in his resignation to take effect on 31st May 1971 and Mr Maurice Herbert, a former Secretary of Long Ashton Golf Club, was ***appointed as the Filton Golf Club Secretary, which*** is confirmed in the Council Minutes of 26th May 1971. His stay would only last six months however as due to ill health he resigned in October and was immediately replaced by Mr W.L Howland with Mr R. Ashton as his assistant.

Following the Special Council Meeting, Council met again on 28th April 1971 and ***Harry Fream suggested that the field to the left of the 17th Fairway could become available for a 'Practice Ground'. The Club would be expected to cut the grass and also to ensure that all shots be played up the slope not down and the Rent would be nominal. Following discussion it was agreed that the Club would be delighted to use this field under these circumstances.*** The field was cut and ready for use and still remains as one of our Practice Fields. Also agreed at this meeting was that ***in view of the huge entry for the last Medal Competition, future events should be divided into 3 Divisions.***

At the Council Meeting on 27th October 1971 the ***Chairman reported the sad loss of A.L. Vie Davis at the age of 89. He said that Vie, was a well respected member and Secretary of the Filton Golf Club and had done a great amount of work for the game of golf for Filton, Bristol and Gloucestershire.***

The Club were to lose the services of another Secretary, as it was recorded on the 6th March 1974 that the ***Chairman advised the Council of the resignation of our Secretary Bob Howland, and spoke very highly of his services to the Club over a long period of years.***

Mr Jack C. Gregory was subsequently appointed as the Club Secretary and started 1st September 1974.

Another sad loss to the Club in June 1974, at the age of 91, was ***Ernie Shield, a Vice President, who had been the oldest member of the Club;*** his father Samuel was a founder Club member.

Despite this the Club membership numbers in 1975 were considered to be very satisfactory, with vacancies being filled almost as soon as they occurred.

In fact despite the continuing threat of a closure business went on as normal and Societies and visitors still very much wished to play at Filton.

This is seen in the Council meeting, which took place on 14th January 1975, which was called to consider Greenfees and Subscriptions for 1975. The Secretary reported:

- a) That B.A.C. Golfing Society had paid £216 in green fees in 1974 and the fee per person had been 75p (note decimalisation). It was agreed that the B.A.C. had always been given preferential consideration, and the amount to be charged for 1975 was fixed at £1 per person per event.
- b) Bristol University Golfing Society had paid £110 plus 10% V.A.T. for 1974. The fee for 35 members agreed for 1975 was £4 each, i.e. £140 plus 8% V.A.T.
- c) Bristol Rovers had a block membership in the past. The Secretary would see them and suggest that their players pay a green fee on each occasion in the future.
- d) Gloucestershire Police had a block membership for which they paid £75 in 1974. The Council decided that this should be increased to £100 for 1975.
- e) Green Fees for 1975 and Membership Subscriptions: deferred until the next meeting.

In addition to these decisions being made it was also decided that the Secretary's Salary should be raised from £850 plus £250 expenses to £1,050 plus £350.

All was not right though, as at the next Council meeting on 3rd February 1975 it is recorded that yet another Steward, this time a Mr and Mrs Day were employed. The couple if they did take up the position, didn't stay long however, as a Mr Rose was engaged and took over on 18th April 1975; Mr Rose left in September the following year.

Looking at it now, it seems quite incredible that there was such an apparent lack of concern at that time to the real threat of the Club having to disband. After all Rolls Royce were in the hands of the receivers and its unwanted assets were being sold on, but that is the case. In fact all indications were that very little had changed in the Club's attitude to its continuing future. This can no more be emphasised than with the appointment, which was reported to Council at their meeting on **24th March 1975, of Mr Lumb as Professional, to start on April 1st**. No, thankfully it wasn't an April fool prank, as Nicky and his wife Kathy, a very capable golfer in her own right, having played in the Curtis Cup Team, would prove over the next 25 years of unstinting service on the Club's behalf. At this same meeting, the Committee thought that the **Secretary should be engaged in a full-time capacity, so that the Greenkeeper's and Course work could be supervised**. With this in mind it was agreed to hold a **Special Meeting to consider the future policy of the Club**.

On the playing side it was reported that competitions continued to flourish, with a great number taking part, and in the Clubhouse, social events, which included a Country and Western Evening, Bingo Sessions, Dances etc. were also well supported. One matter that was a cause for concern however, which led to a **Notice being posted, was the noise and bad language of the card players**.

They were told in no uncertain terms **that further action would be taken if the warning wasn't heeded**; 'it was in their hands it seems'. As it transpired, the Special Council Meeting on 18th April would go some way to alleviate the problem. At the meeting itself the **Chairman opened by giving a resume of the Club's financial position over a period of years and mentioned the invaluable assistance that had been received from Messrs Richards, Phipps and Clarke**.

General discussion followed with specific reference to the need for a full-time Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer, Max Clarke, thought that the ***Club should arrive at a definition of its objectives, and then to decide as to what can be reasonably afforded and with what priority. He then explained how the present surplus in funds had arisen, which was due to it being thought prudent to keep a reserve in case of a more expensive lease, in view of the Rolls Royce affair.***

It was eventually agreed that the ***Council express their gratitude to the Secretary, Mr Gregory, who wasn't in attendance, for all the arduous work he had carried out during his term in office, and express their complete confidence in his efforts. It was further suggested that to protect him from so many interruptions the Card Room should be used as a Secretary's Office and that it should have a telephone extension.***

Having, at least in principle at this time, resolved the issue of a full-time Secretary they now turned their attention to improving matters for the ***Professional, who had enquired whether he could engage a Junior Assistant who was a member of the Filton Golf Club.*** At their meeting on 27th June 1975 ***Council agreed that, it was not Club policy to allow a member to accept the post of assistant Professional at Filton*** but they did agree to a further request that the Professional Shop should improved. As a result the ***Secretary reported that he had invited quotations from three Building Firms to carry out repairs in accordance with a specification prepared by Council Member, Mr Carter.***

Also recorded in the Minutes of this meeting is that a ***letter from the B.A.C. was read thanking the Club for allowing the Crew of the Queens Flight to use the Course, and enclosed an aerial photograph of Filton Golf Course for display, for the interest of the members.***

Finally, the Chairman advised the Council of a meeting involving Mr Gooder the Club Captain, Mr Hudson Chairman of the Greens Committee and Mr Hutton the Head Greenkeeper, during which the Greenkeeper was said to have insulted the Captain.

Following discussion it was agreed the Greenkeeper should be called to a meeting with Mr Hudson, Mr Gooder and Mr L. Moore, the Vice Captain. At the following Council meeting on 23rd July 1975, ***Mr Hudson reported that the agreed meeting had not been held and the Captain then went on to tell Council of a number of complaints against the Head Greenkeeper, the situation had not been satisfactory for a long time and should now be dealt with. He proposed that the Head Greenkeepers employed with the Club should be terminated for reasons, which he gave. Mr Hudson, the Chairman of the Greens Committee replied saying that he had warned the Head Greenkeeper that these matters would be brought before the Council. He then spoke at length in defence of the Head Greenkeeper, although he agreed that the Greenkeeper had been to blame in some respects, particularly in his attitude to the Captain. He explained further that he wished to disassociate himself from any action to dismiss the Head Greenkeeper, as did Mr Corbett who concurred with his view.***

The ensuing vote on the proposal showed a majority of 8 to 2 and 1 abstention, in favour of dismissal, after interview, with one month's notice; a record for the reasons for dismissal to be kept on file. Mr Hudson tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Greens Committee and from Council, and Mr Corbett also resigned from the Council; both left the meeting.

If this wasn't enough at the very next meeting on 3rd September 1975 it was reported that the ***Disciplinary Committee had met on August 8th and suspended the two members involved, from the Course and Clubhouse for three month's.*** They had been playing in a 'Fourball Match' and were involved in an incident and insulted the Captain. Unlike their playing partners they were unwilling to apologise.

The poor old Captain must have wondered what he done to deserve all this abuse or perhaps it was a sign of changing times with rebellion in the air. Whatever it was, just like the buses, you wait hours for one and when it does turn up another immediately follows.

In the 64 years since the Club had been formed, you could count the number incidents that needed to be addressed by the Council on one hand and now in the space of a few months a third was reported. ***The Captain, explained, that four senior members of the Club were held up by a junior member who was partnering a girl junior, who was a beginner, and that he failed to let them through, until they forced the issue by playing through. The Four members had made a formal complaint to the Captain and the junior was interviewed. He refused to apologise and was given 30 seconds to do so by the Captain. At the end of the 30 seconds a reluctant "sorry" was given. He then said "I don't want to stay in this pit" and to the Captain and Vice Captain "you are stupid nits" whereupon he went out slamming the door violently.*** The Captain immediately suspended him pending his report of the matter to Council. ***The following day the junior was on the Course, this in spite of him being suspended and when asked to leave, refused to do so. He was again asked to leave by a Council member and again refused whereupon he was ejected from the premises. The junior then went to the Professionals Shop and telephoned the Police alleging he had been assaulted. The Police were told that the junior had been suspended and as such was trespassing and as a result the Police took no action.*** The junior was subsequently dismissed from the Club, but it was ***left open to him to rejoin in 2 years time when he became 18 years of age.***

What is perhaps regrettable regarding this latest incident is that it is apparent that junior and to some extent lady members were considered by a number of senior members (male full-members) to be second-class members. There is obviously no excuse for the sort of behaviour recorded and the right course of action was indeed taken, however, because of the apparent inequality tensions were created and in this instance they seem to have spilt over. The Club's Junior Members, for example, had to change and stay in their own hut, away from the Clubhouse and although the Lady Members could use the Mixed Bar, there was segregation and they were not permitted to use the Men's Bar, which would be completely unacceptable today. As a postscript the junior in question had previously stated ***"that juniors were not wanted by many of the seniors in the Club"*** and there is a certain amount of truth in that. The opportunity to join the Club as a Junior Member was also very limited, with only a small number being taken on annually, and these generally were the children of senior members.

To the credit of the Professional, he recognised this and made representation at a Greens sub-Committee meeting in July, ***referring to a number of promising youngster, he was teaching, who could not get membership because the Club had a long list of potential juniors, 48 or so, on the waiting list.*** They had he explained little likelihood of being introduced as they had no family connections within the Club. His comment was ***reported to the Council at their meeting on 3rd September and it was agreed to consider 6 - 8 promising youngsters for membership at the end of the year after a 3 months trial.***

This breakthrough should have been applauded, but instead, it prompted general discussion to take place regarding the ***Junior Section and it was proposed the juniors should be banned from going through the 'Men's Bar'***. This was agreed and a Notice "***Junior's not admitted***" would be displayed at each end of the 'Men's Bar', which seems to be one step forward and two back. If this wasn't enough it was also ***decided to call a meeting with the juniors and stress that etiquette on the Course and good behaviour in the Clubhouse must be a condition of their continued membership***. On the face of it there is absolutely nothing wrong with this, but wouldn't it have been better perhaps to explain to the juniors that this applied to all members. After all they would, if encouraged, be the future senior members of the Club.

With regards to the Clubhouse, yet again, it was to be modernised and it was reported to Council at their meeting on 4th November 1975, by the Chairman of the House Committee, Mr Ernie Leek, that ***discussions with Allied Breweries regarding financial assistance with the Club projects had taken place. Following discussion it was agreed to accept £2,000 repayable over 5 years free of interest, and £2,000 worth of furniture and fittings*** (purchased from 'Benchers of Frome' with a 40% discount), ***which would be written-down £400 each year by Allied Breweries, so that after 5 years the items would be the Club's property, or any outstanding sum could be repaid by the Club at any time during the 5 years***. One project, involved work on the central heating which was reported as being completed by 11th December 1975; ***a reduction of 25% in running costs had been forecasted***. Others included work to the Men's Toilets, the Stock Room and Clubhouse exterior, which required it seems a certain amount of timber to be replaced and then completely re-painting.

On the Course trespass was once again becoming more frequent and the Chairman of Greens Committee at a Council Meeting on 12th February 1976, requested the ***purchase of some coiled Dannart barbed wire to close a number of gaps in the Course perimeter, which was agreed***.

Also mentioned in connection with this problem, for the first time, was that ***runners from the B.A.C. sports field were using the Course for training and this resulted in the B.A.C. being asked to see that the runners kept to the public right of way***; which is still ignored. Competitions still remained popular and well supported and it had been agreed earlier in the year to host a Pro-Am event. This was to take place on Monday 27th September 1976 and a great deal of time was spent in organising and advertising this over the past months. At their meeting on 15th September 1976 Council were informed that the ***Pro-Am draw had been made with more than 50 teams taking part. The financial side looked satisfactory and the event would show a profit. The programme had been sent to the printers and the Prize List was being finalised and there would probably be a prize for amateurs on every hole***. It was subsequently recorded that the event had been a complete success and a £400 profit had been made.

More importantly, also discussed at this meeting was the need for a '***Contingency Plan for the Future of the Course***'. The topic had been included for discussion, following a ***suggestion from Mr Gooder, at the previous meeting, that contingency plans should be made in case the Club received a communication from the Receiver of Rolls Royce Limited, about the Course. It had also been agreed that the National Sports Council should be approached to see what assistance they could give if the Club needed it***. This enquiry was ***delayed however because the Club's Chartered Surveyor Mr L.W. Everett had written to Mr P.W. Jones of Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks in London to see if there was a change in the position of the Liquidators in relation to the disposal of the Course***.

The awaited reply, which was received on the 6th September 1976, stated ***that the position remained un-altered, and as a result the Club decided to proceed with an approach to the Sports Council.***

At the Council's next meeting in November a letter from the Sports Council in response to the Club's enquiry whether financial assistance could be obtained for major sports requirements was read. ***The conditions for loans up to a maximum of £10,000 were made known to the Club, and this information was placed on file in case it was ever required.***

This unsettling situation didn't it seems stop the Council from making a long-term commitment, which is endorsed when at the same meeting the main item for discussion was ***the appointment of a Head Greenkeeper. Mr D. Saul had been selected but needed assistance with housing. It was essential for a loan from the Club be made to Mr Saul to enable him to secure a house, but whether the loan should be re-payable or written off over a number of years was debated.*** At the following meeting on 14th October 1976 ***it was noted that Mr Saul would commence his duties on 1st November, and that negotiations were proceeding in respect of house purchase.*** It was agreed to record the Club's thanks to Mr Keith Grimmer for the help he had given in relation to a house purchase. All Keith's and the Club's efforts came to nothing as it turned out, when ***just 4 days before his starting date Mr Saul informed the Club that he would not be taking the job. Urgent action then had to be taken to release the Club from various commitments connected with the purchase of the house for Mr Saul*** and it was also necessary to find a suitable replacement. The latter didn't take long it appears as at the following meeting on 14th December 1976 it was reported that ***a message was received from Mr J. Muir that he was prepared to accept the position of Head Greenkeeper following an interview on 6th December 1976;*** Council endorsed his appointment.

Typically in true Filton Golf Club tradition, or so it always seems, when one person is replaced other changes were soon to follow. The first change was brought to the Council's attention on 20th January 1977 when it was reported that the ***Secretary proposed to retire when he reached the age of 65 in April and that thought should be given to a replacement. Council had to decide on policy, whether to advertise for a man with previous experience of golf club work, or to find someone to take on the job and learn it. It was thought that to advertise and engage an experienced man would be costly in salary and because of this it was decided to look for someone who would learn the job at around the present salary. In the meantime an endeavour would be made to define the job and its hours and the salary relative to this.***

At a subsequent meeting on 24th March 1977 ***it was reported that four people had been interviewed for the job and it was agreed that, Club member, Mr L. Huxtable be offered the post for a trial period of six months starting 1st May.***

At this same meeting a second change unfolded when it was ***stated that as the Council Chairman for the past 15 years, Bert Neath, wished to stand down*** and it was agreed on doing so ***he should be invited to become the Club's President.*** In view of Bert standing down the method for electing a Council Chairman was discussed and it was ***eventually decided that a progressive ballot would be best. After the first ballot of the Council members names submitted, there would be a second ballot of the best two, and the un-successful candidate would be designated Vice Chairman.***

It was further agreed that the Chairman of Council should serve for a maximum of three years. Subsequently Bert was pleased to accept his appointment as President, which incidentally was the first of its kind. Previously, the position of Presidency had always been afforded to the Club's Landlord, or in the case of B.A.C. and Rolls Royce, their Managing Director.

The change in policy was probably in anticipation of the proposed sale of the Club by the receivers. Just as a cover though, Council did agree to write to Mr Gedge the Managing Director of Rolls Royce to invite him to become Vice President and he was pleased to accept the honour.

One further matter, regarding the Club's finances, which was raised at the meeting, was deferred until Council met on 18th February 1977.

At that time ***Mr Macfarlane the Honorary Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1976, showing a deficit on the year of £1,172, and gave an explanation of various items in the accounts. In view of fairly heavy expenditure on House items, and the purchase of an additional tractor by the Greens Committee, it was felt that the near break-even situation was satisfactory.*** Subscription rates for 1977 season were then discussed and the ***Honorary Treasurer suggested that the Club should budget to produce a surplus, as it had shown a loss on the last two years. Wages would be up also rent and rates, and income from green fees and the fruit machines might go down. In addition, Course expenditure would be up and he felt a contingency figure should be included, say £2,000 and recommended an increase of 15% to restore the Club's reserves.*** During the ensuing discussion it was thought that ***the Club should build up the reserves for buying the Course, as any prudent business would do.*** It was finally agreed to increase the annual subscription for 1977 by 15%.

One very important event took place prior to the commencement of the Council meeting proper on the 24th March 1977. ***The Club Captain Mr J.M. Clarke (Max) made a presentation of an inscribed 'Silver Salver' to Mr C.E. Neath (Bert), as a gift from the Club, to mark his retirement after 15 years from the post of Chairman.***



Mapped out for Bert

Bert Neath, the man they call Mr Filton Golf Club, has a special personal map of the course to which he has devoted so much of his time. It is inscribed on a solid silver salver which has been presented to him on his retirement as club chairman after 15 years in office. Tomorrow's annual meeting will be asked to approve

his election as club president.

Bert, who is 78, has been a member of Filton since before the war and has served on the council for the past 20 years.

A former Flying Corps officer who was mentioned in despatches during the First World War, he retired as managing director of

Weich & Co., the motor dealers, in 1966.

Commented club skipper Max Clarke: "He has given tremendous service to Filton and has always been a loyal and committed member of the club."

In my picture, Bert (right) receives the salver from Max, with club secretary Jack Gregory in the middle.

It is perhaps appropriate that Max should be the person to undertake this ceremony, as Bert had given Max when aged 17 his first job at Welch & Co. Ltd., albeit a years work experience, prior to Max going to University.

Having now retired it was Council's first duty at the following meeting on the 18th April 1977 to elect a new Chairman of Council and following the previously agreed procedure of holding a progressive ballot, **Mr K.P Gooder was elected, with Mr E. Leek as Vice Chairman.** Taking the Chair Mr Gooder *invited the Secretary to present the Financial Report, which showed that in addition to the £10,000 on three months deposit, the Club had £3,266 on Bank Deposit, and about £7,000 available in the Current Account for investment.*

If this was good news, then more was to follow, when at their next Council meeting held on 16th May 1977 Mr Gooder welcomed Mr Huxtable the new Secretary to his appointment.

Mr Gooder also presented the former Secretary Mr Gregory with a tankard as a mark of appreciation for his services over his period of office.

Regretfully like one other before him Mr Huxtable's 'Minute Taking', gives very little background information, consisting only of a reference to the topic and associated action or decision arrived at, which as it turned out wasn't to everyone's agreement.

One topic that was recorded however was that a letter had been received from **Mr G. Greader, Secretary of the Chipping Sodbury Golf Club advising that their Directors had been in touch with the Club's Professional Mr Nicholas Lumb for assistance in maintaining a golfing relationship status at Chipping Sodbury, whilst another Professional was being obtained.** As an agreement had been reached without prior knowledge of Council it was proposed that the Chairman and Captain discuss the matter with Mr Lumb. Following the interview it is recorded that the **Professional had apologised for not approaching the Club before entering into arrangements with the Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, and had expressed regret for the Evening Post mistake in quoting Filton Golf Club's name in an advertisement instead of 'Nicky Lumb'.** Also recorded in the minutes of this Council meeting is that the **Professional was collecting 10% commission on green fees paid by visiting Societies and a ruling was sought whether this was in order.** The Chairman explained that the **Professionals Contract did not really cover the point and it was agreed that whatever the original intention was the present arrangement be allowed to continue.** You can't keep a 'Good Man' down it seems and we all were to benefit from Nicky's dynamism over the next 20 or so years.

With the year having drawn to a close 1978 was the start, or possible end of everything. The continuation of Filton Golf Club as an entity must have been uppermost in every member's mind, with the impending sale of the Course.

At the Council Meeting 3rd January 1978 the **Chairman read a letter from the Club's Solicitors regarding the intended sale of the Course and following discussion it was agreed that a meeting was to be arranged for the 17th January between Club Officials and Mr Jones of the Liquidators Office.** In anticipation of this meeting a **preliminary meeting with the Club's Solicitors on the 10th January to discuss the Club's method of approach was agreed.** Also reported is that **following a meeting with an Official of the Sports Council a letter from him had been received, which enclosed a pro-forma for completion;** this to enable the Club to apply for a grant.

To further discuss the situation regarding the Club's future and the possibility of purchasing the Course a Special Council Meeting was held on 30th January 1978. The Chairman gave a résumé of the negotiations to date with the Liquidator's representatives. At the meeting it was stated that, ***"The value placed on the land was quoted at a high figure, because it is said to have a high development value"***.

Following discussion it was agreed that ***an approach be made to Mr Dennis Howell (Minister for Sport), asking for his advice and that copies of the letter be sent to Members of Parliament and leaders of the Local Authorities etc.***

It was also agreed that a ***Notice would be displayed advising Club members that the tenancy of the Course will not be disturbed for at least 12 months. Also that when the Club knew the amount required to complete the purchase it will probably be necessary to raise a levy from members. In the meanwhile a Sub-Committee would be formed, consisting of Messrs J.M. Clarke, E. Leek, L. Moore and Dr P.R. Stock, to produce schemes for fund-raising.***

Despite everyone's considerable efforts all was not well, it seems, as under 'Any Other Business' the ***Chairman announced his intention to resign at the end of the present meeting. It was then proposed that a vote of confidence be adopted in the Chairman, and this was carried unanimously.***

As it transpired the 'Recorded Minute' wasn't an accurate account of events and at the Council Meeting on 13th March 1978 ***all agreed that this minute was inadequate. The Chairman pointed out that he did not, and was not, seeking a vote of confidence.*** It was agreed that the minute should be amplified by adding: ***"The Chairman said that he was not seeking a vote of confidence but an assurance that the gossip and hostility at present being generated in the 'Office' should cease, especially the unfair criticism of the Captain. The practice of canvassing opinions on decisions made by or concerning a particular Committee without the Committee Chairman's knowledge or approval must stop. On being given the assurance he sought, the Chairman agreed to continue in Office"***. Also recorded under 'Apologies for Absence' is the name of Mr D.J. Head, who was abroad. ***In his letter apologising for his absence Mr Head complained about the inadequacy of the minutes, the preparation of which he realised presented difficulties owing to the fragmented discussion that often occurred. He asked for several of the minutes to be amended. A number of Council Members supported Mr Head's views, saying that the reason for 'a decision' was often as important as the decision itself and should be recorded; it was agreed that future minutes should give more information.***

The meeting now continued and under the heading 'Purchase of Course' it was reported that:

Ministry of Sport – A reply had been received from the South West Region Office of the Department of Environment regretting that the Minister could give neither help nor advice on a matter on which his ministry may later have to adjudicate impartially. The Club were however, advised to maintain contact with the South West Sports Council on the question of financial aid.

Sports Council – A letter was read from the South West Regional Office of the Sports Council informing the Club that a grant of £30,000 was being recommended, but that no Commitment on their part would be entered into without first getting the Club Council's approval. The meeting expressed appreciation of the Chairman's efforts, which had produced this happy result.

Possible Bank Loan – Mr Clarke reported that he and the Assistant Secretary had interviewed the Club's Bank Manager about the possibility of obtaining a loan. He was asked for copies of the latest balance sheet and earlier ones and said he would need approval of higher authority for the kind of loan we were likely to require. Max did not expect any difficulty in obtaining a loan when the time came.

Other Fund Raising Schemes – Details of possible schemes were discussed, and reference was made to a letter from an actuary, Mr Shrubbs, who was willing to give the Club advice on the question of 'Life - 112 - Membership Subscriptions'; the Chairman would follow this up.

A further topic discussed at this meeting reflects perhaps the positive and confident attitude toward the future being adopted by Council during this period of un-certainty. For example, it was agreed that the ***Professional may go-ahead, with converting the Trolley Shed for his own use. The Club would pay for the cost of repairing the roof, but nothing else, and any increase of electricity consumption by additional heaters would have to be met by the Professional.*** It was recognised that the loss of the facility would cause a problem, but that ***once the Juniors Hut had been made suitable for use as a Trolley Shed, the problem would be resolved.*** Quite rightly the ***Professional did not want any further responsibility for an individual's trolleys,*** and it was agreed that the users would themselves have to ensure against any loss.

In conjunction with these pro-active moves, behind the scenes everything practical was being done to ensure the Club's existence and at the Council meeting on 8th May 1978 the Captain reported on the present position. ***A letter from a firm of Surveyors in Truro was read, to arrange an appointment to view the Course, and in view of this perceived threat it was agreed that the Club appoint an Agent to act on its behalf.*** It was further agreed that ***if it proved that we have to co-operate with developers, an immediate meeting of the Council would be called.***

Once again in a time of crisis (how many more will there be) the Council had not only to deal with the major issues, but also in the interest of its members and to keep the Club running, day too day matters. Despite there being a tight reign applied to any major expenditure, items in the kitchen required replacing, machinery needed to be purchased, the Clubhouse maintenance and decoration remained an on-going concern, the staff welfare and overseeing was necessary, organising social events continued, the running of competitions and a Pro-Am organised. Not much to do then. Oh, and the employing of Mr and Mrs Wainwright as the new Stewards, at least some things never change, or always do perhaps.

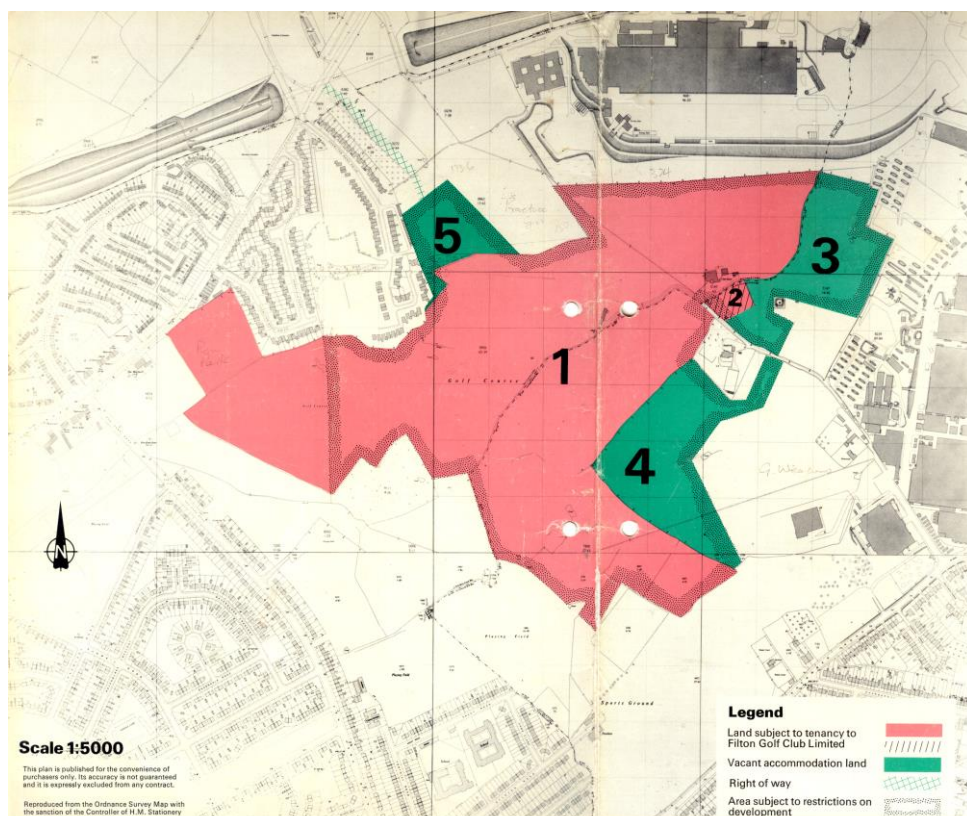
One matter that needed dealing with, which is a bane even to this day, started around this period and that was concerning litter on the Course, with specific reference to 'Tinned Drinks'. It seems, that when the contents of the tins had been finished, the tins were haphazardly discarded and because of this a ***recommendation to Council, that the sale of tinned drinks be banned in view of the damage and delays to machinery.***

This was obviously unfair on the Professional as quite often a player brought their own drink to the Club and it is recorded at a subsequent meeting, that the ***Professional had been instructed to charge a 10p deposit on tinned drinks, which he sells.*** This course of action seems to have worked as records show ***that following previous complaints regarding empty cans found on the Course, the position has improved considerably.***

As the Club moved towards the year-end, it is sad to record that yet another Club Stalwart passed away at the age of 78 years. Recorded in the Council minutes of 1st December 1978 is that ***the Chairman paid a glowing tribute, which was followed by a short silence and a letter, read from Mrs Neath. A donation of £10 to Cancer Research in memory of Mr Cuthbert Ernest Neath was agreed.***

There was also bad news regarding the Club purchasing the Course. At a Special Council Meeting on 9th February 1979 the ***Chairman reported that the Course had been re-advertised for sale, and that one bid approaching £200,000 was understood to have been made by a 'National Development Company', who intended to develop the North West end of the course and plot 5, subject to planning consent, but to retain a modified 18 hole Golf Course. It was probable that the Company would not be interested in a joint venture with Filton Golf Club in the golf arrangements. Mr Richards said that he understood that another bidder was also waiting in the wings.***

The Club had been given until Wednesday next, 14 February 1979, to make a fresh bid, and it seemed likely that our bid would have to be at least £190,000 to stand any chance of succeeding. It was estimated that the Club would be able to raise £80,000 without borrowing, made up as follows: £25,000 from reserves, £25,000 from members by loan or levy, and £30,000 from the Sports Council. Plot 4 could probably be sold for £50,000, and a developer might be prepared to pay an option fee of £20,000 for the right to build houses on 4 acres at the North West corner of the Course. If planning consent were obtained the club and the developer would share in the benefit arising from the enhanced value of the land developed. The initial deal would yield a maximum of £150,000, so the council had to decide how much they were prepared to borrow to enable a competitive bid to be made, bearing in mind that the Sports Council would not agree to secured loans of more than 25%, of the purchase price without imposing special conditions on the terms of anything in excess of 25%.



Mr Richards reported that he and Mr Clarke had approached Lloyd's Bank and had been told that a loan of up to £60,000 would be recommended subject to their being satisfied that the Club would be able to service such a loan, and depending on any special condition imposed by the Sports Council. The Council agreed that a loan of £30,000 was inescapable, and all agreed (two or three reluctantly), that £40,000 was more likely to be needed.

After further discussion, and fearing that even £40,000 would not be enough to enable a successful bid to be made, a majority voted for a top limit of £50,000. Because the negotiating committee would not know how far our collaborators were prepared to go until Tuesday morning, on which day our bid had to be submitted, the council agreed that the Committee would have to act without further reference to them.

At the following meeting on 19th February 1979, Mr Richards reported that an offer of £165,000 had been made on behalf of the Club, and indications are that it may be accepted. Continuing he gave his view on how the funds can be provided. It was proposed and agreed that the offer should be confirmed, and that we should try to arrange to hold on to the extra land with a view to a sale at a later date to reduce the indebtedness.

This was good news indeed, but better was to come, when on the 26th February 1979 the Chairman announced that the Club's Solicitor had informed the Club, that their offer to purchase the course has been accepted.

The liquidator has asked for completion by 9th April 1979 and Contracts are required to be exchanged in 3 weeks from the date of the acceptance of the bid (16/03/1979). It will be necessary to form a 'New Company' to acquire the Course, and to appoint 'Trustees' to hold shares on behalf of the members of the Club. It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the position be accepted, and that a new Company be formed to complete the matter, and Trustee/Directors appointed, at least 3 in number. The following names were proposed and seconded and unanimously elected. A. Benson (when asked was unable to accept), D.T. Lockyer, W.S. Clarke. Further names may be added later; Mr Ralph Richards and Mr Max Clarke names were included at the next meeting.

The Chairman said that the final letter to the Sports Council would have to be despatched before the next Council Meeting, and it would have to contain full supporting financial details to demonstrate that the Club could service any loans and properly maintain the golfing facilities.

The Club should also be required to give specific undertakings to the Sports Council, and obtain a suitable guarantee from Lloyds Bank, before the grant would be paid. It was agreed that the Chairman should be authorised to give any undertakings required on behalf of the Club, subject to the approval of the negotiating Committee. Resolutions will be necessary to be put to the Annual General Meeting confirming the actions taken, and to be taken, in accepting the offer and forming a New Company.

It was proposed and agreed that the Rule regarding Company Director (Council) be amended to read as follows.

THE COUNCIL

The Council shall comprise the Captain, Vice-Captain, and Honorary Treasurer, each ex officio, and twelve (12) members each of whom shall have been elected at an Annual General Meeting. If a premature vacancy occurs in mid-term the Council may at their discretion co-opt a Full Member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting only. Prior to each Annual General Meeting retirements from the Council will take place as follows:

- 1 Co-opted members
- 2 Elected members who have served three years since last being elected
- 3 Treasurer - Rule 7 (a)
- 4 Captain - following the end of his term of office, unless he has not served three years since being elected to the Council.

Retiring members may offer themselves for re-election.

It was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously ***that Mr. W. L. Howland should be asked to accept nomination as President.***

Members are to be advised that a levy of £50 will be required and Life Membership is to be offered at a suitable figure.

FILTON GOLF CLUB LIMITED

Telephone:
Secretary 694169

Club House,
Golf Course Lane,
Filton,
Bristol BS12 7QS.

2nd March 1979

Dear Member,

PURCHASE OF THE GOLF COURSE

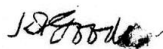
At the last Annual General Meeting members overwhelmingly approved a motion to raise a levy of £50 a member to enable the club to buy the course and 26 acres of adjacent land included in the sale. After a year's negotiations, with all the cards seemingly against us, our final bid has been accepted by the Liquidators of Rolls Royce Realisations Ltd. subject to contracts being exchanged by 16th March 1979 and completion by 9th April 1979. You will realise that it would be imprudent and unethical to give precise details of the deal before contracts have been exchanged. I can assure you, however, that the purchase can be funded from existing cash reserves, the mandatory levy of £50 a member, the Sports Council Grant, a bank loan and proceeds from the sale of surplus land.

It is very much the Council's view that as much as possible of the adjoining land included in the purchase, should be retained. This would enable any planning and development potential in the future to be realised, allow ancillary facilities to be developed, allow flexibility in course layout (particularly important in view of the fact that two holes are leased from Bristol City Council), and furthermore open up the possibility of reducing bank borrowing and increasing income.

I cannot over emphasise the exciting future prospects for the Club if this once-and-for-all opportunity is grasped. To enable this to happen further substantial financial backing is needed now from the members. The Council has considered methods of enabling members to provide such assistance. These are set out in the appendix to this letter, to which is attached a Statement of Support document in the form of a questionnaire. Members are urged to complete and return the questionnaire with their contributions within seven days.

The matter is urgent. The Club needs your support and help. Whatever your response, will you do your best to let us have your reply very quickly.

Yours sincerely,



(K.P. Gooder, Chairman)

PS. All adult playing members, regardless of category or sex should note that henceforth they have full voting rights and are eligible to serve on the Management body.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and Mr Ralph Richards for their efforts was passed with acclamation.

CHAPTER 10

A NEW BALL GAME – (March 1979 to August 1989)

Having now purchased the Course and made a number of necessary changes required to the running of the Club's affairs, at the Council meeting on 12th April 1979 a ***discussion took place on the future heavy work load that would fall upon the Club Staff and the Council, particular mention being made of the Secretary's position where a large proportion of this extra work would fall. It was considered unfair to expect an older man to cope with the load and that it needed a younger person. It was therefore the unanimous decision of the Council to regretfully ask the Club's Secretary to resign the position due to the foregoing reasons. When informing the Secretary, the Chairman was asked to convey the thanks of Council for his efforts during his 'Term of Office'***; the Secretary Mr Huxtable, not being present at this Council meeting. One member, who most certainly was present, was the Club's first Lady to be elected onto the Council, Mrs Edna Westmancott. A year later Edna would be joined by Mrs Pam Hurley and both ladies would become an integral part of the House Committee.

Also reported at this meeting was that the Head Greenkeeper ***Mr Muir, had now left the Club's employ.*** No reason was given and ***it was agreed that in the interim, Mr Lumb, would be responsible for the day to day work on the Course and for the supervision of the Greenstaff;*** as it transpired this situation would remain unchanged for the next three years.

The appointing of a new Secretary was a different matter altogether, as Council agreed this should be finalised at the earliest and at their meeting on 14th May the Chairman informed the meeting ***that an advertisement had brought four replies.*** Continuing he asked the Council to ***consider salary and conditions before arranging interviews and explained that Mr Don O'Leary, a former Council Member, had taken early retirement and could be interested in the post. It was agreed that Mr O'Leary would be very suitable and he should be approached.***

The Chairman's request was obviously taken to heart as at the following meeting on 12th June 1979 it was ***announced that the total cost of the Secretary at present, including Secretarial Assistance and Stocktaking is at least £3,075 per annum. Mr O'Leary has been interviewed and has accepted the post at £2,250 plus agreed expenses. He will carry out all Secretarial Services and Stocktaking Duties, and as such these Services, will no longer need to be paid for separately. Don can start on 18th June, which the Council unanimously agreed.*** 'Cometh the Hour', 'Cometh the Man', what a very good appointment this was to be.



Don O'Leary

Not that it had anything to do with Don's appointment, but yet another Club Steward left for pastures new, at this time.

You might be excused for thinking that as the members now owned their own Golf Club everything would now be plain sailing, but not so. For starters, having been given no choice but to purchase the Club, the Council had extended itself financially and this is clearly shown in the Finance and Development Committee Report, which was presented on 13th August 1979.

Both Mr Richards (Committee Chairman) and Mr Harris (Treasurer - who had hole in 1 on the 1st) stressed the importance of finding ways and means of increasing the Club's income, without which the financial situation would become steadily worse. Recruitment of New Member's is the most important source and encouraging Societies to play at Filton was also a good source of increasing income. It was hoped that the new Steward and Stewardess, because of their enthusiasm, would help to re-create interest in the catering and social side of the Club.

One final item to be agreed at this meeting was the 'Change of Club Title'; 'Filton Golf Club Limited' being changed to **Filton Golf Club (1979) Limited**.

There now followed a prolonged period, from a Council perspective, when it seemed much of their efforts were directed towards negotiating or re-establishing previous and new business arrangements. This included a Lease with the Bristol City Corporation for the land on which 'Drop' and 'Blackberry Hill' Holes were situated, Ground Rent with BAe for the continued use of the Practice Ground and also meeting representatives from the BAe Golf Society regarding their payment for using the Course as their home venue. You may have noticed that the Club were not the only Company to have changed their name, as B.A.C. had now become part of British Aerospace (BAe).

In addition to these negotiations, it was imperative to establish the responsibilities and authority of the new Companies Trustee Directors and their obligations. The following extract, is taken from the present day Club Rule Book:

FILTON GOLF CLUB RULES AND REGULATIONS 1. CONSTITUTION - RULES

1. NAME AND OBJECTS OF THE CLUB

The name of the Club shall be FILTON GOLF CLUB, and the object shall be to promote the game of golf and provide the appropriate supporting and ancillary facilities.

2. OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

a) Ownership

The property of the Club shall be vested in **Filton Golf Club (1979) Limited**, which Company is registered under the Companies Acts and is required to pursue the objectives and conform to the regulations set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. All the shares of the Company shall be held in trust, for the members by Trustee/Directors who shall be full members of the Club (as defined in the regulations) appointed by the Council (see Rule 7).

There shall be at least three (3) but not more than five (5) Trustee/Directors, of whom one (1) shall normally be the Council Chairman for the time being, and they shall be indemnified against any costs, charges, or expenses they incur or become liable for in their capacity as Trustee Directors.

Trustee/Directors should be conversant with the Notes for the Guidance of Registered Companies issued by the Department of Trade and Industry, of which, a copy is held by the Club Secretary.

b) Management

The management of the Club shall be vested in the Council, whose authority in all except financial matters shall be paramount unless over-ruled at a general meeting of the members by a majority of at least two thirds (1/3) of those voting on the motion.

c) Finance

Under the Companies Acts the Trustee/Directors are responsible and accountable for the business affairs of Filton Golf Club (1979) Limited. Their authority/approval is therefore required for, inter alia:

- (i) The sale or purchase of fixed assets,
- (ii) The raising of loans
- (iii) The annual Budget and
- (iv) The annual statement of accounts (Profit and Loss account, Balance Sheet etc).

With this out of the way emphasis was directed to obtaining a new lease with the Bristol Corporation and at the Council Meeting on 10th December 1979 the ***Chairman informed the meeting that he along with Derek Head had had discussions with the City Valuer and as a result new proposals were put forward for the Club's consideration. Continuing he explained that he had succeeded in getting a reduction in rent from £2,200 to £1,250 with a further possible rebate for the first two of a ten year lease of £250 per year, but there would have to be a review of the rent at the end of the first five years.***

The Chairman then invited Mr Richards, the Chairman of the Trustee Directors and Finance & Development Committee, to outline the up to date situation, and Mr Richards responded, saying that the Club should be optimistic regarding the future. He then went on to inform the Council that the Club ***had now reached agreement with John Courage on a joint application for planning consent for the 8+ acres of land, which if successful would solve the problem of access***; to clarify future reports the joint development will be referred to as 'Pen Park'.

In explanation of the problem over access, it should be noted that in 1980 John Courage owned land to the left and abutting the Course on which the Wayfarer Public House was situated and because of this the Club could not gain direct access onto its own land.

It was therefore seen by Council as imperative that the Club negotiate with Land Owners in the vicinity, to seek their assistance or purchase part of their land to enable the required access onto site. John Courage being a Land Owner was approached first and discussion took place, which culminated in a financially beneficial agreement being arrived at. The proposed Plan would require the old timber constructed Wayfarer Public House being demolished and replaced with a new brick building, which would be re-located facing the Pen Park Road. By doing this John Courage would gain a 4 acre parcel of land, which when combined with the Clubs 4 acre site, would provide a substantial and lucrative building plot, to be sold on to a Developer for residential purposes.

Most importantly it would provide the Club with the access they so desperately needed and with the proceeds of the sale, enable them to substantially reduce the debt they had incurred when purchasing the Course.

A joint planning application for Pen Park was eventually submitted in January 1980, but because the planners had a concern over the loss of 'Open Space Land', 'Road Access' and the 'Pen Park Hole', the planning application was turned down.

A second joint application was submitted in September 1980. Mr Richards also reported that the ***Club had received an offer of £30,000 for the area referred to as Plot 4 from BAe, which the Council found unrealistic and agreed to 'put on ice'***; to clarify future reports this land will be referred to as 'Highfields'.

One further topic discussed at the meeting, yes Council where still having to deal with other Club matters, concerned gambling. ***The Royal & Ancient had written to all Clubs warning them of the illegal gambling by amateurs on auction sweeps and accepting prizes, who's value was in excess of the accepted stipulated limits.*** The practice of conducting an auction sweep for a player in the Chairman's Cup had been going on for many of years. It involved members bidding large sums of money to secure their chosen favourite, which, should their player win provide the successful gambler with a substantial pay out from the accumulated 'pot'. Adrian Young recalls that a member having secured him, for £35, was extremely angry when Adrian who had reached the semi-final stage was disqualified from the competition on a technicality. Oops.

Finally under 'Any Other Business' it is evident that ***attitudes had changed over 'Visiting Societies' and 'Private Parties'***, or more likely the Club needed the money. Either way, ***with regards the former the Secretary was authorised to negotiate special terms for visiting societies and the latter to negotiate charges for letting the Club Facilities, although the number of occasions would be very limited.***

This was a busy time indeed and Council business continued unabated throughout the remainder of 1979 and well into 1980, with the 'day to day' matters being dealt with efficiently and effectively by the Secretary Don O'Leary. So well in seems, that it was felt he must have time on his hands as an ad-hoc Captains Selection Committee ***recommended to the Council at their meeting on 15th September 1980 that Don become the Club Vice Captain in 1981 and Captain in 1982.*** When told of this, ***Don said that he was honoured to be invited and would do his best to serve the Club well during his term in office.***

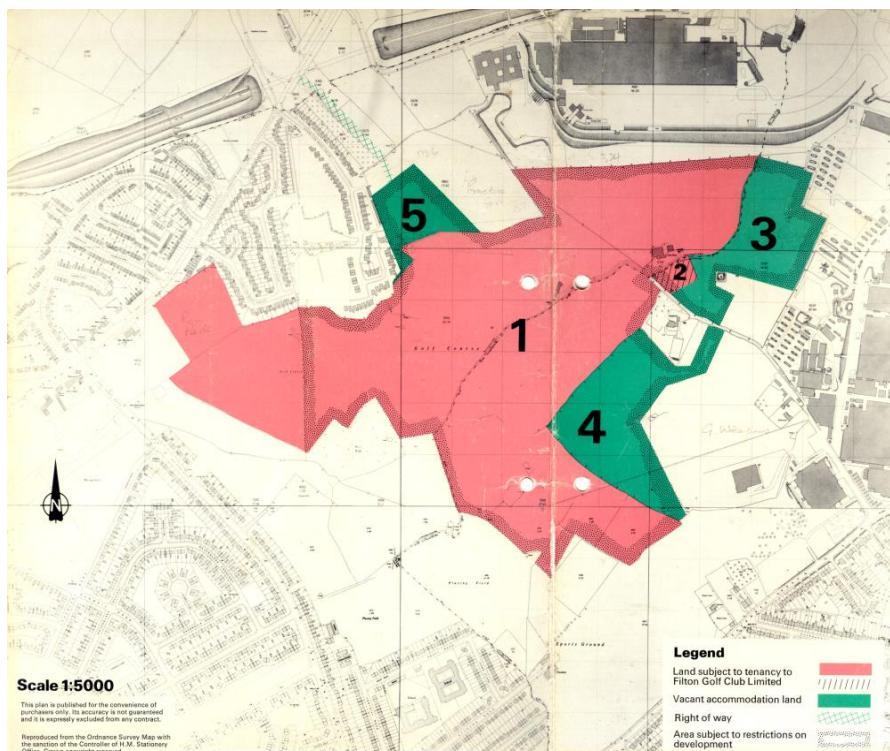
Also at this same meeting it was reported that a ***letter had been received from BAe terminating the Club's recently agreed licence for the use of the Practice Field, as from 31st May 1981.*** The decision was subsequently rescinded following an agreement over a Rent payment.

With the year now drawing to a close, Council thoughts once again turned to the Club's future and on 8th December 1980 at their meeting ***Mr Richards, Chairman of the Finance and Development Committee set out assumptions on which his Committee considered that the future development should be based as follows:***

- 1) Because the cost of building a completely new Clubhouse on a fresh site would be beyond the Club's resources, the present structure would have to be replaced and extended in stages on the present site.
- 2) Additional car parking space would be obtained by using land between Golf Course Lane and the Radar Tower (part of Plot 3) adjoining the present overflow car park (Plot 2)
- 3) 4 acres, of land at the northwest corner of the Course (part of Plot 1) adjoining John Courage (Wayfarer Public House) land would be sold for residential development.
- 4) Plot 5 would eventually be sold for residential development. ,

- 5) The triangle of flat land at the southern end of Plot 4 adjoining BAe (Dynamics Group) site would be earmarked for possible sale.
- 6) All but 4 acres of the Course (already mentioned Plot 1), the Northern (sloping) part of Plot 4 and all of Plot 3 except the small area needed for extra Parking Space, to be used for the modified Course and for the replacement of the 2 holes that were lost (Pen Park and Twin Oaks), and for a new Practice / Driving Range.
- 7) We should consider buying the Plot consisting of Holes 10 and 11, which is now rented from Bristol City Council (Drop & Blackberry Hill).

These assumptions were accepted and approved by the Council, and the previous decision to ask the Course Architects, Mr. Hawtree, to say what his fees would be for advising the Club on the revised layout was re-affirmed.



What is a shame is that while 'Long Term Plans', in the interests of the majority of members, were being formulated by Council at lengthy meetings they also had to waste their valuable time on a disruptive group who were causing a great deal of annoyance to Club members in general. The card playing activities of this group was causing disruption, with noise, bad behaviour and unacceptable language cited as the main problems.

At this very same Council Meeting when Mr Richards was giving his assumptions for the 'Future of the Club', the ***Captain and Vice Captain reported on another confrontation with the card-players, during which disagreeable attitudes had been struck by several of those involved. One such person had stated that he himself was so much opposed to the Council's actions in recent times that for about three years he had pursued a policy of non-cooperation.***

It was mentioned that some of the group quite genuinely believed that in one instance at least, the Council had acted improperly by opening the partition between the two lounges contrary to a decision taken at a previous Annual General Meeting.

The situation became so bad that Council ***decided to test the feeling of the membership generally, by placing the following motion on the forthcoming Annual General Meeting agenda:***

Motion for Discussion:

"Decisions and actions taken by the Council in recent months with the object of improving the standards of behaviour and the atmosphere of the Club are, in the opinion of some members neither desirable nor necessary and are not supported by the majority of members".

The main issues are:

- 1) The action taken to stop the use of abusive language and unduly noisy behaviour.
- 2) Restrictions on the consumption of meals other than light snacks to the dining area.
- 3) The experimental opening of the partition between the two lounges, when the 1976 Annual General Meeting voted against this.

This Annual General Meeting:

- a) Endorses the views and actions of the Council.
- b) Considers the experimental opening of the partition between the two lounges to have been a success and wishes the arrangement to continue.
- c) Urges the Council to take any appropriate steps to deal with unsatisfactory behaviour by any members.

Having now been given the membership's support it was unanimously agreed by the Council, that ***the individual (non cooperation) should be invited to give an assurance that his statement was made in a moment of heat and that he had no intention of being un-cooperative with the Club's officers or the Council. His position would be reconsidered after his reply had been received.*** The Secretary is to write to the individual at an early date.

At the following meeting on 19th January 1981 ***replies to the letters had been received from a number of the group concerned, which were read. The Council felt that the apologies were adequate, apart from one paragraph in one letter, which could be construed as having an element of impenitency;*** Following discussion, it was agreed that the apologies were acceptable.

There still remained however, two individuals who had not replied due to non-receipt of their letter.

The letter, which was sent by Recorded Delivery, had been returned to the Club because of the individual's failure to collect it from the Post Office. In the case of one of the individuals, the letter was posted to him again on Friday 16th January and it was agreed that in his case if he has not replied by the weekend, and the letter is returned to the Club, the Secretary is to write to him informing him that his non cooperation is unacceptable and that his Membership of the Club has been terminated; a letter giving Council the assurances they required was subsequently received from him.

The second individual involved was offered his letter by the Secretary, but refused acceptance in an abusive manner, to accept it, he said, "indicating that the Post Office was at fault and it was up to them to re-deliver it".

A few days later the individual called at the office, apologised for his attitude and language on the previous visit and indicated his willingness to accept and to reply to the letter. As he failed to reply by the time of the following Council Meeting it was agreed that a further letter should be sent to him on Tuesday 20th January informing him that he must reply by return of post, and that his failure to do so would be taken as an indication of his unwillingness to give the required assurances. The termination of his membership would be assumed and his loan would be repaid. Although a letter was received it was felt to be unsatisfactory and Council decided that a further letter be sent to him informing him that unless the Club receives unequivocal assurances that there will be no repetition his membership would be terminated; a letter giving the assurances required was subsequently received. However, following serious irregularities in a Club Competition the gentleman's membership was terminated in 1985.

If this wasn't enough, at this same meeting discussion took place regarding the behaviour of certain members of the Junior Section, as they ***tended to be noisy and had a complete lack of respect, and disregard for more senior members.*** On reflection it is hardly surprising given the behaviour of a number of their peers.

It was finally reported at this protracted meeting, under the heading 'Finance and Development' that the Committee had met and ***plans were now being drawn up for the future development of the Course and the Clubhouse. Consideration was also being given to the inclusion of a 'Driving Range' as distinct from a 'Practice Area'.***

It is perhaps, worthy of comment at this particularly busy time to consider the role of the 'Finance and Development Committee'. The 'Committee' was established when the Council realised that to prevent any considerable delay in obtaining a Trustee's decision, it was imperative that a small flexible working party of Trustee Directors was available, on a day to day basis to review, oversee and utilise their considerable expertise with regards to Finance, Construction and Company Law. This Committee would be able to respond quickly to ever changing events and be able to act on behalf of all Trustees in some matters. The Committee would then report back at the monthly 'Trustee's Meeting Proper' and the Trustee's as a body would be responsible for considering all aspects of any intended project with specific emphasis a project may have on the Club financially, so as to prevent the Club being exposed to a potentially crippling situation or from being compromised in any way.

In the case of Ralph Richards and Derek Head their input would be immense over many years, with Ralph involved in all financial considerations and Derek with Course and Clubhouse projects.

In general the various well established Sub-Committee's; House, Greens, Social etc. met monthly to discuss any requirements they may have and submit their recommendations to the Council for further discussion and decision. If a Council decision then involved substantial expenditure, the matter was forwarded to the Trustee Directors. The Directors at their monthly meeting could consider the matter, on all aspects with specific consideration to the impact it may have financially so as to prevent the Club being exposed in any way, as previously mentioned.

The Finance and Development Committee were formed to take a number of the necessary decisions, without delay, on behalf of the Full Committee on a 'day to day' basis. To their great credit, it must be recorded, that despite their power of veto, the Trustee Directors have never been known to use this option, preferring on the very few occasions they may well have done, to advise Council to perhaps reconsider.

With regards the Club's finances, it should be remembered that while negotiations over planning permission, the sale of land etc. continued the Club still had to service a considerable overdraft and it was reported to Council at their meeting on 30th March 1981, ***that a very strict control was necessary in all departments for the coming year.*** Despite this warning however, funding was made available, when there was a genuine requirement, and for a number of future developments, which included:

The Clubhouse:

Mr Head tabled a preliminary outline sketch of proposals for the future development of the Clubhouse. It was also agreed, that the Stewards accommodation needs to be considerably improved if the Club are to retain the type of Steward it requires.

The Car Park:

The lack of parking space was causing a problem, and several complaints from members had been received.

The Course:

A New Course layout based on recommendation from Mr F. Hawtree, Golf Course Architect, was presented to Council for general approval before being displayed in the Clubhouse.

It was recognised that all of this would require a considerable financial commitment, which the Club were not in a position to consider at this time. There was a glimmer of light on the horizon though, as apart from the impending sale of land for a housing development (subject to gaining planning permission) there was an opportunity to make Course improvements by allowing 'Tipping'.

The Finance and Development Committee suggested ***that the area to the North of the present 18th Fairway, and the lower end of the Radar Tower Plot could be made much more useful if the gradient could be reduced by tipping. A volume of some 30,000 cubic meters could be taken and this would generate a very large income.*** Before this could begin though, ***the Legal aspects would have to be ascertained, planning approval would be needed and BAe would have to be appraised and their cooperation obtained.***

A temporary access road would be necessary across the Radar Plot, a tip supervisor employed, earth moving plant hired and an Engineers advice would be necessary. Following discussion the Council agreed that this proposal should be urgently pursued.

On the home front, ***the Steward Mr Nicholls and his wife were leaving and a replacement couple, Mr and Mrs Hardeman, had been engaged.*** Also the ***Club's Professional was granted permission for the use of a Portakabin adjacent to his shop on a temporary basis and subject to an annual revue.***

Another change, which came about at this time, was that the ***House and Social Committees had been amalgamated to create a House and Social Committee. The sub-Committees' monitoring of services and prices would be in collaboration with the Secretary, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Clubhouse, and coordinating the work of a number of co-opted members to run Social Events.***

One very pleasant event that caused quite a stir was recorded in the minutes of 29th June 1981, with the **visit of Tony Jacklin**. ***While very welcome it had been made without any reference to the Council, which was a matter of concern. The Council agreed that such important events must be brought before the Council for approval in future.***



Stan Micklewright (Club Captain), Don O'Leary (Secretary), Tony Jacklin, Roy Wilkins, Derek Head & Ken Gooder (Chairman)

If the Council had been upset over arrangements for the visit by Tony Jacklin, they must have been distraught at their meeting on 17th August 1981, when they were informed that ***the planning application for the 4 acres adjacent to the BAe practice field had been turned down on the following grounds;*** to clarify future reports this land will be referred to as Charlton Gardens.

- 1 The site is shown on the approved town map as being land to be retained in its existing use.
- 2 The existing open space use of the site is considered to be the most appropriate for this particular area, in view of its location in relation to its elevation in the landscape.
- 3 Its proximity to a Test and Development Airfield including Military Aircraft in this elevated position would expose residents to a high level of noise, which is undesirable in planning terms.
- 4 The proposed development extends the already long cul-de-sac which itself opens on to a road system, with only one outlet, and which is becoming increasingly overloaded with vehicles.

Mr Richards explained that the Club's ***next move was to open negotiations with the planning people to discuss a compromise and to go to appeal at the same time.*** This was not the only planning application to be rejected as ***the joint application to build on the 4 acres of land at Pen Park was deferred by the planners, until Courage had resolved their problems:*** the problems having been brought about by the proximity of the 'Pen Park Hole' excavation (reference appendix 2),

Continuing, Mr Richards also commented on:

Tipping: The Club, are still ***investigating the possibilities of in-filling certain areas with a view to providing a new practice area*** (Radar Field and to the left of the then 18th Fairway).

Car Park & Clubhouse: A plan containing ***details of an improved car parking area and proposed Clubhouse extension is now on display in the Clubhouse and comments from members are very favourable.*** Work on the car park commenced on Monday 17th August 1981 and was completed by December.

At the following Council Meeting on the 29th September 1981 the ***Chairman opened the meeting by expressing his sincere regret at the premature passing of Ted Livingstone who had been a Council member for many years and had contributed considerably to the Greens Committee and the upkeep of the Course during his time on Council;*** it seems incredible, but only a month before, Ted had taken an active role at the previous meeting.

Following this announcement ***the Secretary explained that a further lease for the City of Bristol land,*** on which 'The Drop' and 'Blackberry Hill' Holes were situated had been ***signed by two signatories, sealed and returned to the Club's Solicitor;*** at their meeting on 8th December 1981 a letter from the Club's Solicitors was read, confirming that this matter was at last completed.

It would be easy to forget, that most members were oblivious to many of the important negotiations taking place on their behalf, and quite rightly, were content to concentrate all their efforts on improving their golf. By doing this many were successful and in no small way played a significant part in promoting and maintaining the Club's Golfing profile. One example of this was recorded in the Minutes of a Council Meeting on 29th September 1981 when the ***Chairman expressed on behalf of the Council his sincere congratulations to the Club's Team who won the Lister Cup (for the first time) at Llanwern the previous Saturday. The Team was Brian and Robert Fowler, Simon Hurley and David Woodman.***

For Council however, Golf it seems was secondary, and it was business as usual at the following meeting on 2nd November 1981, with ***Mr Richards informed the meeting that there was now a glimmer of hope regarding our joint application for Pen Park plot.***

The Planning Authority had requested Courage to undertake a detailed geological survey of the land on their site, the result of which will determine the Planning Authority's attitude. He went on to say that there was also a possibility of part of Charlton Gardens (Plot 5) adjacent to the Practice Field being considered by the Planning Authority and that BAe have showed a renewed interest in Highfields (Plot 4). Landscaping part of the Course would still be subject to planning approval.

With regards to Highfields (Plot 4) an approach to ***the Club, had been made by the Dynamics Division of BAe to purchase the 4 acres (approximately) site. An offer of £50,000 had been received, but the Finance & Development Committee felt that this was inadequate and BAe on being informed of this have intimated that there is a possibility of a small further increase. Council considered this situation at length and eventually agreed unanimously to accept a proposal that the Committee should continue to negotiate with BAe for the best deal possible in excess of £50,000.*** Mr Richards was pleasing to report at their next meeting on 19th January 1982, that the ***Club had agreed a figure of £65,000, which had to be approved by the BAe Main Board, and he felt that this was but a formality.***

This was extremely good news indeed and there was more to follow, when at a meeting on 19th January 1982 ***Mr Head informed Council that agreement had been reached with BAe and the site contractors (who are engaged in building a new office block adjacent to the Dynamics buildings) to tip 5000/6000 cubic metres of soil in Plot 4 onto the Course for Landscaping purposes. BAe agreed that their security fence could be opened for this purpose, a gate installed and a guard posted on the site. A figure of 65p per cubic metre was agreed which should give us a further £3,250 (approximately). It has also been agreed that the Contractors will move 'Top Soil' as required and level and infill to our requirements.*** This was confirmed on 16th February 1982 when ***Mr Head reported that agreement had been reached with Yate Excavation Limited, to undertake the landscaping of the area known as Highfields (Plot 4). All details regarding removing soil, creation of mounds, levels, greens, etc., had been covered. This Company had agreed to co-operate fully with P. Andrews who is already working on the site. At a subsequent Council Meeting Mr Head explained that repair costs to the lane from the car park to Hurley-House (now the entrance to BAe Buildings) and the completion of the traffic island in the car park would be offset against tipping in Plot 4 (Highfields); these items were completed in September 1982.***

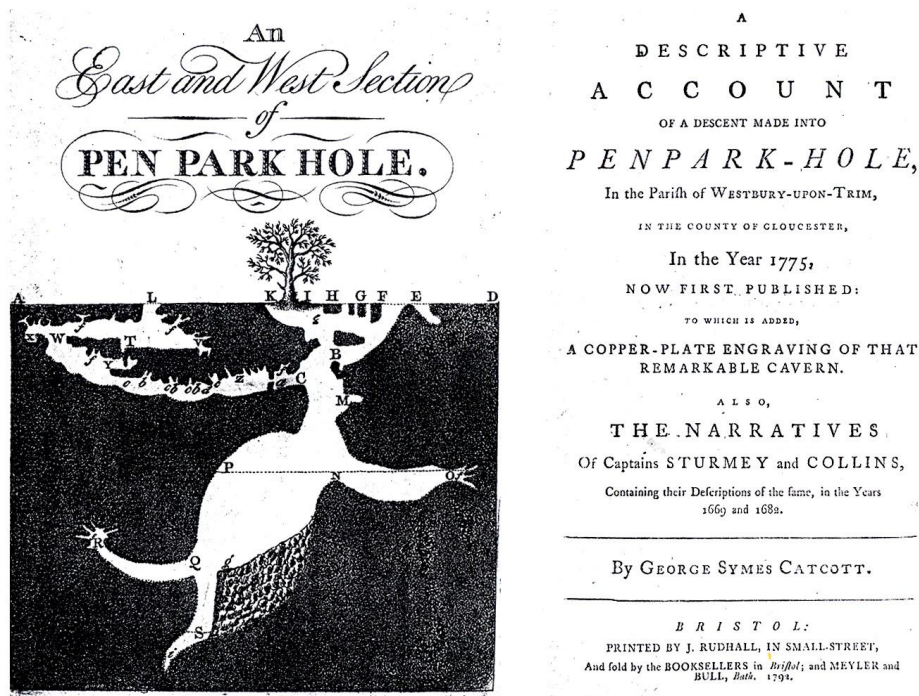
What is significant about this project, especially as negotiations over a number of other projects were seemingly taking an eternity to finalise, is that ***the sale of the land to BAe was completed on the 8th March 1982*** (in just 3 months) ***and the proceeds (£64,000 NETT) had discharged the Club's overdraft and enabled £20,000 to be put on deposit;***

Not quite such good news at this same meeting, was when the Council were informed that ***the Club's second application for the Charlton Gardens plot was being considered by the Planning Committee on the 25th January and the Club should be optimistic as to the outcome.*** As it transpired, planning permission was once again refused and the ***Council agreed in March to an appeal against the decision being prepared and submitted to the Department of Environment.***

At a subsequent Council meeting ***on 22nd September 1982 it was reported that the appeal had been successful, but that the development of the site still hinged on progress of the Club's application for the Pen Park plot.***

That aside, Mr Richards explained that the ***Club had received an offer for the Pen Park Plot of £178,000, which at this juncture is subject both to contract and to satisfactory planning permission for residential development.***

In conjunction with this offer, various tests are being taken during the next seven days to ascertain the suitability for building near the 'Pen Park Hole' excavation, and if these prove successful, this should result in planning permission being granted. The costs of the various tests are apportioned between the Developers, Courage and Filton Golf Club with the Club's contribution being £3,250, which is 25% of the total cost; Council agreed that we should make this commitment.



Pen Park Hole, an excavated Cavern, was not to be build over 'hence the Planning Problem'

As if Mr Richards wasn't doing enough, he informed Council at their meeting on 16th February 1982 that ***Mr Lumb had requested permission to extend the Professional Shop for the creation of an Office and indoor practice area and that Mr Lumb would bear the cost of this. Having discussed at length the question of availability to members, size, shape, cost of lighting and heating, etc., the Council agreed in principle, but felt that it was necessary to have full details of the whole operation.***

A further topic, discussed by Council at this meeting and worthy of note (not raised by Mr Richards), is that ***David Crowe, a member of the Greenstaff, was at Winchester continuing his training in the City of Guilds Phase 2.*** This is the first time staff training has been mentioned so it would be reasonable to assume that the Club had started providing a programme of training, which thankfully continues to this day. The benefit of having such a policy can be easily seen with the improvements made to the Course and new techniques being adopted by a more 'Professional Staff', who are no longer referred to as 'Grass Cutters'.

To assist the staff further the Club had a visit from the Sports Turf Research Institute (S.T.R.I.), and it reported on the 16th March 1982 was ***that Mr. G. Perris spent an afternoon examining the turf on Greens and the Course generally. He was very critical of our policy to continue playing Greens in all conditions and strongly recommended that Winter- Greens should be prepared and kept cut throughout the year for use in winter when conditions warranted it; all Members please note it isn't the 'Secretary's Fault'!!***

The final matter mentioned was by the Secretary, who reported that **BAe had not invoiced the Club for Rent of the 'Practice Ground' since the licence was changed, from a yearly payment to monthly, in 1980.** This situation would continue until the year 2000, when this oversight was reported to BAe: Although ethically correct, tragically it prevented the Club from claiming the practice ground as their own by right, having maintained and used the field solely for golf during the previous 20 years.

If that was a loss then certainly there was a possibility of a greater one at the next Council meeting on the 7th May 1982, which was the first to be held since holding the 1982 Annual General Meeting. Traditionally the first item on the agenda is the election of a Council Chairman and once again Mr Gooder was appointed. However, Mr Gooder their choice, **asked the Council members to consider making a change for the following reasons; First he has been Chairman for five years, which was long enough for one person to hold the position; second, because he was now 70 and probably lacked the drive a younger person would have; third, because the Annual General Meeting had signalled its desire for a change at the top, and on rejecting the re-appointment of Roy Wilkins and Stan Micklewright, two hard-working and valued Council members, the meeting may have been indicating their disagreement with what those two men stood for - a determination not to allow a small disruptive element to lower the tone of the Club as they had done since the early 1970's. If this were the case, the members would not want a man who felt even more strongly on the question of members behaviour to continue as Chairman. Only if the Council shared the wish to maintain satisfactory standards should they re-elect him as Chairman, for another year. Council showed their support by re-electing Mr. Gooder unanimously.** Accepting his fellow Council members wish, Ken proceeded by firstly welcoming the newly elected members to Council, one of which was Mr Ian Foulner, who would play a significant part in the future of the Club. This would also be true of the other 'new boy', Colin Ingram, who went on to become the Club Treasurer until 1996.

If Ian and Colin's inclusion wasn't good news enough then one item reported most certainly was. **Mr Head confirmed that a new drain had been completed and the problem of effluent to the left of the 18th Fairway was resolved;** fellow member Clive Hewitt, explained that it was absolutely imperative to hit the ball straight down the middle on this hole or else you could end up right in the ---- (effluent).

You may recall that Nicky Lumb had been given responsibility for the upkeep of Course in 1979 when the former Head Greenkeeper had left, but now it was **proposed to Council that the Club should consider employing a fully qualified Head Greenkeeper as a proper manager of the Course;** although it was agreed to recruit a Head Greenkeeper at the next Council meeting and an advertisement had been duly placed, no change would occur for well over 12 months.

Change there would be though, when with great regret at the Council Meeting on 19th July 1982 the **Chairman, Ken Gooder, informed Council that he would like to retire at the end of October and thereby give a new Chairman the opportunity to settle down in the job by the time the next Annual General Meeting took place. He went on to say that the job had given him great satisfaction and that he had enjoyed very much his years in the Chair. He now felt, however, that there was not the will to bring about changes that he had unsuccessfully pressed for since 1975, and that a new Chairman might be more successful than he had been.**

Ken's request was endorsed at the following Council Meeting on 22nd September 1982, when he **reminded Council that he had expressed at the previous Council Meeting a desire to relinquish the Chairmanship at the end of October, but felt that, due to circumstances and events since that Meeting, he would like to vacate the Chair at this Meeting and would do so on the election of a new Chairman, or a Chairman appointed just for this Meeting. He informed Council that, while on holiday recently, he had suffered a slight stroke from which he has now made a complete recovery. He expressed a wish that his departure from Council should not be an occasion for speeches nor for discussion. He thanked Council for their support over the years, and expressed a wish that all our plans would be fruitful. He then requested Council to appoint a successor, reminding them that it may be wise to consider appointing a Chairman just for this Meeting, as time may be needed to consider the appointment of a permanent Chairman.**

Mr Head proposed Mr Cowood, which was seconded by Mr Richards and was carried unanimously. Mr Gooder then vacated the Chair and left the Meeting. Following discussion the Council unanimously agreed that Mr. Gooder should be offered a Trustee Directorship of the Club and that he should become an Honorary Life Member.

With Jack now in the 'Chair', **Mr Head informed Council that 95% of the infill required in the Highfields plot had been completed. The top fairway was ready for the application of topsoil, and the lower fairway would be ready in three to four weeks. In addition, the new 6th green was now in the process of construction. The Chairman, on behalf of Council, expressed his sincere thanks to Derek for all the hard work he had undertaken in all conditions in the preparation of the new holes.**



7th Green construction - 'Dog Leg'



6th Green construction - 'Highfields'

Continuing, Derek explained that regarding the **Steward's Quarters, plans for the new Bungalow were completed and would be submitted next week. It would be at least two months before the application, was considered by the Planning Committee.** Also the **Printing and Graphic** (a small Company adjacent to the Club's car park) **sewage connection had been completed along with other work, which had been undertaken on a contra basis at an approximate cost of £3,000. A balance of £5,000 will be paid to the Club, by cheque soon, which is an amount due following the sale of a small area of land to Printing and Graphics.**

Money, it seems was coming in from all directions at this time as also reported was that ***Mr Atkins, a householder in Charlton Gardens, was sold a small plot of land as an extension to his garden, for £1,000 plus Costs.***

This had been quite a first meeting for Jack, but he would soon get used to it, as his appointment as Council Chairman was re-affirmed at the following meeting on 1st November 1982, when it agreed that Jack ***will continue as such until the Annual General Meeting of 1983.***

One item of News must have been music to the ear for Council, was forwarded by Mr Richards who announced that ***planning permission had been finally granted for Pen Park and that a meeting had taken place with Beazer Homes at which final figures were confirmed;*** because of this a number of temporary holes required to be brought into play.

Despite the welcome cash injection and good news, the Council was not able to rest on its laurels however, as there was still much to do.

This is borne out at the Council meeting on 8th December 1982 when it was reported that ***work to install street type lights in the car park was soon to begin, planning permission for the Stewards Bungalow had been granted and work would commence early in the New Year*** (E.R. Hemmings quote of £33,595 being accepted), ***as would the landscaping to the left of the 18th Fairway*** now that the Club had been granted planning permission. In addition to these tasks also reported was that the ***Steward had given notice to leave the Club's employ on 31st December 1982*** and ***Mr Malcolm Franklin mentioned that arrangements had been completed for the planting of 122 trees in the Rannoch / Bowling Green / Long Hill area;*** 'gee thanks Malcolm', from a regular visitor to these areas.

With regards a new Steward, on the 5th January 1983 it was reported that ***Mr & Mrs Norcliff, who live in Abingdon would commence duties on Monday next.***

With this problem sorted out and taken off 'the list' others were immediately added, notably the purchase of Blackberry Hill land. ***Mr Richards reported that a meeting had taken place with members of Bristol City and Avon Council's to discuss two small pieces of land adjacent to the Blackberry Hill Tee, which they would like to sell to us. Although the land concerned was of no use to us, we should not object to its inclusion in negotiations for the purchase of the 11 acres in that area.*** Despite the Club's offer being turned down at this time, it was agreed to pursue the matter again later in the year.

Also included to this list was a 'Clubhouse Development Project', revised draft copies of which were distributed to Council members at their meeting on 23rd May 1983.

Mr Head explained that ***in addition to Clubhouse improvements, the Plan showed the construction of a new ladies and gentlemen's changing room block with new lockers and seating and with the necessary new shower, washbasin and toilet facilities.*** Continuing he further explained that ***the Plan was tabled as a discussion document to bring forth from Council members their views on the proposals and any new ideas they might have. During a lengthy discussion, a ball park estimate of the cost for carrying out the work envisaged was given as of the order of £65,000, for the new changing rooms block only.***

Mr Richards, referring to the **projected cash flow summary 01/01/1983 – 31/03/1988 and the capital expenditure schedule**, pointed out that from the sum of £144,000 available from property sales (current and projected) after allowing for land development tax, the sum of £40,000 was committed for the payment of the new bungalow and new gas boiler and external lighting and a further £20,000 was earmarked for the purchase of Blackberry Hill and new Course improvements, leaving a balance of £84,000.

At this juncture **Mr Franklin, Chairman of the Greens Committee**, made a strong plea for some of this money to be made available for the re-construction of the present greens, which have suffered considerably from two excessively wet winters; also for the re-making of the associated bunkers similar to the improvement made to the 'experimental' Oval green bunker. Provision was requested for the installation of an automatic watering system on the four new greens, which will be constructed during 1983 and for the extension of automatic watering to all greens on a rolling programme. Mr Franklin, continuing, pointed out that whereas our greens years ago were generally played only in the summer months and rested in the winter, that was not now the case and the greens have heavy use throughout the whole year. He considered that, in addition to constructing the new greens to the current 'high technology' standard, all our other greens should be brought up to this high standard at a reasonably early time. It was obvious that this programme of work would compete for funding with the expenditure envisaged on Clubhouse improvements and changing rooms block, and that it was un-likely that the total sum projected as available (£84,000) would be sufficient to provide for both Clubhouse and Course improvements.

Council agreed that it was **necessary to determine the cost of re-constructing the greens to a 'high-tech' standard, with associated improved bunkers, and provision of automatic watering to new greens, with extension ultimately to all Greens, before allocating any funds to other projects.**

To facilitate Council's request a Greens Committee meeting was held on 2nd June 1983 at which discussion took place on the **cost of re-constructing existing greens to high technology standard and this was confirmed at approximately £5,000 per green, excluding an automatic watering system. The cost of the automatic watering system is not known, but is estimated that the framework of a new installation with sprinkler facilities on four new greens and two re-constructed greens only would be in the region of £20,000.**

A discussion took place regarding the rate at which greens could be reconstructed and **Mr Lumb advised that the S.T.R.I. stated some two years ago that two greens per winter is as much as can be coped with. It was agreed that it would be unwise to consider re-construction of a greater number than this at one time. It was therefore, agreed that in the coming autumn two existing greens only should be reconstructed in addition to the four new greens (the latter four being capable of preparation in advance). The two existing greens selected were 'Barn' and 'Long Hill', which are adjacent to new greens and both urgently need attention.**

The Greens Committee conclusions were presented to the Council at their meeting on 11th July 1983 and it was agreed that in 1983:

- 1) 4 new greens should be completed at a cost of £20,000

- 2) 2 existing greens to be renewed at a cost of £10,000
- 3) An automatic watering system to be installed on all 6 greens at a cost of £10,000. It was also agreed that a competitive estimates be obtained to determine the cost per green, prior to proceeding with this work.

Mr Franklin stressed the need to ***obtain the cost estimates as soon as possible and, if acceptable, to proceed with the work of constructing the greens this autumn.*** These resulting costs showed that the Greens Committee figures were wildly optimistic and a Special Council Meeting was called on 11th August 1983 to discuss the substantial increase involved. At the Meeting the Chairman explained, that it was ***convened to discuss the cost estimates received for the construction of four new greens and the re-construction of two existing greens. The two estimates received, out of three tenders invited, were disappointingly high, the lowest being £47,000 exactly and the other one slightly more than £52,000. The outstanding tender is being urged to submit his cost estimate, as it was previously thought the cost per green would be of the order of £5,000 (£30,000 total). Mr Richards had prepared a revised Cost Flow Projection of Income and Expenditure from the present time up to March 31st 1991 for discussion in attempting to arrive at a conclusion regarding expenditure on greens.***

Mr Franklin made the case that ***in spite of the higher than anticipated cost estimates it would be foolish in the extreme to construct the four new greens required to a standard no better than that of seventy years ago, when many or the Club's greens were made. The existing greens are good at present notwithstanding the long spell of very dry weather and this is because of long hours of watering by the greens staff who commence work at 4.00 a.m. In the winter months, however, the greens become waterlogged due to compaction and inadequate drainage. Unless we tackle the problem now, while some funds are available, we shall forever be in the situation of good greens in summer and very bad greens in winter. Mr Franklin's opinion was that we had played the permanent greens far too much during the past winter and spring and that there had been many days when the whole Course should have been closed.***

Much discussion ensued on the need to improve both the Course and the Clubhouse but finally, ***since a decision was essential on what standard of greens the Club should construct this Autumn, if we were going to construct them in time for the new greens to be in play next Spring, Mr Marsland proposed and Mr Richards seconded a motion that the four new greens and two reconstructed greens (Barn and Long Hill) should be made to the best standard of drainage possible and that automatic watering should be installed, initially on these six greens but with provision for extension to all other greens as they become reconstructed to the best drainage standard; the motion proposed by Mr Marsland and seconded by Mr Richards was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.*** It was also agreed that the ***lowest tender (Hemmings, £47,000), should be accepted, but that the purchase and laying of the turf should be taken out of the specification with the appropriate cost saving; the purchase of the turf to be the Clubs responsibility and the work to be undertaken by the Club's Greens Staff or, if necessary, by another contractor.***

This decision was to backfire however as the Minutes of a Special Meeting on 3rd August 1984 record show.

1. The Meeting was convened to discuss points made in a recent letter from Mr Gooder and signed by other Club Members.
2. The Chairman opened the Meeting by welcoming those present and indicated that it was considered best to have this meeting and thereby obviate the need for a protracted correspondence operation.
3. The points highlighted in Mr. Gooder's letter were as follows: -
 - a) The four new greens recently brought into use are in a very poor condition due, in our opinion, to the poor quality of the turf used, the incompetence of those who laid the turf, lack of water despite the new irrigation system, and being cut too short.
 - b) The gradient between the two levels of the new Long Hill green is too steep, making it impossible not to shave down to the soil when the cutters are set at the normal height. Warnings given before the turf was laid were ignored.
 - c) The new Pond Hole green and the approach to it are a glaring example of bad turf laid by unskilled men.
 - d) Most of the tees are in very poor condition due to lack of care and cultivation as well as watering.
 - e) Some of the landscaping, which everyone welcomes has produced slopes that it will be difficult or impossible to maintain with the available machinery.
 - f) Even the arrival of a new head Greenkeeper did not prevent expensive Grass Seed being wasted on sun baked ground during a drought in a futile attempt to repair the scars left by the movement of heavy vehicles about the course.
 - g) Railway sleepers and tee mats used to meet winter conditions have been left lying on the course when they are no longer needed.
 - h) On Tuesday, 10th July, almost every green had oil or hydraulic fluid deposited on its apron and edges, a fact that was known to the person responsible, who was seemingly unwilling or unable to rectify the cause of the trouble.
4. The meeting discussed each item and it was agreed that the points made were justified, and valid reasons were given for shortcomings in various aspects and assurances given that we had learned from our mistakes and hopefully too same mistakes would not be repeated.
5. The Chairman reaffirmed that everything possible was being done to ensure that the Course would be worthy of us all as soon as possible and whatever action was necessary as a result of tonight's meeting would be taken.
6. Mr. Gooder said that he was gratified and reassured at this, and pleased at the concern at Club level, and suggested that if members were kept informed of what was going on, it would be most beneficial. He suggested that in the absence of a 'Captains News Letter', an authoritative statement explaining progress to members would benefit everyone.

7. Mr. Leek paid tribute to all concerned for the manner in which the meeting had been conducted.
8. The Chairman in conclusion expressed his sincere thanks to all present.

There are invariably teething problems with any new project and considering the size and complexity of this task it is hardly surprising a number of things went wrong. To take on something as large as this, especially without the expertise and experience required, was a huge undertaking and the Council should perhaps be congratulated for doing so. There is always a period of time, which is necessary, for things to settle and become established and it might have been better if a little breathing space was permitted before a complaint was forthcoming. On the other hand it is right that members demand the highest standard as can be sensibly achieved and by taking this course of action, remedies were introduced quicker than might well have been done. The end result as we now see was well worth the considerable efforts and heartache experienced by the individuals involved in the work and they must all be congratulated and our thanks must go out to them.

Returning to the present, ***on 21st August 1983 the Greens Committee plus the Club Secretary and Club Chairman and the Club Professional met to finalise the shape, size and features of each of the six greens concerned, together with associated bunkers, grass mounds and possible tree plantings in certain places, in order that an instruction could be given to the chosen contractor to commence work.*** Another matter reported at the meeting, was that the ***landscaping adjacent to the 18th fairway was proceeding and very good progress had been made.*** Mr Head said however, that he was ***disappointed with the rate of progress in the Pen Park area as the availability of good soil was a problem, but he was pleased to say that there was a possibility of getting better soil this week.***

There is no doubt that at some stage in their existence most Golf Clubs experience, as Filton did on this occasion, with equally strong arguments presented by both sides, a conflict over improvements to the Clubhouse or the Course. Invariably, if the case for Course improvements is supportable, it will win through, which sadly is nearly always at the expense of the Clubhouse.

This was no different in the Club's case, at least at this early stage, as reported at the Council Meeting on 31st October 1983.

House Chairman, ***Mr Bisset informed the Council that a specially convened House Committee Meeting, to which Mr Head had been invited, discussed a less ambitious Clubhouse development plan based on the fact that sufficient funds were not available to embark on the original development plan. A draft of this plan was produced and explained in detail to Council by Mr Marsland. Its main elements were the enlargement and improvement of both ladies' and gents' changing rooms and toilet facilities, the enlargement of the cellar and the creation of improved storage facilities. Mr Marsland explained that the only structural alteration was in increasing the size of the ladies changing room and this may require planning permission. This point will be investigated by Mr Head who will if it is found to be necessary submit as early as possible a plan of the extension to Bristol City Planning Authority. Council agreed the principle of these modified development plans and requested the House Committee to prepare a detailed plan for presentation at the next Council Meeting on Tuesday, 29th. November 1983.***

As a result a budget figure of £45,000 was presented and on the 16th January 1985 the work was offered to Cowlins who had submitted a price of £52,508.

To assist in financing the intended changes the Club decided to broker a deal with a leading Brewery and it was announced at the meeting that ***Halls had agreed to guarantee a figure of £30,000 to be set aside from now to 31st March 1985, after which it would be subject to review in the following financial year's budget; it would mean the Club only selling Halls' drinks.***

Good news also, regarding the Sports Council Grant of £30,000, which it had been suggested the Club might have to pay back. Mr Richards reported that he had ***written to the Sports Council explaining what was happening regarding the sale of four acres at Pen Park and the proposed sale of land at Charlton Gardens, and he was pleased to report that the Sports Council had accepted our appropriation of the proceeds from these transactions and, under the circumstances, there was no question of any of our funds being set against the loan.***

One further matter, which had first been mentioned 15 months previously was forwarded by the Chairman, who explained that Mr. Lumb, through pressure of business, had made it clear that he wished to ***relinquish his responsibilities on the Course as soon as possible and, as it was essential that someone dealt with greens staff on a daily basis, the Secretary had agreed to undertake this task. Council agreed to this change and further agreed that the Secretary should have help in the office to undertake typing and other elements of clerical work as required.***

Since purchasing the Course in 1979, most Council reports, it seems, record events solely to do with either the Course or Clubhouse. It is welcome therefore that at the Council meeting on 15th February 1984 one item in particular other than the norm is worthy of comment.

A letter from Doug Earl in which he outlined proposals for a competition, in aid of a Marley Wheelchair Fund was read. Doug would sponsor the event to the extent of £100 and provide a trophy for the winner, providing any profit generated went towards the said Fund. Over the next 10 years a great number of Electric Wheelchairs were purchased (2 per year at approximately £700 each) in this way and at a 'Special Evening' event a disabled child was awarded a Wheelchair as a gift.

There can be no better sight than to witness a youngster's joy at being able, for the first time, to get about un-supervised and especially as a large space was made available to them in the Lounge and Bar to drive around for 'Practice'. 'Well done' Doug (Captain 1997).

As you may expect, with all the various projects and activities going on all at once, it was imperative the Council keep fully informed on the up to date situation. With this in mind, at their meeting on 20th March 1984 a number of matters were reported on, which included:

Charlton Gardens (Plot 3) – Negotiating with many interested parties the sale of this piece of land.

Blackberry Hill – Informed un-officially that the Club had been given permission to purchase this land had with the agreement of the Housing Committee of the Bristol City Council. At a subsequent meeting on 28th August 1984, ***Mr. Head reported that he had had further Contacts with the City Valuer Department and they had agreed to sell the land to us for £25,000, plus fees of £450, subject to the following terms being acceptable to us.***

- 1) The land which extends to approximately 11 acres is presently let to the Golf Club on a 10 years lease from the 25th March 1980. This tenancy is to be surrendered.
- 2) The Consideration is to be £25,000.
- 3) The land is to be used for open space/golf course purposes only. There is to be no building on the land in question.
- 4) The public footpath, which crosses the parcel of land in question is to be maintained by the Golf Club and is to be made available to the public at all times.
- 5) In the event of the Club ceasing to exist, for whatever reason, the City shall have first option to purchase the land at current market- value.
- 6) The Club is to be responsible for the maintenance of all the boundaries, hedge and fences where appropriate.
- 7) The conveyance documentation is to be prepared by the City Clerk and will contain such other clauses as he deems appropriate.
- 8) The Club is to be responsible for the City Clerk's legal costs in preparation of the necessary documentation and for the City's Surveyor's fee of £200.
- 9) These terms are subject to the approval of the appropriate Committee and the City Council.

Following discussion the Council agreed that ***the Club should purchase this piece of land for the stated price, but would like the amendment of clause 5) and requested that Mr Head in his reply should state our concern on this point.***

The Development of the Course – Access onto the Course via Corporation land would cost £700, for a period of 6 months, when the ‘Creation of Mounds at Pen Park’ takes place. George Wimpey was very interested in undertaking the work and was hopeful of getting sufficient material from two local contractors. In fact R.M. Penney (Contractors) were engaged and in-fill material from the Hewlett-Packard site was used and the task was completed in August 1984.

Head Greenkeeper – Further to the placing of *two advertisements in two national magazines the Club had a good response and having interviewed the best three applicants the Committee agreed that a recommendation be made to Council that we appoint Mr T. Pipe of Hoebridge Golf Centre, Old Woking.* Having discussed the item at length Council agreed that this appointment could go ahead and the Club would offer the following terms for his consideration:

- i) Salary £9,500 (To be reviewed annually at 1st April)
- ii) The Club to pay rent for temporary accommodation for 3 months.
- iii) If necessary the Club to help in the initial stages of house purchase by:
 - a) An advance in salary
 - b) A low interest loan or some other means mutually agreed between both parties.

As it transpired T. Pipe didn't take up the position and Richard Lavender was appointed. His stay was short lived however, as he left the Clubs employ later in December and the search was again on!

Club Logo – It was agreed that the existing *Logo of a Hoopoe Bird* be changed to *something more closely linked with Filton and new ideas were requested.*

If these issues were not enough, the Club was being pursued for Development Land Tax. Fortunately regarding this matter, Ralph Richards was at hand and with his usual astute, considered, persuasive manner and a certain amount of attrition he convinced the authorities that their substantial assessment 'was perhaps a little high' (from information received) and as a consequence the Club were saved many thousands of pounds.

At a Council Meeting on 2nd October 1984 Mr Richards reported that he ***had come to terms with the District Valuer on the land already sold, and that the first part of the sale of Charlton Gardens had now been completed and proceeds of £120,000 had been paid into the Bank.***

One item of note took place at this time with the Club accepting into its fold Mike Burns on 24th November 1984. Mike would go on to become the Club Secretary from February 1992 – July 1999 and also Club Captain in 1992.

On a sad note at the Council meeting on 27th March 1985 the Chairman requested that before the commencement of business, ***silent homage of one minute silence be observed in memory of the Club's two recently deceased members – Bob Howland (former Secretary) and Tony Screen (Council Member).***

Tony, a one off, stood down from Council following his being diagnosed with Cancer, but continued to visit the Club on occasions to enjoy a pint or two, fed to him from a funnel and through a tube in his throat.

It has previously been mentioned that Course improvements would generally take precedence over other matters, which included Clubhouse changes (mixed lounge). This policy was to change however as reported on 27th March 1985.

Reconstruction of Greens - Mr Smith informed Council that his Committee supported by the ***Match and Handicap Committee had agreed that the first two greens to be reconstructed should be the 3rd (Corner) and 4th (Rannoch) and in each case a new green could be constructed adjacent to the existing green, thereby obviating the necessity of playing a re-hashed course during construction. Mr Richards reminded the meeting that the chief consideration at this juncture must be finance and a decision would have to be made as to priorities with the limited funds at our disposal. He went on to say that approximately £56,000 had been committed to Clubhouse alterations and if Council considered that the extension to the Mixed Lounge should be undertaken in conjunction with the extension to the Ladies Changing Room at a cost of between £30,000 and £35,000, then no money would be available for the reconstruction of 2 greens this year.*** Mr Franklin also reminded the Meeting that it had ***been agreed that 2 greens would be reconstructed each year (except 1984) and he expected that programme to be undertaken.*** The matter was discussed thoroughly and it was agreed by ***Council that the priority in 1985 would be Clubhouse alterations, and the reconstruction of the first two greens would be undertaken in 1986.***

Having made this difficult decision the Council was then informed of the Clubhouse Development progress on the Men's and Ladies Changing Rooms. Mr Head explained that ***Planning Permission would (hopefully) be granted by the 19th April 1985, but meanwhile the Contractors who were ahead of schedule had made a start on the foundations and drains in the Ladies Section. Continuing, Derek went on to say that he had received an estimate from Cowlins for the extension to the Lounge, which was for £30,000 plus a provisional sum of £500.*** Derek pointed out that it would be ***more cost effective to extend the Lounge in conjunction with the building of the Ladies enlarged Changing Room, probably resulting in a saving of the order of £5,000, than if the two jobs were carried out separately.*** On the matter of funding for the Lounge extension, Mr Richards said that ***he did not consider it reckless if the Club borrowed money for this purpose, having regard to the Club's overall financial position and the possibility of an easement of the tax position on land already sold.*** Having discussed this at length Council agreed that the Club ***accept Cowlins price, and further agreed that the Extension to the Lounge be undertaken in conjunction with the Extension to the Ladies Changing Room.*** Mr Bisset expressed on behalf of the House Committee his ***sincere thanks and appreciation of Mr Head's hard work and commitment over the past few years.*** This was heartily endorsed by the Council.

These warm sentiments didn't apply to an unknown local resident however, as it was ***regrettably reported the loss (through stealing) of 54 Conifers, which had been planted only a few week earlier;*** perhaps now is the time that the Club should go and look for the missing trees, as after 20 years they would sick out like a sore thumb.

With all the upheaval over building work taking place it is hardly surprising that once again the Club were to say farewell to yet another Steward. It was reported at the Council Meeting on 21st May 1985 that 90 applicants had been received and out of them ***one was the Steward of the Coventry Golf Club who was offered the job and accepted;*** Mr and Mrs Pountney took up their post the following month and must have wondered 'what an earth they had gotten into'.

Still, that aside, things had to continue and at the Council Meeting on 2nd July ***Mr Head reported on the good progress being maintained by the Contractors. The Ladies Changing Room was complete and had been handed over to the Ladies; preparations for Captain's Day were in hand and the temporary partitions dividing the Lounges would be removed before the weekend giving access to the New Lounge, even though it was decided that the new carpet, would not be fitted for the time being. Work had already commenced on the next phase, and the roof of the Men's Changing Room (lower level) would be completed prior to taking the main Clubhouse roof off. Derek said that the Kitchen and Bar would continue to operate as now for a further three to four weeks. A Temporary Bar' will be erected by Halls Brewery in the New Lounge as soon as it was required.***

From a construction perspective this may have been good progress indeed, but pity the poor old Steward. Not only was there no carpet in the Lounge, an unfinished roof on the Men's Changing Room together with the members, in the very near future, he wasn't even going to have a roof over his head.

It was subsequently reported that the ***Steward/Stewardess were coping well under very difficult conditions.***



They were not the only ones with a problem at this time though, which was highlighted when the Chairman asked the Club Captain ***what sort of programme he had planned for the 28th September 1985, and commented that in view of Mr Head's remarks regarding the opening date of a finished Lounge being put back to mid to late October, whether it would be wise to curtail activities on Saturday, 28th September. The Captain explained that it had been arranged that a Prize Band would be in attendance, and that it had been hoped to present the Marley Wheel Chairs, and to follow these events with a Social Evening to include 'Prize Giving' for a competition, which was planned on the day.*** After much discussion it was agreed that ***because of the condition of the Clubhouse coupled to the fact that the Fire Authority had put a ceiling on the number of people allowed in the Mixed Lounge under existing conditions, the planned programme would be postponed, except for the Golf Competition.***

Following a discussion relating to the arrangements that the Captain had made for the 28th September, ***Mr Richards made the point that this was another example of bad communication and divided management. He went on to say that Council should now acknowledge that the present Management Structure was cumbersome, ineffective and divisive, and a change in the structure should be seriously considered. It was his view that the Secretary should be responsible for all activities of the Club and the Staff thereby employed, and that the role of Committees should be non-executive and advisory, and proposed that the subject should be discussed fully at the next Council meeting. Mr Bisset said that he agreed entirely with Mr Richard's comments and suggestions and the sooner we got away from three, sometimes four, lines of Committee Management the better for everyone.***

The Secretary confirmed that he encountered numerous problems in endeavouring to do his job, a considerable amount of time being spent trying to remove confusion from the minds of the Steward and his wife and other staff members who were being constantly bombarded by sub-Committee members on various matters, despite the fact that lines of communication for all Committee Members were very clearly laid down. He went on to say that in his experience we had lost many Stewards over the years as a direct result of interference by those who had no right to involve themselves, and that unless steps were taken now to safeguard our new Steward and his wife, they would also leave us. Council agreed that this item should be fully discussed at the next meeting.

At the following meeting on 8th October 1985 under Approval of Minutes, ***it was pointed out that the wording of a Minute did not give a fair reflection and it was pointed out that at the previous meeting a change in the Management Structure was proposed as follows:***

That the Club Secretary should be responsible for all activities of the Club and the Staff thereby employed and that the role of Committees should be non executive, and should be only advisory. A lengthy discussion took place on this issue and certain members expressed reservations regarding the vesting of authority in one person's hands - ***one Committee Chairman stating that in no way would he ask the Secretary's permission for what his Committee intended doing.***

Reservations were also expressed regarding the Secretary's ability to cope with the Head Greenkeeper because of the Secretary's lack of technical expertise and the following points were also made:

- i) That basically technical expertise was not essential to ensuring that the Course was maintained in a good playing condition, and that Staff were performing their duties in accordance with direction.
- ii) That the continuing change of Greens Committee Chairmen was not a good thing.
- iii) That all employees report direct to the Secretary and that Committee Members would have no direct access to Staff and that should the Secretary not be qualified to meet this commitment he should be replaced.
- iv) That the present problem of communications was not because of the system, but because of personalities within the system.

It was eventually agreed by the Council that ***the following proposition***, proposed by the Treasurer should be ***discussed at their next Meeting***:

- i) All executive authority to be vested in the Secretary who would be responsible for all Staff and activities.
- ii) That Committees be reduced to three as follows:
 - a) Greens
 - b) Match & Handicap
 - c) House/Social
- iii) That the role of Committees would be purely advisory.
- iv) That Committees could meet as often as they choose and a representative of each Committee would be represented on a General Management Committee comprising the Chairman, Captain, Treasurer and Committee Chairmen.

As agreed on the 12th November 1985 the matter was fully discussed and a counter proposal was forwarded by Graham Williams, the Club Captain:

- i) The Secretary should be responsible for the man management of the Club and labour relations, etc.
- ii) There should be similar Committees as we have now.
- iii) The House and Greens Committees should have their meetings and communicate their decisions, etc. via the Secretary.

- iv) The Social Committee should operate as it normally does under its own Chairman, as should the Match and Handicap Committee. In this way the Secretary will have the responsibility of running the labour side of the business without any interference from or, with the assistance of members of the Committee where necessary, and the Match & Handicap and Social Committees would carry on as they have done in the past.

The Treasurer expressed concern that Committees such as the Social met and made decisions on programmes and did not seek Council approval and commented that the first we knew about many of these programmes was when 'details were placed on the Notice Board, and rumour had it that more events were being planned in line with our enlarged Clubhouse. The Chairman of the Social Committee said that by and large the social events were the same year after year, and it should not come as a major surprise when a list is published.

The Chairman said that ***there was a lot of merit in both proposals but that we should not go on discussing them ad infinitum and he called for someone to second the Captain's proposal.*** The Vice Captain seconded and prior to a vote being taken the Chairman of the House Committee asked whether the Secretary would like to put his point of view.

The Secretary said that he had already made his position absolutely clear and reiterated that his 'main purpose was to see the Club run efficiently. He did not seek power or authority but was happy to accept the extra responsibility in the interests of the Club. One of his main concerns over recent years was in trying to get Committee members to stop interfering with various members of staff and occasionally countermanding instructions and thereby creating the utmost confusion.

He went on to say that he would prefer to manage affairs without Committees and be responsible to a body such as Council or the Management Committee as outlined in the original proposition. He felt that many members of Council did not have confidence in him to do this job and this caused him great disappointment. As he saw it this would not have been a major change as by and large he was now doing the job in this way, but the amendment to the proposition gave him the feeling that a large section of Council lacked faith in his ability; The Captain said that he had every confidence in the Secretary and that any fears he had were unfounded.

The Treasurer considered the amended proposition a dilution, which was not sufficiently forward looking and felt that his proposition was a correct step on the way forward; the Chairman asked Council to vote on the amendment and it was carried by a majority vote.

Finally, at this meeting under the heading Correspondence ***the Secretary read a letter from Mr Franklin (Greens Chairman) in which he tendered his resignation from Council and from the Club.*** Having discussed the matter thoroughly Council agreed that the ***Chairman should reply expressing Council's sincere regret and thanks for all he had contributed to Filton over the years.***

In the New Year yet another change was to take place when at the Council Meeting on 18th March 1986 ***Mr Head informed Council that, although he had a further year to go as a Council member he wished to retire now.***

The Chairman expressed regret at this decision and ***thanked Mr Head on behalf of Council for all he had done for the Club during his years in office, and went on to say that he would be missed by us all.*** In reply to a question from the Captain, Mr Head said that he ***would be prepared to give advice to the Club on matters when required.***

At this same meeting it was suggested that ***Council be reduced from 12 elected members to 6, and that now would be an appropriate time to make the change.*** Mr Head said that he had ***intended raising a motion on this matter as he felt that Golf Clubs generally were now run on more commercial lines, and he had been very dissatisfied with the way in which Council had operated during the past 12 to 18 months.*** He considered ***a Council of five or six elected members plus the ex-officio members would be perfectly adequate and he thought that meetings could be held less frequently than once per month and suggested once every two months.*** Derek also felt that the ***Committees should be able to co-opt persons who are willing and able to assist in Committee work, thereby giving the opportunity for members to become involved who would not wish to be elected Council members. Co-opted members would not have voting rights.***

When discussing the topic, the Club Captain, Bob Marsland, said that he agreed with Derek and thought it an excellent idea and the Vice Captain, Peter Deadman, also agreed that six would be a suitable number.

The Chairman also agreeing commented that a further reason for taking action now was that the bulk of the development work on the Course and in the Clubhouse had been completed. A suggestion that the Council should be reduced in stages was forwarded and Mr Bisset replied ***that if a cut was being made it should be done in one fell swoop so this was a unique opportunity of making one clean cut now.***

As a result, it was proposed by Mr Head and seconded by Mr Bisset, that Council be reduced to six elected members, which was carried unanimously. Rule 8 of Club Rules would be amended accordingly, and a notice indicating the change would be posted on the Notice Board as early as possible; despite the doubts of certain members at the Annual General Meeting, it was endorsed that the action taken by Council on the reduction of elected members was within the Rules of the Club.

Now that the major projects had been almost completed it was time to reintroduce others, that had been 'put on the back burner', which included a ***proposed Driving Range and the construction of a New Larger Professional Shop.*** With regards the former, the Secretary informed Council that ***a meeting had taken place between representatives of BAe and the Club and that the BAe had no objection in principle and would be supportive of our application for Planning Permission to build the Range subject to slight restrictions to fencing and lighting adjacent to the Radar scanner.*** The BAe would require that:

- 1) No building, fence, or lighting columns should extend above the bottom edge of the scanner for a distance of 50 meters and beyond that should not extend above a line rising at 1/100 from the 50 meter point.
- 2) No light should shine above the horizontal, or be a hazard to planes 'taking off' (BAe did point out that the short runway is not used at night).

BAe requested, that a ***further meeting to discuss a final detailed plan which containing the mentioned restrictions, should take place.*** Having discussed the matter fully Council agreed that a revised plan be produced and that the Secretary, arrange with Mr. Head to undertake this work as soon as possible.

The Professional Shop was another matter altogether, when ***it was pointed out that the original plans drawn up for the extension to the Shop would become defunct should the Driving Range go ahead.*** Because of this it was agreed to ***postpone any discussion at this time until a decision had been reached over the Driving Range. At their meeting in March Council agreed that it would be unwise to make a commitment, regarding the Driving Range at this time do to the cost involved.*** They further agreed that a 'Special Committee' ***comprising of the Club Chairman, Derek Head, Ralph Richards, Peter Deadman (Captain), Nicky Lumb (Professional) and Don O'Leary (Secretary) should meet as soon as possible to discuss all points relating to a new building to replace the existing.***

This wasn't to be the only building work discussed at this time as a Special Council Meeting was convened on 30th January 1987 ***to discuss letters received from Bristol City Planning Department and Tarmac Homes referring to the proposed New Housing Development at Pen Park Road and the Club's objections and observations to certain aspects of the plan.***

The Housing Development behind the 'Barn Green' went ahead despite the Club's reservations, one of which, regrettably, proved prophetic, when in 2000, following a number of stray golf balls finding their way into neighbouring gardens the Club was forced to construct a new tee on 'Pen Park Hole'.

At their meeting on 20th March 1987, following a delay of almost two years the Council, following a recommendation from the Greens Committee Chairman, agreed to re-introduce and make a start on the reconstruction of two Greens. ***The first of which would be the present 16th Green (Pond) at a cost of £8,300 (an estimate from the Contractor who constructed the 6 Greens completed in 1985), which was considered a very reasonable figure at present day prices.***

For those who can still remember, in inclement weather, the old 16th Green (Chestnut) was always the first to become waterlogged, taken out of play and remained so for the longest period compared to all the other Greens on the Course. To make matters worse when this was necessary there was no suitable placement for a Temporary Green and as such, an area was cut a few yards over the Ditch in a most unsatisfactory position. As a sub-script even after this New Green was reconstructed it still retained water until 1996 when a supplementary drainage system was installed into the green, which has proved a complete success.

On a sad note at this time, the Club Steward Mr Pountney, who had been diagnosed as having motor neurone disease ***was now it seems in such poor health that he would have to resort to the use of a wheelchair in the next few weeks.*** To compound this situation ***Mrs Pountney may have to go into Hospital for an operation.***

The Secretary was asked to make plans to cater for the Clubs needs in the short term and when the Steward found it impossible to carry on. This he did by employing Martin Rose as assistant to Mike Pountney and Martin's partner Julia as help with the catering.

With everything now 'blooming' it seems, almost a year on from when a Special Committee was formed to look into the possible construction of a new Professionals Shop, on 7th April 1987, a ***detailed Plan presented by Mr Head (invited to the meeting) was discussed fully by Council who agreed that Planning Permission be applied for based on the Plan. It was further agreed that the financing of the project (approximately £85,000) would be discussed at a Trustee Director's meeting on Monday 29th June 1987.*** Things now moved at a pace and ***estimates were sought, the lowest from E. R. Hemmings of £74,823 being accepted.*** Unlike on previous occasions, Planning Permission was applied for and quickly granted and the Council agreed that work would commence on Tuesday 1st September 1987 with a view to being completed by 28th November 1987. True to their word the Contractors completed the Professionals Shop on time and it was reported at the ***Council Meeting 12th January 1988 that the Shop had been operating since early December and had proved very satisfactory from every point of view.***

This is more than can be said for the Course it seems, as at the same meeting the ***Head Greenkeeper tendered his resignation, stating that he intended leaving on 25th February*** and it was agreed to advertise for a replacement as quickly as possible. ***On 7th March 1988, Mr Foulner the Chairman of Greens informed Council that from a short list of two, the Interview Committee was unanimous in choosing Mr Kevin Green who is employed at Wentworth as a Deputy to their Head Greenkeeper on one of their three Courses.***

With this important position now filled, the Council were posed yet another Staff problem, when the ***Secretary informed Council, that it was his intention to retire in June 1989 and that he had already received two letters applying for his job. It was agreed to 'put the matter on ice' until January 1989 when appropriate action would then be taken for the appointment of a new Secretary;*** the position was eventually advertised in the appropriate trade journals.

Another position under consideration at this time was the need for a new Steward. It should be recorded at this juncture that Mrs Pountney did go into Hospital during 1987, and underwent an operation for cancer, and that the special arrangement set up by the Club to overcome the difficult situation continued until the death of Joy Pountney in the summer. It then became necessary, following a discussion with Mr Pountney, to terminate his employment and promote his assistant Martin Rose to Club Steward. The catering situation also needed to be addressed, and it was reported on 15th August 1988 that Julia Rose, Martin's partner, had been interviewed and was a suitable person to run the catering. Julia certainly has proved more resilient than many before her as after 19 years she is still employed by the Club.

One item that catches the eye, when you consider all the recent talk, was on how to improve the greens as reported at a Council Meeting on 24th October 1988 ***when it was stated that after years of deliberation it was agreed that White Horse Contractors would install drainage in the new 6th (Highfields) and 7th (Dog Leg) Fairway's.***

Since their construction in 1984 the Holes, due to the condition of the Fairway's had been more out of play than in and it was now felt that installing a comprehensive drainage system was the only way to resolve the matter; work was eventually completed by October 1989 and was a great success.

This must have been good news for everyone including Don O'Leary who was moving ever closer to his impending retirement in 1989. If Don O'Leary thought his last few months would be a 'doddle' though he was very much in for a rude awakening.

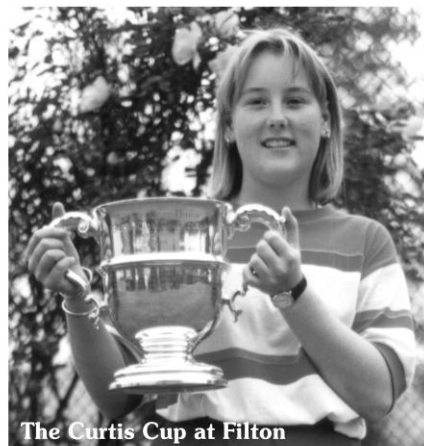
The Chairman informed the Council at their meeting 28th November 1988 that a **certain member had insulted and used offensive behaviour to the Secretary**. Because of this it was found necessary for the Club Captain to request a meeting with the individual, who didn't turn up. **The person concerned was eventually spoken with and refused to admit or to offer an apology and was agreed that he be given 14 days to comply or he would be expelled from the Club**. This course of action proved unnecessary however, as the **individual tendered his sincere apology on a personal basis to the Secretary and also apologised for any inconvenience caused to the Chairman and Club Captain**. It does make you wonder what on earth 'Old Former Members' would have thought about all these shenanigans, which seem to have become more prevalent during the sixties and continue to this day.

With regards to 'Former Members' it is sad to record the death of William Stanley Clarke aged 85. His son **Max expressed sincere thanks and appreciation on behalf of himself and his Mother for the floral tribute given by the Club**.

At this time of losing such an enthusiastic and accomplished Club Member, it is pleasing to record that the Club were encouraging others, when the Council at their meeting on 1st August 1989 donated £250 to help Caroline Hall to further her Golfing activities. Caroline would go on to become a 'Curtis Cup Team Member' and following this would become a Professional player and complete on the Ladies European Tour.

Also Caroline (reference Appendix 4) would replace the 'a' in her surname with 'u' by marrying Steven Hull who is also a very accomplished player in his own right.

Caroline was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Club, for her Golfing achievements, in 1991.



1988	England Girls' International
1989	England Girls' International English Schools' International S.W. Ladies' Champion
1990	England Girls' International English Schools' International Cotswold Gold Vase Champion Fritford Heath Ladies' Scratch Champion English Girls' Champion England U21 International
1991	England Girls' International Cotswold Gold Vase Champion Gloucestershire Ladies' Champion English Girls' Championships (Runner-up) England U18 Strokeplay Champion British Ladies' Open Amateur Championships (Semi-finalist) England Ladies' International (Home Internationals) England Ladies' European Team Championships (Winners) Great Britain & Ireland Vagliano Team
1992	S.W. Ladies' Champion England U21 International Gloucestershire Ladies' Champion England Ladies' International (Home Internationals) Bristol & District Ladies' Scratch Champion Harder Hall Open Invitation - Florida USA (Runner-up) U21 French Open (Runner-up) Welsh Open Strokeplay Championship (Runner-up) ENGLISH LADIES' CHAMPION CURTIS CUP (GB & IRELAND WINNING TEAM)

CHAPTER 11

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS – (August 1989 to 2nd July 1999)

With the New Year, came two 'Title' changes, which saw Kevin Green (Head Greenkeeper) being promoted to Course Manager and Martin Rose (Steward) to House Manager. The changes were not to stop there however as two months later on 6th March 1990 the ***Chairman informed Council that over twelve months ago seven applicants had been interviewed for the Secretary post, which becomes vacant on 30th June 1990 on the retirement of Don O'Leary. Following the initial interview, the Committee re-convened in February 1990 and agreed that Mr Mike Hutton, who was interviewed again at that meeting, be appointed. He would commence on the 1st May 1990 to undertake a two months training period and then take over from Don on 1st July 1990.*** As arranged Mike took over on the prescribed date and served the Club until December 1991.

Following his retirement a subsequent letter from Don and his wife Nan was read to Council expressing their grateful thanks for a splendid sent off. ***Don was awarded Honorary Life Membership in February 1991.***

On a less happy note in July, prior to the start of the following meeting the Chairman expressed his sincere regret of learning of the death of the Club's President and former Secretary, Doug Lockyer at the age of 76 years. ***A letter from Mrs Lockyer expressing her thanks for Council's good wishes and her wish to donate a small trophy was read to Council.*** The Doug Lockyer Memorial Trophy, a 'Mixed Foursomes Event' is still played for to this day.

If you have been following closely, it may be recalled that in the mid-seventies there was a problem with a group of card playing members, regarding their behaviour, language and noise in the Clubhouse. To overcome this they were warned over their future behaviour and allowed to use a room next to the Secretaries Office, which doubled as a Committee Room. This was soon to change however, as reported in the 21st May 1990 Minutes, when the ***Council agreed that as the upgrading of the 'Committee Room' was imminent, it would be necessary to inform those members who use the Committee Room for card playing, that on completion of the work, card playing would not be allowed in that room and that they should be informed that card playing would still be allowed in the Men's Bar, subject to the satisfactory behaviour of those taking part.*** It was also agreed that ***a notice regarding this change should be posted on the Secretary's Notice Board.*** A letter from Mr Ted Wiffill (card player) was read to Council at their next meeting and the ***Chairman said that he together with some Council members had already met Mr Wiffill and explained to him the reason for banning the card players from the Committee Room.*** To their credit the card players, perhaps reluctantly at first, accepted the change and have willingly settled into this new environment. On the other hand they may have perhaps grown older and become more considerate.

Whatever the reason for their acceptance, what was known is that 1990 was rapidly becoming a year of regret, as news that yet another former member Reg Westmancott had passed away. At the Council meeting on 10th July a letter from ***Mrs Edna Westmancott thanking Council for their sympathy on the death of her husband,*** Club stalwart Reg Westmancott at the age of 77, was read to Council. At a subsequent meeting on 17th September 1990 it was reported that the ***Solicitor for Reginald Westmancott had informed the Club of a £500 legacy for use by the members of the Seniors Section.***

Two further items were reported upon at the meeting the first regarding a letter received from ***Maggie Fletcher-Berg, on behalf of the Children Nationwide Pro-Am organisers, who thanked the Club for a very successful day.***

The Club's association with Maggie because of her annual 'Night Golf' Charity Events, on behalf of 'Champions of Child Health' would last until her untimely death in 2000.

The event itself was played over a selected 9 Hole Course using 'Night Golf' equipment, which consisted of 'Chemically Lit Golf Balls' and 'Light Sticks', the latter strategically placed in the fairways and to the 'greens pins'. To assist the players, torches were permitted (although many participants took this to an extreme by rigging up car headlights to their trolleys), and participants were allowed to fortify themselves against the cold with 'grog' from their hip flasks. The drink, on one occasion, was blamed for a player's account of his illuminated ball moving as he approached it until eventually it stopped and he was able to play his next shot, 'yeh right'. It was subsequently determined that a Urban Fox, on several occasions, kept picking the ball up and dropping it until presumably it was fed up of 'laying a trail'.

The second item, again in the form of a letter, was from ***Nicky Lumb who requested a date in September for a Charity Event in aid of 'Christians in Sport'.***

Whereas Maggie's attracted local golfer players, Nicky with his connections introduced players from far and wide and the events were always a tremendous success. Mike Burns recalls an incident when his playing partner, a lay preacher from Wales, having hit his ball into the hedge on the short second hole (no longer played) hacked the ball directly into the hole for a two from a seemingly impossible position and then proceeded to run around the Green in a lap of honour 'Praising the Lord'.

If as is said, charity begins at home then Filton was certainly playing its part, although this wasn't all that was taking place at this time. Other matters being dealt with by Council with specific reference to the Clubhouse and on the Course included the building of an extension to the Greenkeepers machinery shed incorporating a staff room, alterations to the men's main entrance, the opening of a new practice area (Radar Field), the construction of two bridges on 'Long Hill' ditch and also the replacement of the kitchen floor due to the poor condition of the boards and joists.

In addition to matters already mentioned, in the minutes of 15th November 1990 there was ***a report on a recent meeting dealing with the possibility of the Club having its own water supply through a borehole and storing their requirements in a reservoir.*** In the discussion that followed, the ***Chairman explained that the Club were awaiting cost figures from a Contractor and that a Planning application for the reservoir would be required, but would only be applied for assuming the construction costs are not too prohibitive.*** This topic was again discussed at their next meeting on 17th December 1990 under the topic of 'Borehole', when it was ***reported that a quotation from M. J. Abbott Limited, Land Drainage Contractors, for a borehole ranging from 50 – 200 metres deep and for a water reservoir to hold three million gallons was received. The quote for the reservoir was £29,000 and the quote for the Borehole went from £8,316 at 50 metres to £24,912 at 200 metres (these figures included V.A.T.). Extra costs would include Surveyors and legal fees, licences, pumping tests, the pump itself, cables and water quality tests. Another quote from A.J. Carter & Company, Devizes, would be sought. The drilling consent, obtained by the Contractor from the National River Authority, would take up to eight weeks.***

Council agreed in principle that our own water supply (Course) was desirable, bearing in mind the current water restrictions (hose pipe bans in a number of areas of the United Kingdom had been in place for the last two summers). **The advice of a land agent would be obtained regarding the situation and figures quoted.** This the Club did, and at their meeting on 18th January 1991 it was reported that **Mr G. Thomas of Integral Geotechnique, Nailsea, had inspected a site, which a Water Diviner had previously identified as an area where he said there was a plentiful supply of water for the borehole and also two areas that could take a reservoir. Following inspection of the two reservoir sites, he said the most practical one was in the rough area between the 8th and 9th Fairways, the other area being between the 2nd tee and green.**

The Chairman asked him if his firm would be able to oversee the project for us and Mr Thomas was very pleased to accept the offer. He said he would need several items: a plan of the course, the copy of an estimate from A.J. Carter & Company for the drilling of the borehole and any information we could find regarding the cavern at Pen Park. On receipt of this information he will write to the Club before the next Council meeting in February. The Chairman asked Mr. Thomas if he could estimate the overall involvement of his firm in this project so as to arrive at an estimate of the likely cost that would be incurred. A review of the report, which covered the meeting between the Club and a possible consortium of drilling contractors, M.J. Abbott Limited, Mercia Drilling and G. Pearce and Sons, and meetings with The National Rivers Authority, Landmark Limited (Landscape Architects and Environmental Consultants) and the Northavon District Council Planning Department, was conducted on 15th April 1991. In addition **a letter from Landmark Limited to Mr G. Thomas was read to Council, a number of questions regarding the landscaping and environment were asked.**

Although the Borehole project took up a great deal of the meetings at this time, also discussed, which may come as a surprise to any member who joined after 1997, was there were a number of people on a **‘Waiting List’** to join the Club.

There were in fact 140 on the list and a question was raised **whether the Club should charge a nominal £25 from new applicants for being placed on the list.** The number of 140 was subsequently found to be inaccurate as many of the individuals whose names appeared on the list, had tired of waiting to join Filton and become members at other Golf Clubs, but had failed to inform the Club. Certainly however, like most other local Golf Clubs we had a waiting list of up to 3 years (its difficult to imagine but it is true, honest).

Finally at the meeting **a vote of thanks was given to Jack Cowood who has been the Council Chairman since 1983 and to Ralph Richards who was Treasurer for many years: both are retiring from Council although Ralph will remain a Trustee Director.** On the 20th May Mr Ian Foulner was elected as the Council Chairman and Mr D. Colin Ingram, was introduced as the new Treasurer. Both Ian and Colin were invited to join the Trustee Directors, which was endorsed by the Council.

Returning to the Borehole project on 1st July 1991 the **Chairman read a letter, which had been received from Integral Geotechnique. Ian also mentioned that a Topographic Survey had been completed and a detailed copy was expected from South West Surveys; Landmark intended to submit a Planning Application for the reservoir towards the end of July;**

An up-to-date specification for drilling the Borehole has been requested and it should be possible to mobilise equipment to site at short notice; Bristol Water Company have been asked to provide a water diviner to check the preferred location given to us earlier this year and once confirmed a Planning Application for the Borehole will be submitted.

The Greens Chairman expressed concern over the apparent duplication of work by Landmark and Integral Geotechnique and Greens Chairman said he had written to Integral Geotechnique because he was becoming increasingly concerned about the time factor and consequent rising costs. In view of this a meeting was arranged for 13th August 1991. At this meeting it was apparent the costs for the project had risen quite sharply, the main factors being the lining (£45,000) and the erosion control (£20,000), although the Club were not convinced these items were necessary; it was suggested that a saving could be made on the plantation if the work, was carried out by the Greenstaff.

At the next Council Meeting on 23rd September 1991 the Chairman thanked the Greens Chairman, Peter Briggs, for the large amount of work that he had recently undertaken regarding the Borehole. It had been necessary for him to contact contractors and obtaining quotes and other information, which should have been obtained by Integral Geotechnique and as a result the Trustee Directors have given the go ahead to start the Borehole. When the date is known, a Notice to inform members will be placed on the Notice Board.

Now that approval had been given things moved apace and it was reported at the Council Meeting on 28th October 1991 by the Greens Chairman that the borehole had been sunk to 120 metres. At that depth the water quality they had encountered met the requirements for irrigation purposes and test pumping had commenced and had continued for the last two weeks. With regard the excavation of the reservoir quotations were received from six Contractors and although all were higher than anticipated, it was felt that David Meek would be awarded the contract subject to further discussion with a view to trimming the cost; it was hoped that if approval was given on 15th November 1991 the digging of the lakes could start soon after. He now outlined some ideas for building up the 9th Fairway on the left hand side, French drains on the 9th Fairway and the raising of the 8th and 9th tees, all of which, if agreed, would coincide with the construction of the lakes. On the 3rd December the Greens Chairman gave an update on the situation to the Council, when he explained that an application for abstraction was in progress and following a meeting, with the Planners last Friday 29th November 1991 a revised plan was being drawn up and would be available this week. At this meeting it was decided that the 9th Fairway would not be raised as much but have a more parabolic shape rather than flat as you look to the Green and the Tee would not be raised but re-shaped. The 8th Tee would be raised and the sides formed by wooden vertical piling. The actual shape of the lakes was also revised. The larger lake would be shallower and have a more aesthetic appearance, the smaller one to be deeper and used as the reservoir to draw water from. The two lakes would be connected by a channel, which could be dammed at either end with a flat bridge over. The smaller reservoir would be lined but it is hoped that the larger lake could be clay puddled. It was also decided that it would be to our advantage to employ a specialist Land Engineer to oversee the project and that Kevin Green would be relieved of his normal duties and work alongside this person.

A meeting will take place on Friday 6th December with David Meek, in order to finalise the quote/contract and hopefully work can begin before Christmas. The Chairman confirmed on the 13th January 1992, that a fixed price of £60,000 had been negotiated with David Meek, the Contractor, and this included digging the lakes, levelling the 9th Fairway and creating a new access point to the new 8th for the course machinery.

One most important topic reported at this same meeting was that ***Council were informed that the vacated position of Club Secretary was advertised and there were 30 applicants. Five had been short-listed and interviewed and it is hoped that there will be someone appointed by 1st March 1992.*** As it transpired none of the applicants was found suitable and although not included on the list of applicants, Club Captain Mr Michael Burns was subsequently appointed on a temporary basis starting on 17th February 1992 (just to help out). Mike soon became the Secretary proper and remained in that position until his standing down in July 1999.

Another appointment that took place at this time (if only we could turn the clock back) was the introduction of Don Biddle as Match and Handicap Secretary. All joking aside Don, a former Football League Referee, has been a revelation, administering members handicaps, organising starters and assisting in running competitions and has been the Club's Golf Rules Guru ever since he volunteered for the position; **Well done Don, long may you continue!**

There was good news also at the following Council meeting on 9th March 1992 with the ***Chairman informing Council that the Contractors had practically completed their work and would be off site on Wednesday, 11th March 1992. He also informed Council that he was extremely pleased with David Meeks work and that the contract we had with them had given the Club the flexibility to change our minds about certain aspects of the project. Several quotes were obtained for the drainage and Agripower were at present laying the drainage. Quotes had also been received for the irrigation, including the installation of two pumps within pump houses situated at the waters edge of both lakes. It is hoped that the irrigation contractors, Wright Rain, would start work within a week or so. The only major job left was the anchoring of the wooden piling by Duck Bill Anchors and the digging of the bunker behind the piling. The Chairman also pointed out that while David Meek was on site they had carried out several extra jobs and these would be invoiced separately.***

It is perhaps appropriate at this time to thank all those involved in the Project, of which the major work took only 4 months to complete. Special praise must be expressed to Council members and Trustees who worked tirelessly during the planning stages and to the Greenstaff under the direction of Kevin Green whose efforts were over and above that normally expected of them.

Finally, thanks to Club Member Bill Davis on sculpting the lake between the 9th and 10th fairways and forming the 10th fairway with his bulldozer, when working for David Meek and also for the weeping willow trees alongside the lake on the 10th hole.

Regarding the willows, Bill, when working on a school playing field near Warmley, was instructed to clear away two mature trees and on seeing them, thought the Club might use the ten foot high specimens. Because the trees needed to be collected that very day, as a matter of urgency he immediately telephoned the Secretary.

On hearing of their availability and in complete trust of Bill (oh dear) Mike contacted a fellow member, who was the manager of a vehicle hire franchise and twisted his arm into letting the Club borrow a small low loader for few hours.

He then proceeded with Kevin to site and discovered that Bill had underestimated the size of the trees, which instead of being ten foot high were nearly twenty five feet long, and very wide. Not to be daunted however, a handsaw was requisitioned from a local resident and a number of branches were removed, so the trees almost fitted on the lorry!

There was still an 'element of doubt' over the legality of the load and Kevin and Mike decided to spin a coin to determine who would drive back to the Club and risk possible prosecution. Fortunately for Kevin who fell for the double-headed coin trick, their journey back was without incident. The trees were duly planted and one nearest the 10th green still survives.

With the Borehole now having been sunk and water being abstracted, and also the construction of the lakes finished, the Club still had to secure an 'Abstraction Licence', from the National Rivers Authority. This proved to be extremely difficult as there was an unexpected objection from Henleaze Lake Management to our pumping (their) water. At the Council meeting on 15th May 1992 the Chairman reported that ***a letter was received from the National Rivers Authority requesting that the Club stop pumping as from 14th May 1992, for two weeks, in order that Henleaze Lake and the BAe Borehole could be monitored for any connection due to the low water level they were experiencing. After this period there will be no guarantee that pumping can commence again and in view of this fact the Chairman asked whether it will be feasible to fill the lakes from the mains and then subsequently use the water from the lakes to water the greens.*** Although this would be very expensive and wasteful there was a real need to fill the lakes to protect the clay puddling from cracking in the extreme heat being experienced at the time. This could lead to the lakes leaking. As it transpired following a number of meetings between the River Authorities, Henleaze Lake and BAe personal it was reported to Council at their meeting 6th July 1992 that ***the Club had been granted a licence from the National Rivers Authority allowing the Club to pump water from the borehole during three months each year (January to March inclusive).*** Although the granting of the licence came as a great relief to the Club, as it stood the Club still couldn't fill the lakes at this critical time as it was now outside of the licence period. As it happened this situation was eventually overcome when the National Rivers Authority agreed that the Club could 'test pump' for a sufficient time as to ensure all was in order, which coincidentally was to last until the lakes were completely filled; good news indeed.

Sad news was to follow however, when the ***Chairman asked for a Minutes silence for Edna Westmancott who died last week;*** Edna had been the first Lady Member to be elected onto the Council. There were two other matters of note discussed by the Council at this meeting. The first concerned, ***Bill Box who retired in July after becoming a member of the Greenstaff 43 years earlier.*** The second matter concerned the Club Captain who had inadvertently changed the format for his Golf Day from Bogey to a 4BBB competition. This had been done with the blessing of the Secretary, who as it happened were one and the same person. ***The Captain/Secretary apologised to the Council and explained, that, not having been informed otherwise and as it was his Captain's Day and the Trophy was for a Fourball Competition he assumed it was his prerogative to choose the format. Following discussion on the matter it was agreed that in future the Captain would be able to choose the format for his day and that the Competition Book would be changed accordingly.***

One memorable occasion that should be recorded, as it is now accepted as part of the 'Annual Events Calendar', is the Captain's Charity Day, which took place in May. Club Captain Mike Burns, having been granted the day by Council, not only welcomed participating teams made up from the membership but also those of sponsored guest celebrities. These included teams from Bath Rugby Club, Bristol Rovers and City Football Clubs, Test Umpires and a Gloucestershire County Cricket team, all of whom contributed to a great day, which made £2,500 for the Meningitis Charity.



David 'Syd' Lawrence the England and Gloucestershire fast bowler won first prize in a raffle at Filton Golf Club 'Charity Day', at which 150 golfers and other 'Sporting Celebrities' met to raise more than £2,500 for Meningitis Research. Pictured with the genial cricketer are Club Captain Mike Burns (car), Rebecca Weston (Meningitis Research) and John Phillpott of Stuburt Sports Footwear.

While on the subject of events, since the Club purchased the Course in 1979 little has been mentioned regarding the Club's 'Social Event's', which although remained varied and numerous had been greatly affected by the upheavals that had taken place in and around the Clubhouse. The low numbers attending was of particular concern and Pam Genge the House Chairperson asked for suggestions on how the Club could generate interest and encourage members to participate more. It was recognised that the standards set by the House Manager left a lot to be desired and that there were many areas open for improvement. The House Manager would eventually leave under a cloud and Julia Rose would take over his vacated position. Despite these and other changes there is still to this day a lack of support for organised social events, which is somewhat surprising considering the facilities and quality on offer.

If this is a cause of concern then vandalism, security and trespass are other topics that should perhaps have been given greater emphasis in this record over the years, for certainly the problems had greatly increased throughout the eighties and into the nineties and many incidents are recorded in the Council Minutes. That aside a number of attempts had been tried, which included the Chairman addressing all the local schools in and around the area at their assembly, the Club engaging a 'Security Firm' to patrol the Course, Notices being prominently displayed, hedge rows thickened, ditches excavated (Blackberry Hill) and a number of youngsters living nearby being invited to take part in lessons etc. Despite the Club's efforts however matters had become worse and eventually came to a head following an attack on two members.

An Emergency Council Meeting was arranged on 15th June 1993 at which the Chairman reported that ***following an attack on two of our members in the vicinity of Barn Green on Sunday 6th June by a gang of youths, a meeting was arranged for Council to determine a policy that must be implemented to prevent or reduce the likelihood of this type of incident re-occurring. After discussion it was decided to endorse the decision taken by the Secretary and continue with the Security Company that had been introduced on Sunday 13th June. The meeting felt that if the Club could prevent people from wanting to visit the lakes, the main attraction, they probably would not visit the Course at all. The Secretary informed the meeting that it would cost the Club £4,500 to run this arrangement from June through to the end of September and it was agreed that the Secretary would inform the membership of Council's decision in the form of a Notice. It was further agreed that total authority to determine and implement the most effective arrangements was left to the Secretary's discretion, which would include a further presence of patrols if they were deemed necessary.***

It is fair to say that despite all the efforts made at this time and in the ensuing years these problems have not, nor will, go away completely and all that can be achieved is to minimise as best as possible any disruption to the members.

With the additional funds needed to pay for security one unexpected topic mentioned at the Council meeting on 11th November 1993 was good news indeed (eventually). It concerned V.A.T. (Value Added Tax) and ***the question was raised as to whether there was any further information with regard to V.A.T. exemption of sporting services following the recent announcement in the press that the E.E.C. Regulation 1990, had not been implemented by Her Majesty's Government. This exemption will mean a refund of V.A.T. on all subscriptions, entrance fees and green fees collected during this period. As we are still waiting for the final directive from Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, the Treasurer will write a notice to inform the members of the possible implications. When a decision has been made and the Club informed, a meeting, will be held with the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary to put together a proposal for Council.***

A subsequent notice of explanation was posted on the Secretary's notice board and ***the Captain thanked those responsible for producing such an informative and comprehensive document.***

Fund raising, as had always been, was critical to support a number of 'little extras' and in the December of 1993 the Secretary in conjunction with the House Chairperson Pam Genge ***explained to Council that it was their intension that a 200+ Club will be introduced to run throughout the year with a monthly draw for cash prizes and a grand prize draw at the end of the year; 50% of the money collected will go towards prizes and the remainder towards purchasing something for the Clubhouse. It is hoped that if Council approve the 200+ Club the first moneys would go towards purchasing new furniture for the bar. Council agreed that the 200+ Club was a very good idea to stimulate interest and participation from the membership and unanimously endorsed its introduction.***

Parker Knoll furniture was purchased with the proceeds from the first year profit and a Trophy Cabinet in the second year. Regrettably interest wasn't maintained and the idea fell by the wayside, although in 2007 it has been reintroduced to raise funds for 'Centenary Year Events'.

Following the disclosure regarding V.A.T. at the November 1993 meeting the Treasurer once again addressed this subject on 9th March 1994 ***explaining that negotiations can only take place when the Club receives firm guidelines from Customs and Excise and the Treasurer felt the final outcome would not be available until the late summer. Discussion followed on the subject and it was recognised by Council the difficulties that lay ahead if we were to attempt returning any recoverable money to past or present members. The Treasurer further explained that according to a draft agreement the Club had received "There was no obligation to return re-claimed V.A.T. to the members" and that with Council's blessing he would propose a motion to go before the Annual General Meeting in May stating, "Council recommend that V.A.T. recovered as a result of exemption on subscriptions be held within the Club for the benefit of the members." In addition to this motion, a notice, explaining in more detail the reasons why Council came to their decision, will be made available. Council agreed to this and that a notice would be displayed on the notice board giving an explanation. Finally, the Treasurer informed Council that the end of year Audit of accounts showed a profit of £17,000 and the Club was on a sound financial footing.***

This decision wasn't universally accepted however and at the Council meeting on 19th April 1994 the Secretary reported that he ***had received an un-announced visit from a former member demanding his V.A.T. back. Although our present situation was explained to him he was very rude and aggressive and on leaving took it upon himself to phone the Chairman to continue his demands in the same vein. Council felt that this should not be tolerated and instructed the Secretary to write to the individual concerned informing him that he would not be allowed to visit the Club unless he makes a formal request and the necessary appointment;*** the matter was eventually resolved in Court and the individual's case was dismissed when the Court ruled that the money belonged to the Club.

All this of course was taking place without even knowing what guidelines Custom and Excise would impose, but that question was resolved by July as it was reported that the ***Club can now proceed with its claim following receipt of the necessary guidelines from Custom & Excise.*** On the 27th September 1994 at the Council meeting the ***Treasurer reported that figures are now available and the Club will engage a V.A.T. expert to verify or adjust them prior to a claim being made.*** Once verified the claim was submitted and on the 2nd March 1995 the Treasurer informed Council that the Club have now ***received a cheque from Customs and Excise to the value of £90,134 and he suggested that the plans, approved by Council, for the proposed project work should be submitted to the Trustee Directors for their approval. Further to this, the Treasurer explained that the Trustee Directors would decide the best option for the Club to take with regards retaining the V.A.T. money - be it an Extraordinary General Meeting, a postal vote or incorporating it in the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. Council decided that if a postal vote proved to be the best option and we as a Club were legally able to conduct one, then a letter of explanation will be sent along with a voting form to all the members. Following discussion it was further agreed that regardless of the members' decision, Council would recommend that the Club would still go ahead with the projects even if subscriptions have to go up to fund them.*** The letters of explanation and voting forms were sent and at the Council meeting on 23rd May 1995 the ***Chairman made reference to the number of voting papers returned - he felt that 50% of the total was disappointing.***

The question was asked as to the **interpretation of what the President had stated at the Annual General Meeting - "That the money will be held in a high interest account until the legal position is known". If and when the legal position is known will the members be consulted again? The Chairman explained that the legal position had no relevance, because the membership had voted for the Club to retain their money therefore, no further consultation was necessary. He further explained that it is intended that the V.A.T. refund will help to minimise future subscription increases and, as we are still paying for the lakes, will be used when our current account goes into overdraft.**

At this same meeting the Chairman also reported that **Life Membership has been afforded to our President, Jack Cowood, instead of Honorary Membership. Honorary Membership, previously granted, had certain restrictions and the change to Life Membership will ensure that Jack retains the status, rights and privileges of Full Membership. However, the Club's Rules specify that Life Membership requires the members to endorse Council's recommendation and at the recent Annual General Meeting the members unanimously and wholeheartedly supported Council.**



JOHN (JACK) COWOOD

Former President of Filton Golf Club

John (Jack) Cowood, who died on 4 September aged 89, was a former Captain and, for many years, Chairman and President of Filton Golf Club.

Jack was born in Horfield, Bristol on 27th December 1915 and he attended Bristol Grammar School until his family moved to the North East of England.

Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War he moved back to Bristol and worked as an Aircraft Engineer, firstly for the Bristol Aeroplane Company and subsequently for Bristol Siddeley and Rolls Royce, where he worked on the Olympus Engine for Concorde.

Jack started playing golf in 1952 as a member of the Bristol Aeroplane Golfing Society, of which he later became Vice-President. In retirement, despite two artificial hips and gradually declining health, he gave generously of his time and energy to running Filton Golf Club. As Chairman, he helped resolve the problem of the Club's recurrent water shortages by organising the provision of a Bore Hole and a small lake.

One topic that hasn't been mentioned but which had previously been considered in 1986 was regarding position, cost and viability of a Radar Field practice facility such as a Driving Range. At the Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th July 1995 it was decided that the **Radar Field Practice Area would be improved and utilised as a members practice range. The project will only be progressed if the cost is found acceptable by the Council at their meeting in September and is subsequently approved by the Trustee Directors. Agreement was reached and a concrete base constructed (below the Radar Scanner) and also equipment such as a Range Golf Balls, a Ball Dispenser, Tee Mats, etc. were purchased.** Despite all the efforts made, problems were subsequently experienced and as a result the project didn't really take off and was abandoned in 1997 (perhaps one day).

Problems seem to the order of the day at this particular time, which seems to coincide with the election of new Council members at the recent Annual General Meeting and their appointment into specific roles, although to be fair this could be just a coincidence.

This is borne out at the first Council meeting following the Annual General Meeting, on 5th June 1996 under Election of Council Chairman, when ***two candidates were nominated for this position, which included the present Chairman Mr. Ian Foulner. On a show of hands both nominees received three votes each. The Secretary, who by tradition Chair's this item on the agenda, was asked by a newly elected Council member, why the Club President was not presiding at this Council meeting to give a casting vote as stated in the Rules of the Club. The Secretary explained that according to Rule 10a, the Chairman has the casting vote at all Council meetings and as this is the case requested Ian to cast his deciding vote.*** Discussion followed with regards the fairness of this course of action, which was resolved when the other ***nominee explained that he was quite happy to withdraw his nomination, particularly as there was not a full Council present.*** Mr Ian Foulner was duly re-elected Club Chairman for 1996/1997.

There now took place the election of Greens and House Chairman and ***following the election of the respective Chairmen a question was asked for clarification as to who is appointed onto the Greens Committee. Newly elected Council member Mr Wiffill felt that at least three members of Council should sit on each Committee, as this will give them the opportunity of gaining experience should they wish to stand as a Chairman in the future. The Treasurer pointed out that there was a danger, if we are not careful, of having a full Council meeting at every Greens and House Committee meeting. He explained that these meetings are only intended to be practical working meetings and as such are only there to put forward proposals to Council; they cannot make decisions.***

The tone of this meeting had now been set and further concerns/complaints followed. These included the distribution of Council minutes, Annual General Meeting minutes, the handling of the Annual General Meeting by the Council, accuracy of minutes, communication with the membership and a number of other matters.

Things had started badly and most certainly were not right, which is endorsed at the following Council meeting on 9th July 1996, when ***Mr Biddle expressed his amazement that a Council meeting had been arranged and held when they knew the Secretary was on holiday. As the Secretary is responsible for the day to day running of the Club, he thought it inconceivable that a meeting should go ahead with him not being present. Mr Biddle proposed that a Council meeting should not be held without the Secretary being present. This was endorsed by the meeting.***

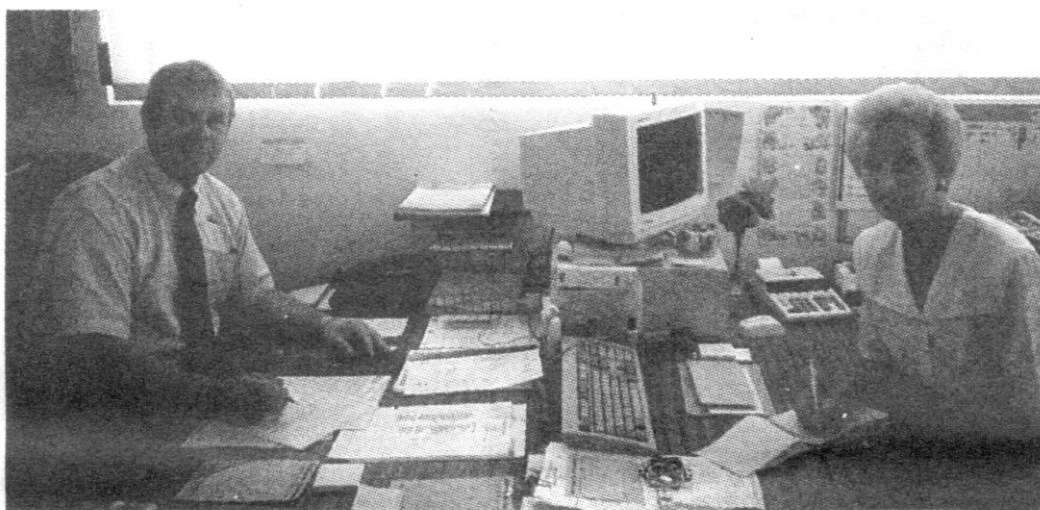
Also at the meeting, for the benefit of the newly elected member, the ***Chairman pointed out that in 1990 the positions of the Head Greenkeeper and Steward were changed. The Head Greenkeeper became Course Manager and the Steward became House Manager and as a consequence new Contracts of Employment were drawn up making them both responsible to the Secretary. This being the case all communications must be through the Club Secretary who is responsible for implementing Council's policies and requirements on a 'day to day' basis. Discussion took place regarding the responsibilities of the Greens & House Chairmen. The Treasurer pointed out that they are the links between their respective Committees and the Council. Their role is to chair their meetings and report back to Council or vice-versa.***

They are also responsible for ensuring that their budgets are available to enable the Treasurer to produce his overall annual budget and also to monitor their budgets throughout the year.

Attention now turned to the appointment of a Head Greenkeeper. ***The Chairman opened this discussion by informing the meeting that it saddened him to have received a letter of resignation from Kevin Green, the Course Manager. General discussion then followed as to the reasons why Kevin has resigned. The Greens Chairman reported he had met with Kevin following his appointment as Chairman of Greens and had assured Kevin of his qualified support. He was quite surprised to learn of Kevin's resignation and stated that in his opinion "no action on the part of himself, those who attended the Greens Committee or no member of Council has said or acted in any way to merit this result"*** (Kevin Greens letter of resignation differs somewhat). ***Continuing the Chairman explained that in his letter of resignation, Kevin had asked if he could be released after six weeks notice instead of three months. Council agreed and the Chairman will write to confirm this.*** Nicholas Wilson, Kevin's First Assistant, was subsequently appointed as Head Greenkeeper for a 12 month probationary period and would go on to become the Head Greenkeeper.

At this juncture, it should be noted that up until this point in time the Club had made great advances since they had purchased the Course, which included upgraded the changing facilities, the Clubhouse and many improvements to the Course. It had also been necessary to introduce a new Club Management Structure, which was working well, and in addition, since 1992 a number of changes had been made to the 'day to day' Management of the Club.

With regards to the Course itself, which had been considered by other Clubs 'a track' for many years, Kevin Green's hard work, dedication, the support and encouragement of the Council and Secretary and his Greenstaffs efforts, it was now the envy of many, with numerous enquiries made as to how it had been achieved. An article in the West Country Golf News, August 1994 reflect the changes made under the heading '**Bristol golf's ugly duckling turns into a sleek swan**'.



Secretary Mike Burns and office manager Esmé Mannering.

Tragically, to some extent this was now to change, and Kevin leaving was only to be the start. Despite the considerable efforts of the Staff through a very difficult and turbulent number of years, influences outside of their control would play their part and the 'Card Players' metaphorically speaking 'were dealt the dominant hand'.

With the year drawing to a close matters didn't improve, with the **Chairman of House complaining that he was seemingly being made to look a 'Charlie' as a notice referring to the relaxation of formal dress in the Clubhouse and the re-surfacing of the car park had been displayed on the Official Notice Board two days before a monthly Newsletter was published in which he had mentioned these matters. Following discussion it was agreed that a copy of any notice to be displayed on the Notice Board, concerning House, be sent to the House Chairman, to avoid any possible embarrassment.**

The Treasurer pointed out that the official line of communication is via the Secretary's Notice Board and not the Newsletter. The Treasurer commented that he had been a member of Council for seven or eight years and in that time had never heard so much digging, bitching and stabbing of people in the back as in recent months. He explained that the whole idea of Council was to sit around the table and discuss what can be done for the benefit of the Club. All that seems to happen at present is that we argue amongst ourselves. He felt that if the membership knew what was happening they would be dismayed and suggested that we sit down and discuss issues for the betterment of the Club. The Chairman suggested that it was about time we debate, trust one another and work together.

Amid all this, prior to the Meeting proper on 15th October 1997 the **Chairman asked for a minute's silence in remembrance of a former Club Captain, Alf Benson**, who died in August.

Another valued member passed away a few months later and at the Council meeting on 8th April 1997 **a minute's silence was observed for Bill Box who had been a member of the Greenstaff for over 40 years.**

It is also sad to record that in the last item of this meeting following the **Chairman thanking Council for their support during his term in office and explained that he was un-decided about seeking re-election.** In the event Ian Foulner did allow his name to be forwarded, but through a seemingly contrived vote, he was not returned; Ian was awarded Life Membership in 1997 and became involved in the Gloucestershire Golf Union as their President in 1997 and also in the English Golf Union.



Waiting game over for Filton

It's been a long wait, but now, after 30 years, the membership of Filton Golf Club has once again produced a Gloucestershire Golf Union President in Ian Foulner.

Last year, Ian (59) was vice-president of the Union, watching all the second team County games and supporting juni or golf very strongly. As President, he will spend most of his weekends cheering on the County Team and 'trying to revive their fortunes'. He also feels it his duty to attend the Duchess Salver events, which include the County Championship and the Ashton Vase. He added: "It's going to be a very full year for me."

At the Salver events, Ian will be on the look out for emerging players that might be worth a place in one of the County Teams. He is very qualified to do this, as he has played golf for Lancashire and has been a single figure player for 40 years. The high points of his career were holding the Amateur Course Record at Morecombe Golf Club and winning the Daily Mirror North of England Match-play Championship in 1964. Ian now plays off six at his home club of Filton, although, in his heyday, he was off one.

The former South West public relations manager for BT has been on the Committee at Filton Golf Club for 15 years and was appointed Club Captain of the in 1984. He describes Filton as a 'very friendly club' and one, which in the last 18 years has gone from Bristol's Cinderella club to one of the best in the area.

Despite the Treasurer's appeal for unity the situation still didn't improve and at the Council meeting on 5th January 1998 matters came to a head when discussing Item 4, Committee Reports:

1. Greens/Match & Handicap

The Chairman of Greens gave his report on the work carried out on the Course, the restrictions on the use of trolleys and closure of the Course.

At this point the **Treasurer** reiterated a decision made by Council "**which is clearly documented in the minutes you all agreed on 2nd December, 1996 regarding trolley restrictions whereby the decision would be made by the Head Greenkeeper with the final responsibility for implementing such a decision resting with the Secretary**". "Should there be any disagreement between the two parties then the Secretary would appeal to the Chairman of Greens. This is also the position regarding course closures."

A full account of the subsequent discussion that took place is recorded in the minutes of the meeting and no other reference will be made in this journal except to say: ***The Treasurer left the meeting early and true to his word Colin Ingram didn't stand for re-election and the Club lost yet another loyal and respected member.***

With regards to other matters being dealt with at the time, it was reported that:

- 1 A contract of employment had been drawn up by the Club's Solicitors, Lyons Rounsfell, and passed to the House Manager Julia Rose for her approval,
- 2 A survey report regarding the Radar Installation, undertaken on the Club's behalf by BAe was discussed.
- 3 Improvements to the Ladies Changing Room were now completed to budget.
- 4 Full Planning Permission had been granted on an application submitted.
- 5 Job Descriptions for the Secretary, Office Manager, Head Greenkeeper and House Manager had been distributed to the Council members for their comment.
- 6 That the Secretary and Chairman of Greens had reviewed and amended an existing 'Course Policy Document for ratification by Council.
- 7 That Life Membership to Ian Foulner would be recommended, for the member's ratification at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, in May.

One other item discussed and agreed, was that a small sub-Committee Chaired by Mr Maurice Stagg and comprising of the Secretary and Vice Captain be set up to formulate and plan celebrations, competitions, social functions etc. for the Millennium in 2009. It hardly seems appropriate to discuss celebration at this time, considering what had been going on in recent years, but at least no one could accuse the Council for not being forward thinking.

Finally agreed at the Council Meeting, in line with previously normal policy, was for Council prior to the Annual General Meeting to review any late motions forwarded for discussion at the Annual General Meeting. The Council could then formulate and give their considered and agreed suitable response to any motion at the Annual General Meeting.

On this occasion the Council meeting was held on 5th May 1998 at which prior to starting the meeting proper the **Chairman reported that Mr Wiffill had resigned from Council. A number of matters were then discussed which included Clubhouse Security, the Bridges on Long Hill, Loan Stock, 5 and 7 Day membership payment differential and a 'Motion Submitted for Discussion' from Mr Wiffill.**

With regards to the latter, following discussion it was suggested that **Council should strongly oppose the motion submitted which in essence had recently been discussed and rejected by Council at a special meeting held on 5th February 1998. The Chairman of Council was asked if he would make a statement to this effect on behalf of Council at the Annual General Meeting. Upon the Chairman's refusal to represent Council on this matter it was agreed that members of Council as individuals would speak against the motion at the Annual General Meeting.**

In the event, the motion was submitted by Mr Wiffill at the Annual General Meeting and a number of Council members and indeed non-Council members present, spoke against the motion. What was unexpected and disappointing to the extreme is that during the meeting Mr Wiffill then made unsubstantiated verbal accusations against the Secretary regarding him receiving illegal payments in the form of 'brown envelopes' from a Company the Club dealt with, which was owned by a fellow member. On being asked to comment the Secretary stated that there was no truth whatsoever in Mr Wiffill's accusations and he would welcome any inquiry into these false accusations; a subsequent comprehensive enquiry was conducted by Trustee Directors Max Clark and Ralph Richards and the **Secretary was exonerated from all the allegations made by Mr Wiffill at the Annual General Meeting.**

Following the Annual General Meeting at their next meeting held on the 1st June 1998 there being two nominations forwarded for Council Chairman, Mr John Purdy and Mr Ron Hall, a vote was taken and Mr John Purdy was duly elected. On being elected, the Chairman expressed a view that he hoped the recent past problems could now finally be put behind us and that the Council could now positively look forward once again.

Certainly on a positive note, following a tragic incident that had taken place on the Course the Club agreed to train members of staff in First Aid. The incident is recorded under 'Correspondence' in the minutes of the Council meeting on 11th August 1998 and is most certainly worthy of mention. A letter was received from **the brother of a jogger who had died on the Course thanked the Club for their assistance and Dave King (Deputy Head Greenkeeper) in particular, for his efforts in trying to resuscitate his brother.**

At this same meeting the **Chairman recommended the title of Office Manager should be changed to Assistant Secretary, which was unanimously agreed and Esm'e Mannering will be recognised as Assistant Secretary to fall in line with the accepted responsibilities she has undertaken over a number of years;** Esm'e would go on to become the Clubs first Lady Secretary in 1999.

Another change to take place was first brought to the Council's attention at their meeting on 12th January 1999 when the **Secretary reported that the Club have been instructed by Health & Safety to produce a risk assessment for both the 14th and 15th holes and to resolve the problems caused by straying golf balls. The Golf Club Advisory Association and the Club's Solicitors have been contacted for advice and guidance in this matter.**

The Chairman and the Secretary have also met Mr and Mrs Richards who are concerned neighbours.

One suggestion made by Mr and Mrs Richards is that the hedge line in front of their property should be thickened into a natural barrier - they did not want a high fence. In the event a high fence was erected behind the Green on the Barn hole and a new Tee had to be constructed in Pen Park.

At this same meeting the ***Chairman reported that both he and the Secretary had visited a number of Golf Clubs to look at their respective E.P.O.S. (Electronic Point of Sale) system. In addition there have been two in house demonstrations of different systems and following discussion it was agreed in principle that the Club should also adopt this method. It was also agreed that there would be a compulsory initial payment of £20 for every member, except Junior's, which will be non refundable if not used by the end of the year;*** a Clubhouse E.P.O.S. system and an Avon Armour access control system were subsequently installed in March 1999 and both have proven of great benefit.

One topic that was discussed at the Council meeting on 20th April 1999 was the unexpected announcement by the Secretary Mike Burns that he had decided to step down.

Statement of Resignation

Now that Council is aware of my decision to resign, I would like to make a statement with regards to my reason for resigning at this time.

Prior to this however, I would wish it recorded that 'warts and all' I have enjoyed my employment as Secretary at Filton. Over the past 7+ years I am proud to have worked for such a progressive Club and to have been involved in bringing Filton Golf Club to the esteemed position that is recognised and now holds amongst all the other local Clubs.

Making such a decision as this was not an easy one to make and was made for no other reason than my wishing for a change of direction in employment and a new challenge.

I think that with Council's approval these points should be clearly made and a notice to this effect posted on the Secretaries Notice Board to quash any rumour and speculation right at the outset.

Finally I do believe that I have been privileged to have been Club Captain and Secretary and wish the Club and its members the success they deserve in the future.

At the following meeting on 18th May it was agreed to ***purchase a leaving present for the Secretary Mike and the Council confirmed that he will be granted Honorary Membership;*** at their subsequent meeting in July a letter was read from Mike Burns thanking the Club for their 'splendid send off'.



President Jack Cowood presenting Mike Burns with his leaving present

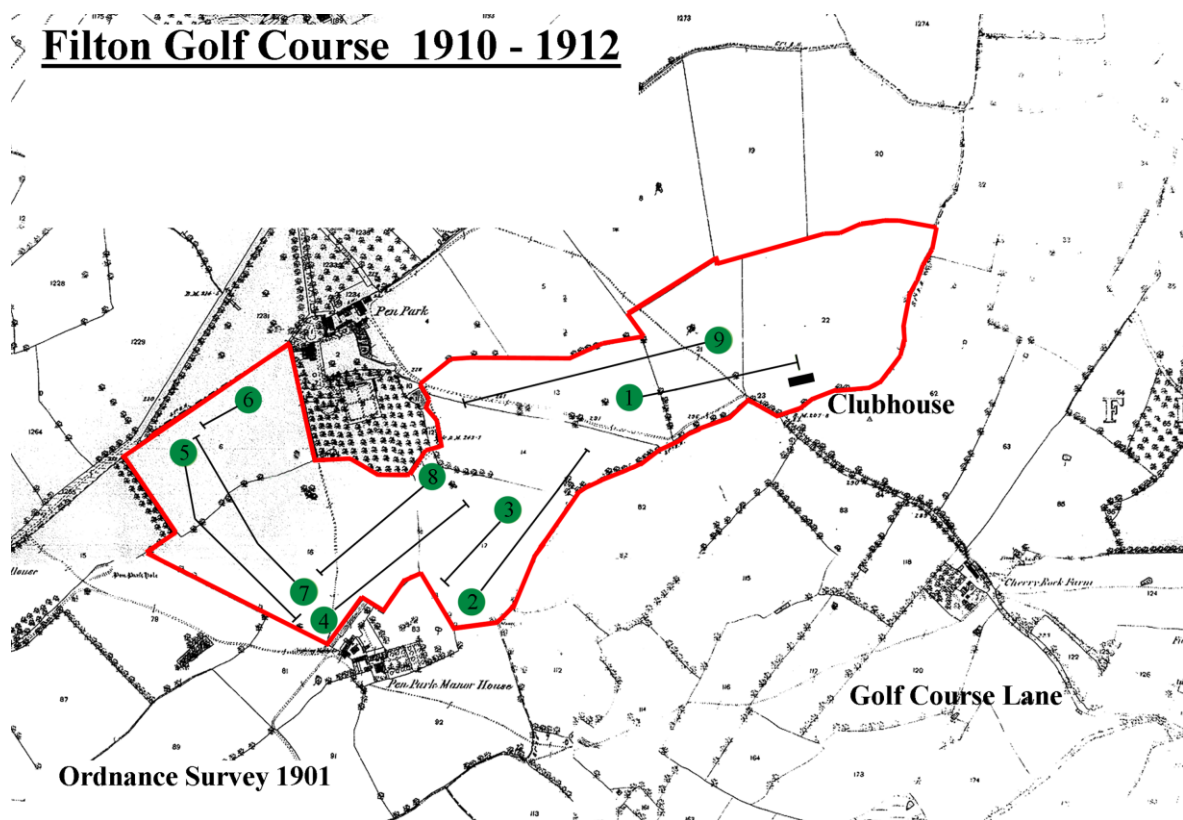
CHAPTER 12

THE COURSE

In the 'Story' a number of references have already been made to the 'Course', regarding the leasing of land, mowing machinery, hand equipment and of the numerous changes that took place as it evolved, into what we enjoy today.

This chapter is an attempt to correlate, both written and diagrammatically the many faces of the Course, since it was first laid in 1910. It must be emphasised right at the outset that as there are no definitive Drawings/Plans/Records of the earliest layout our conclusions have been drawn from Newspaper Editorials, Scorecards, the present Course layout, members' recollections, and from references in Council Minutes.

Our 'Round' starts on the 22nd February 1910 when the Committee was informed that ***members who were appointed to meet Mr W. St Maur-Hill on Monday last, the 21st February, examined the whole of the land proposed to be leased for the formation of an 18 hole Course, and the proposed layout of same, and it was unanimously agreed that the fields belonging to Mr John Atkin Waller and The Corporation of Bristol are admirably suited, as regards position, condition of turf and subsoil to the formation of an excellent 9 hole course'***



- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1st Hole | (250 Yard Bogey 4) - Tee Box is in the same position as now (2009), with the Green on a flat area just short of the present Green. |
| 2nd Hole | (388 Yard Bogey 5) - Tee Box is as now and the Green as now (Corner). |
| 3rd Hole | (180 Yard Bogey 4) - Tee Box is as the present Ladies 13 th Tee, played to a Green on a flat area adjacent to the pond on Barn Hole Fairway. |
| 4th Hole | (360 Yard Bogey 5) - Tee Box was adjacent to the pond and the Green was in the same position as now for the Barn Hole. |

- 5th Hole** (320 Yard Bogey 5)- Tee Box was adjacent to the 4th Green (the 'Old' Pen Park Tee) and the Green positioned just short of Charlton Road (where a Housing development now stands).
- 6th Hole** (90 Yard Bogey 3) – Tee was adjacent to the 5h Green and the Green positioned towards the corner of the field (would become the Pimple Hole).
- 7th Hole** (283 Yard Bogey 4) - Tee Box was adjacent to the 5th Green and the Green positioned just short of the 4th Green (flat circular area right of Barn, now planted with trees which would become Twin Oaks).
- 8th Hole** (350 Yard Bogey 4) - Tee Box as for the present 17th Winter Tee on the Chestnut Hole, to a Green left of the pond, in front of the ditch, which is now incorporated into the Fairway.
- 9th Hole** (400 Yard Bogey 5) – This is as the present day 18th hole (Hump Back).

The length of the Course was 2623 yards long with the bogey being 39 and it was officially opened for play on 28th May 1910.

THOR. MONDAY, MAY 30 1910.

GOLF NOTES AND NEWS.

—
BY "LYNCK"
—

THE FILTON CLUB.
That golf is making rapid strides in the Bristol district there can be no question. Only a few years ago the Bristol courses could be counted on the fingers of one hand, but now they are far more numerous, and, what is more, the membership of the majority is quite satisfactory. The number of local links has just had a notable addition in the construction of a course at Filton. The club has been formed by a number of well-known local golfers with unlimited enthusiasm for the game, and the course bids fair to become one of the most popular in the district. It is admirably situated, and the land selected has readily lent itself to the purposes of golf. Within a very short distance of the tram terminus, it can be easily and quickly reached from the town, and this will greatly add to its popularity. At present there are only nine holes, but I understand that there is land available amply sufficient for an additional nine holes if in due course the committee deem it desirable to extend it.

THE OPENING.
The course was formally opened on Saturday afternoon, in ideal weather. There were a large number of members and visitors present when Mr. J. Atkin Waller, president of the club, drove a ball from the first tee and declared the links open. This ceremony was immediately followed by a match between D. Ramsay and A. G. Morris, two of the best-known golfers in the district. These gentlemen gave a fine exhibition of the game, their driving and iron play being very accurate and consistent. The match proved to be a very close and interesting one. At the turn there was only one hole between the two players, Morris having the lead. He increased his advantage by winning the tenth hole. The eleventh was halved, but Ramsay reduced his opponent's lead to one again by securing the twelfth. Winning the thirteenth, halving the next, and winning the fifteenth, Morris became dormy 3. The Rodway Hill man won the sixteenth, and carried the game to the seventeenth, where the game ended, Morris winning the hole, and with it the match, beating his opponent 3 up and 1 to play. After tea the two amateurs were joined in a four-ball foursome by White (of Rodway Hill) and Wingate (of Filton), the former having D. Ramsay as partner, and the latter A. G. Morris. This contest also proved a most interesting one. Ramsay and his partner were 3 up with 8 to play, but so strongly did the opposing pair finish that they managed to halve the match. The excellent form shown by all four men gave much pleasure to the spectators.

Bristol Times and Mirror Monday May 30th 1910

'Official Opening' Filton Golf Course Saturday 28th May 1910

RAPID PROGRESS.

After the matches a number of members and visitors sat down to an excellently served supper at the Anchor Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. J. W. Bolton, the chairman of the club. The speeches were few and brief, but an optimistic tone pervaded the whole, there being a unanimous feeling of satisfaction at the eminently successful start the club had made and also as regards its future prospects, which cannot be looked upon other than as particularly bright. The condition of the course reflects great credit on Wingate and his assistants, who have only had a few weeks in which to prepare the ground for play, and dry weather has not made the task easier. As every golfer knows, the perfecting of a course takes time, and the committee and members are to be congratulated upon the great progress made in so short a time. The course has been well laid out by Wingate, who has the valuable assistance of Mr. W. St. Maur Hill, and visitors will find it full of interest. The bogey has been fixed at 39, and appended are the lengths of the holes:

Yards.	Bogey.
1.—250	4
2.—388	5
3.—180	4
4.—360	5
5.—320	5
6.—90	3
7.—287	4
8.—350	4
9.—400	5
2,623	39

THE OFFICERS.

The club is fortunate in having an excellent list of officers, who may be depended upon to carry on its affairs on lines best calculated to ensure its success. They are as follows:—President, J. Atkin Waller, chairman, J. W. Bolton; vice-chairman, W. C. Malard; hon. treasurer, R. Henderson and S. Sheld; hon. secretary, W. E. Jones; 34, Seymour Road, Bathurst; captain, J. Fish; committee, Prof. Fawcett, Capt. R. M. Knowles, W. St. Maur Hill, F. H. Thomas, A. T. Richards, A. Cox, H. Simmons, F. Blackmore, C. H. Reed, M. Bertish, and W. E. Mitchell.

Bristol Times and Mirror Editorial – Monday May 28th 1910.

THE OPENING

The course was formally opened on Saturday afternoon, in ideal weather. There were a large number of members and visitors present when Mr J. Aitkin Waller, president of the club, drove a ball from the first tee and declared the links open. This ceremony was immediately followed by a match, between D. Ramsey and A.G. Morris, two of the best-known golfers in the district. These gentlemen gave a fine display of the game their driving and iron play being very accurate and consistent. The match proved to be a very close and interesting one. At the turn there was only one hole between the two players, Morris having the lead. He increased this advantage by winning the 10th hole. The eleventh was halved, but Ramsey reduced his opponent's lead to one again by securing the twelfth. Winning the thirteenth, halving the next, and winning the fourteenth Morris became dormy 3. The Rodway Hill man won the sixteenth and carried the game to the seventeenth, where the game ended, Morris winning the hole and with it the match, beating his opponent 3 up and 1 to play. In the afternoon the two amateurs were joined in a four-ball foursomes by White of Rodway Hill and Wingate of Filton, the former having D. Ramsey as partner, and the latter A.G. Morris. This contest proved an interesting one, Ramsey and his partner were 3 up with 6 to play, but so strongly did the opposing pair finish, that they managed to halve the match. The excellent form shown by the men gave much pleasure to the spectators.

After the matches a number of members and visitors sat down to an excellently served supper at the Anchor Hotel, under the presidency of Mr J.W. Bolton, the Chairman of the Club. The speeches were few and brief, but an optimistic tone pervaded the whole, there being a unanimous feeling of satisfaction at the eminently successful start the Club had made and also regards its future prospects, which cannot be looked upon other than as particularly bright. The conditions of the course reflected great credit on Wingate and his assistants, who have only had a few weeks to prepare the ground for play, and dry weather had not made the task easier. As every golfer knows, the perfecting of the course takes time, and the Committee and members are to be congratulated upon the great progress made in such a short time. The course was well laid out by Wingate, who had the valuable assistance of Mr W. St Maur Hill and visitors will find it full of interest. The bogey has been fixed at 39, and appended are the lengths of the holes:

Bristol Times and Mirror Editorial – Monday May 30th 1910.

THE FILTON CLUB

That golf is making rapid strides in the Bristol district there can be no question. Only a few years ago Bristol courses could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Not now they are far more numerous, and, what is more the membership of the majority is quite satisfactory. The number of local links has just had a notable addition in the construction of a course at Filton. The Club has been formed by a number of well-known local golfers with unlimited enthusiasm for the game, and the course bids fair to become one of the most popular in the district. It is admirably situated and the land selected has readily lent itself to the purpose of golf. Within a very short distance of a tram terminus, adjacent to Filton Church it can be easily and quickly reached from the town, and this will greatly add to its popularity. At present there are only 9 holes, but I understand that there is land available amply sufficient for an additional 9 holes if in due course the Committee deem it desirable to extend it.

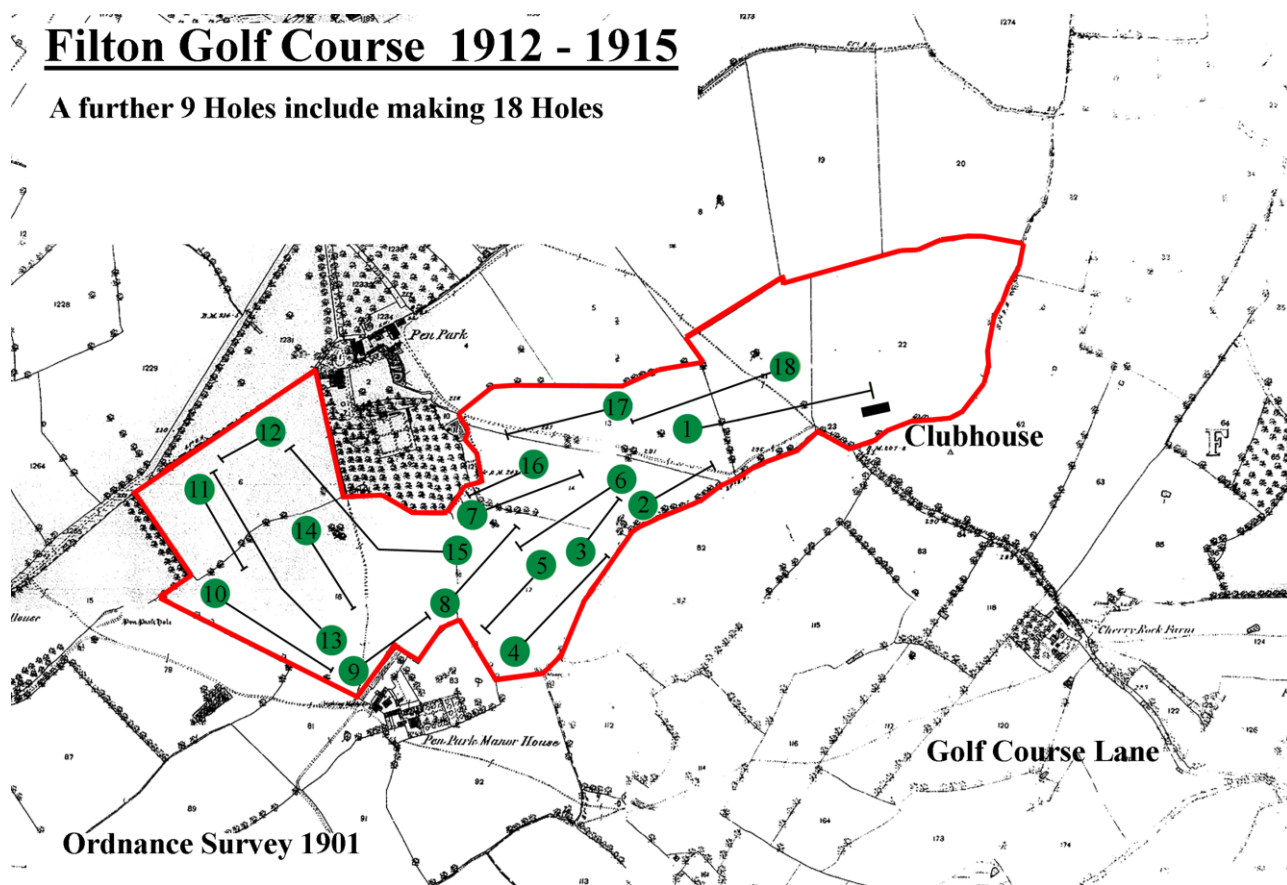
THE OFFICERS

The Club is very fortunate in having an excellent list of Officers, who may be depended upon to carry on its affairs on lines best calculated to ensure its success. They are as follows:

President, J. Atkin Waller; Chairman, J.W. Bolton; Vice-Chairman, W.C. Millard; Honorary Treasurers, R. Henderson and S. Shield; Honorary Secretary, W.E. Jones, 54 Seymour Road, Bishopston; Captain, J. Fish; Committee, Professor Fawcett, Captain R.M. Knoles, W. St. Maur Hill, F.H. Thomas, A.T. Rickards, R. Cox, H. Simmons, F. Blackmore, C.H. Reed, M. Bertish and W.E. Mitchell.

Following its opening, it was apparent to all concerned and ***it was the opinion of Council that for the future welfare and progress of the Club it was essential that the Course should be extended to a full 18 holes.***

This proved easier said than done however, as the neighbouring tenant farmers were reluctant to lease any additional farmland for the Course to be developed. Negotiations took place over the next two years and during this period it was decided to go ahead regardless and incorporate the extra 9 additional holes into the original existing Course. Unfortunately, this was to prove very unsatisfactory for all concerned, as without any additional land it was like fitting a 'quart into a pint pot'.



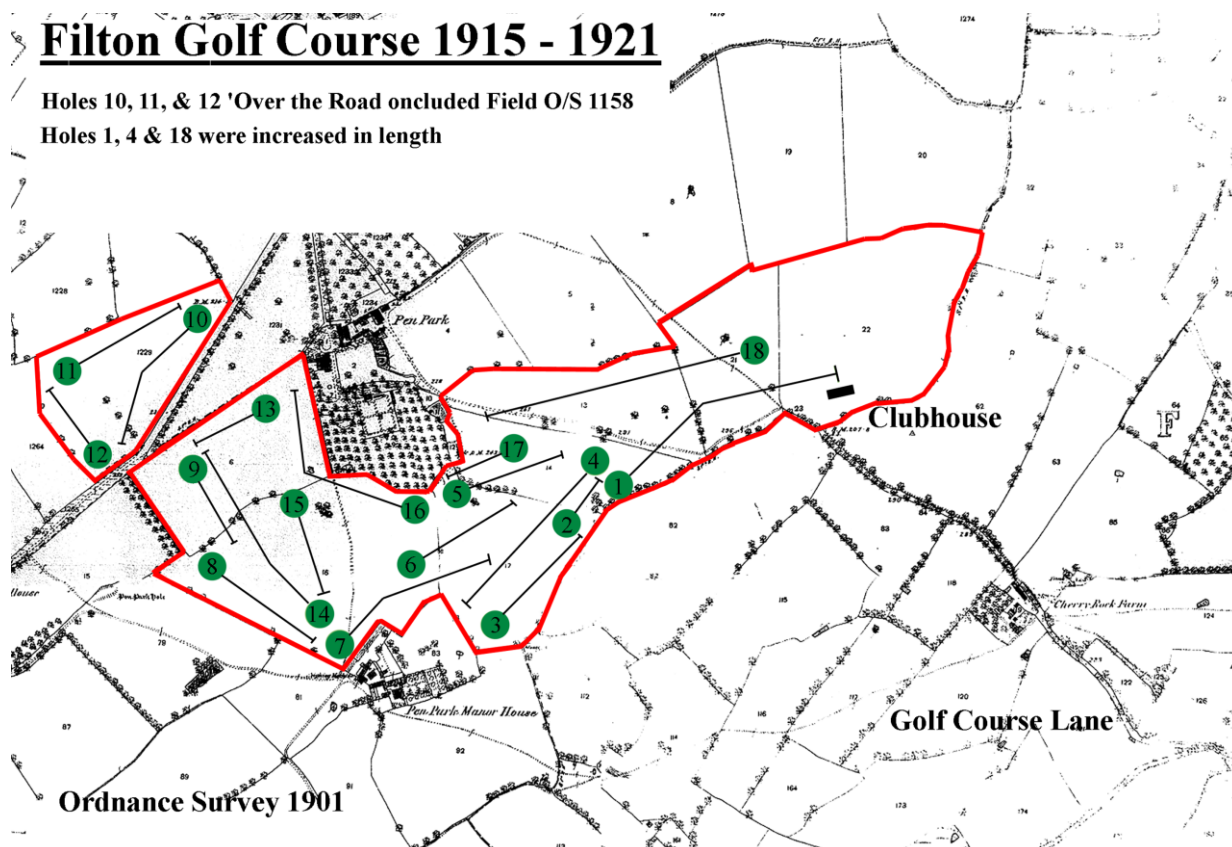
Undeterred however, Council's perseverance, in their quest for extra land, was to pay off when on the 20th February 1915 a lease for a further 17 acres, on the other side of Charlton Road, was signed. This enabled 3 new holes to be introduced and brought into play, increasing the Course length by approximately 1000 yards.

REFLECTIONS BY JACK JEFFERIES - A FORMER MEMBER

“Across the Road Holes” was the gentlemanly description but adjectives were used!! These three holes were certainly challenging!! To others they were the three holes to be cut out at all costs if there was a strong Westerly blowing, which was quite frequently.

The three holes were known as **“The Road”**, **“The Railway”** and **“The Kennels”** and a full description of them is found in Chapter 4.

Jack’s parents were landlords of the Carpenters Arms in Charlton Village, which was very close to the field where the 3 holes where.

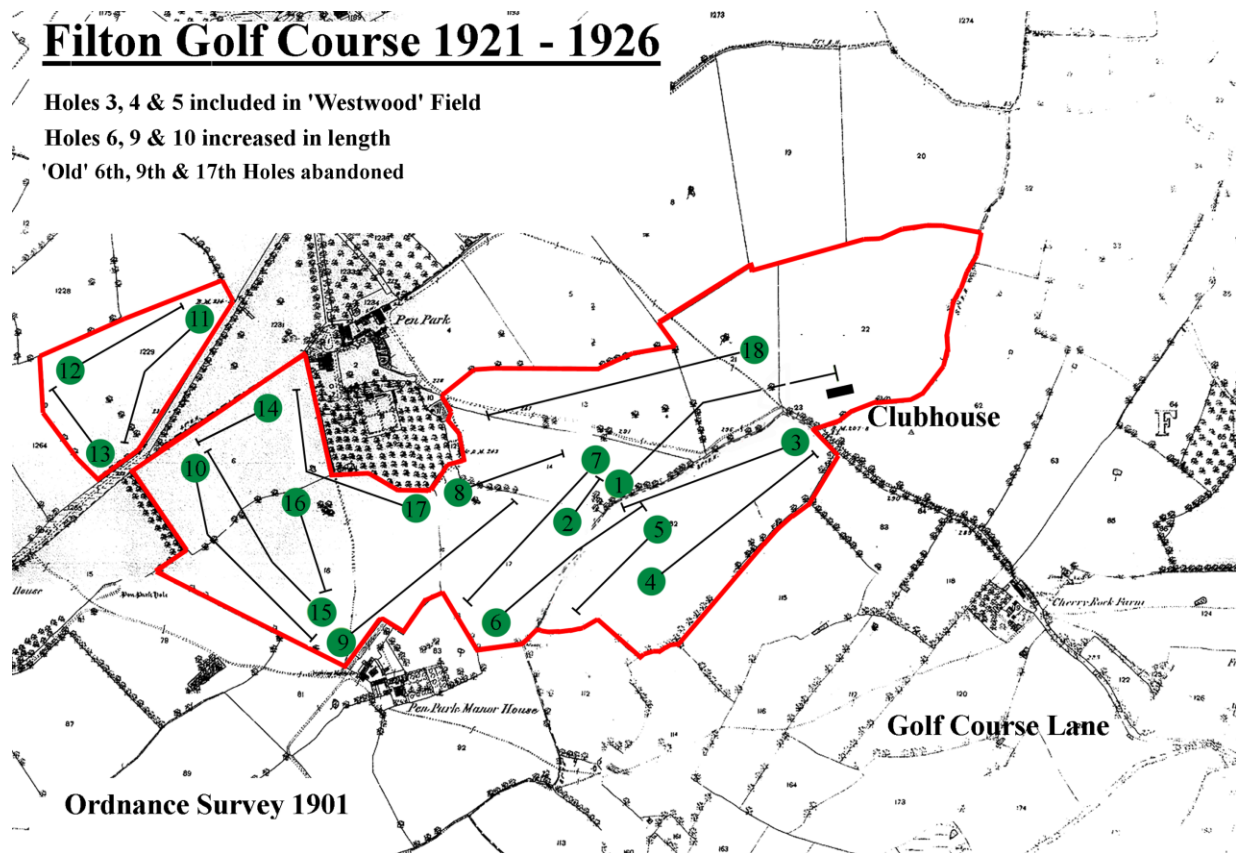


It is perhaps ironic, that having taken so long in securing land and establishing these 3 new holes in the field, referred to on the Ordnance Survey map as No. 1158, that after just two years of them being open, that very same field in 1917 was requisitioned by the War Agricultural Committee, dug and planted for food to assist with the War effort.

The Club were now left with only 15 holes to play, which remained unchanged until 1919. A reference to the 15 holes is made in Council Minutes dated 25th October 1919, which states ***that the Course shall be played as it now stands, viz 15 holes and that in Competition the 18 holes should be completed by playing the first 3 holes a second time.***

There is evidence however taken from the Annual Report of 1919-1920 that 3 temporary replacement holes had been introduced, as it was reported by the Chairman, that ***arrangements were made with Mr E. T. Pierce to take in the 16-acre field, known as “Westwood,” on which three new Greens have been made and it is hoped that by the coming Autumn they will be ready for play, when the unsatisfactory 16th, 17th and 18th temporary holes will be abandoned.*** The 3 new holes in ‘Westwood Field’ were eventually brought into play in 1921 along with the reinstated 11th, 12th, & 13th ‘Holes Over The Road’.

The 3 holes in Westwood Field were later named 'Short Westwood', 'Long Westwood' and 'Wee Westwood' and are today's Ridges (9), White Tree (10) and Oval (8). Their inclusion extended the Course by a further 1000 yards.



Despite these changes the Club were still determined to increase the length of the Course and in 1926 they were able to achieve this by including 2 'new holes' 16 and 18 at the expense of the short 2nd and 8th holes.

It would now be pleasing to record that as a very satisfactory 18 hole Course had finally come to fruition, every one was satisfied and 'Council lived happily ever after', but alas no such luck, as much was to change yet again 12 years later in 1938.

This latest change was necessitated because of a considerable increase in road traffic and congestion in and around Bristol, especially, Filton.

At this time a greater number of vehicles, many carrying 'Holiday Makers South' where having to travel through Bristol via the A38 at Filton on roads unsuitable for the volume of traffic being experienced.

Because of this unsatisfactory situation, the Bristol Corporation decided to construct the 'Filton By Pass', a Dual Carriageway which started at Patchway (Highwood Road) and was to go through Henbury onto Falcondale Road, over the Downs, down Bridge Valley Road joining the Port Way before eventually meeting up with the Weston-Super-Mare road.

Because of the War the project was abandoned, at a point along Charlton Road.

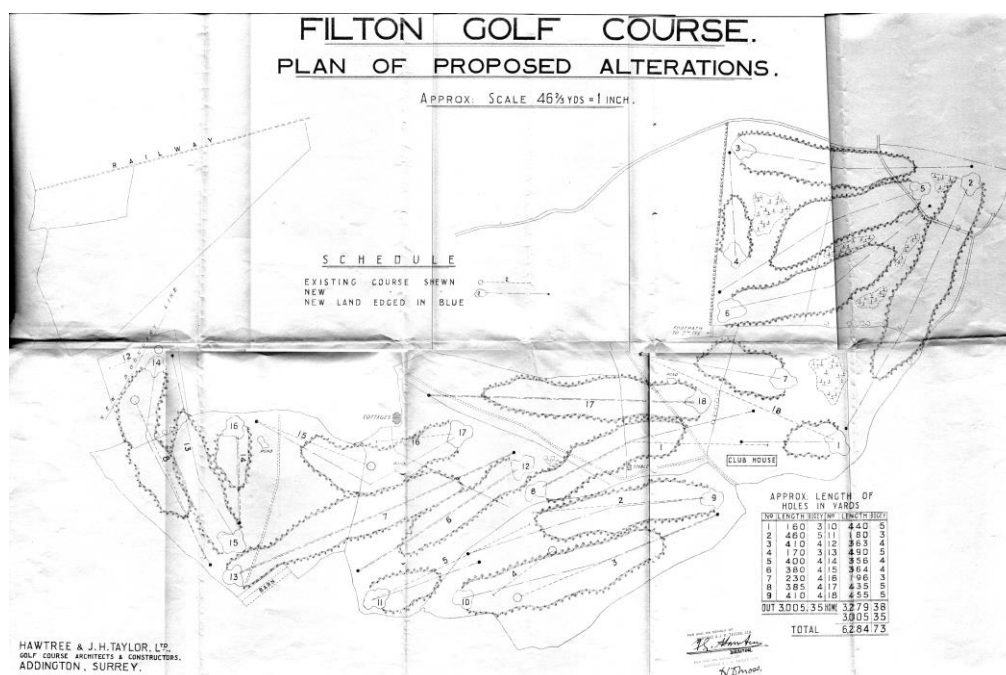
A former Club Captain George Edwin Hannaford had joined the Club in 1938 having moved from Gloucester to construct Highwood Lane on behalf of his employer the Gloucestershire County Council. When the project was abandoned after the war he returned to Gloucester and became the Club Captain at Stinchcombe Golf Club.

Regrettably the Filton Bypass Route crossed the field Ordinance Survey 1158 on the Charlton side of the road, which resulted in the Club losing their 3 holes 'Over the Road'.

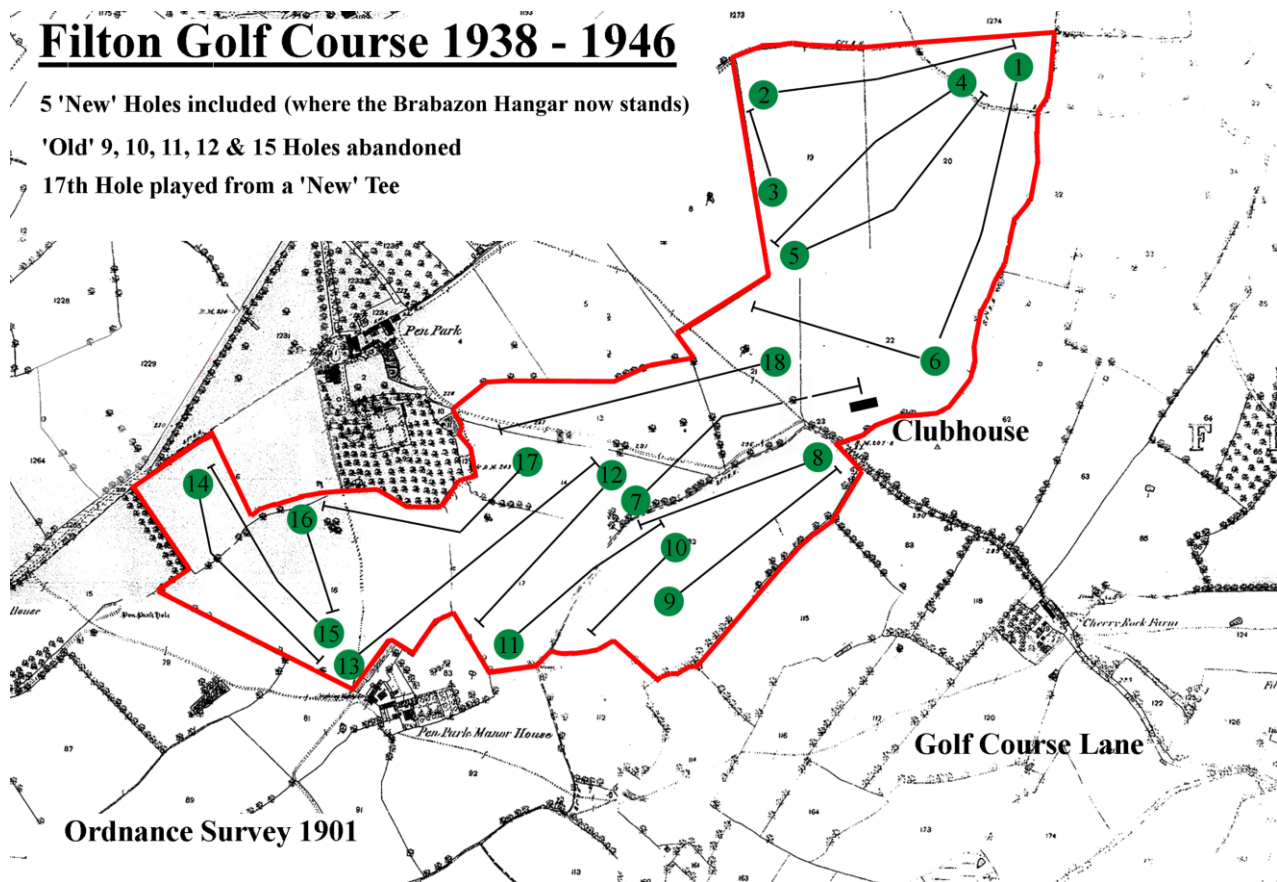


Once again the Club were forced into leasing additional land, ***being of sufficient size that it could facilitate the construction of 5 very good holes.*** Work did indeed start in March 1938 and was completed as detailed in a letter from W. Hawtree to Council on 25th November 1938. The letter ***stating that the work in constructing the 5 new holes according to the terms of contract was completed on 19th November 1938 and they would be glad to receive a cheque for £235-16s-3d*** as final payment. The Club still retains the original signed agreement with W. Hawtree and J.H. Taylor in its archives, together with the 'Course Plan', which shows the layout and gives the length to be 6284 yards, with a bogey of 73.

Hawtree and Taylor – Proposed Course Alterations

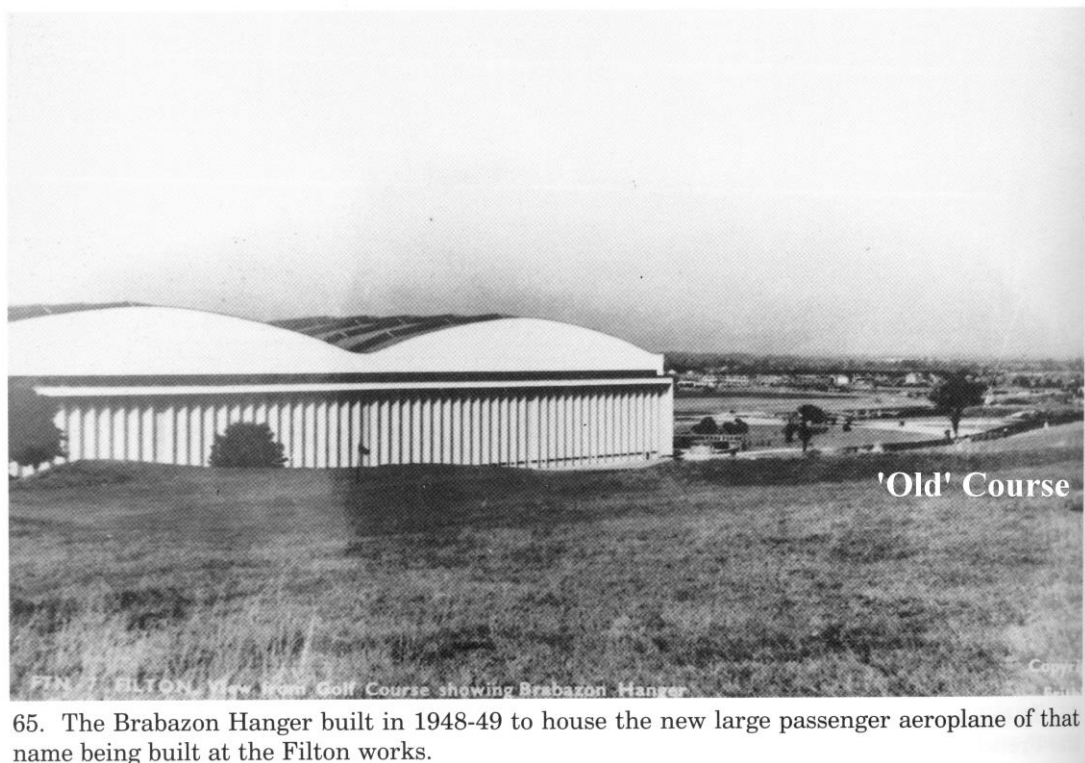


In the event 'new' hole 7 wasn't constructed nor was the 'new' 1st tee and the existing 10th hole was retained. By doing this it was only necessary to construct 5 'new' holes.



- 1st Hole** **460 Yard Bogey 5** - Tee Box adjacent to the present practice Green close to the rear of the Professionals Shop, with the Green just short of the railway line on the other side of the Brabazon Hanger. The Fairway ran parallel with the existing Hedge.
- 2nd Hole** **410 Yard Bogey 5** - Tee Box adjacent to the 1st Green with the Fairway running parallel with the railway line to a Green situated where the Hanger now stands.
- 3rd Hole** **170 Yard Bogey 3** - Tee Box adjacent to the 2nd Green to a Green, up the hill.
- 4th Hole** **400 Yard Bogey 4** - Tee Box adjacent to the 3rd Green to a Green downhill adjacent to the 1st Green.
- 5th Hole** **420 Yard Bogey 5** - Tee Box adjacent to 4th Green to a Green uphill and close to the 2nd practice Green by the 18th Green.
- 6th Hole** **370 Yard Bogey 4** - Tee Box still situated to the left of this Practice Green and the Green the existing Practice Green to the rear of the Professionals Shop.

It is important to remind ourselves that if we were to stand on the Practice Green near the Radar Installation, and look downhill towards the Brabazon Hanger, prior to its being built, all the countryside would have been undulating fields, hedgerow, ditches and ponds, which was a beautifully natural setting for these holes.



The Photograph shows part of the Course as it was prior to the Brabazon Hanger being built (light coloured triangle by the tree), and also gives an indication of playing conditions being experienced at that time, which is seen in the foreground.

The following picture was taken from a German Reconnaissance Plane during a Bombing Raid on Filton in 1940 and shows part of the 5 'new holes' at that time.



A second picture shows the Course and surrounding District.



This extensive aerial photograph was taken early in the Second World War and proved a useful bird's eye view of the whole area. The main railway line to Wales runs across the middle of the photograph, with Filton village and an incomplete Southmead on the southern side. The Patchway works are immediately to the north of the line. The original runway can also be seen to the north, lying parallel to the railway with Charlton village further west, awaiting its fate.

The above reference made regarding ***'Charlton village further west, awaiting its fate'*** was to prove of great significance to the Club and future Course Layout, as once again the Course was to radically alter.

In 1946 following the War, B.A.C. decided that its future lay in the manufacture of passenger aircraft and the 'Brabazon' was its latest project.

To facilitate its construction it was necessary to build a 'Hangar' to house it, and despite the many thousands of acres at their disposal, where would be better to build this Hangar than on part of the land which was Filton Golf Club.

As a result, the 5 'new holes' which before the 'International Disturbance' we had taken an age to negotiate a lease over, had cost a considerable amount in time and money and had seen very little play, were now abandoned to heavy machinery and built upon.

Drastic action was needed to replace the holes lost and ***Mr Mackenzie of the B.A.C. seems to have been sympathetic to our needs and proposed that a commencing tenancy for a period of 12 years at £250 per annum for land embracing a full 18 holes, including roughly 10 acres for new holes.***

Later that year it is recorded that 2 new holes were being constructed, using heavy equipment supplied by the B.A.C. in Field 112 on the Ordnance Survey Map. On their completion they became 'new' holes 5 & 6.

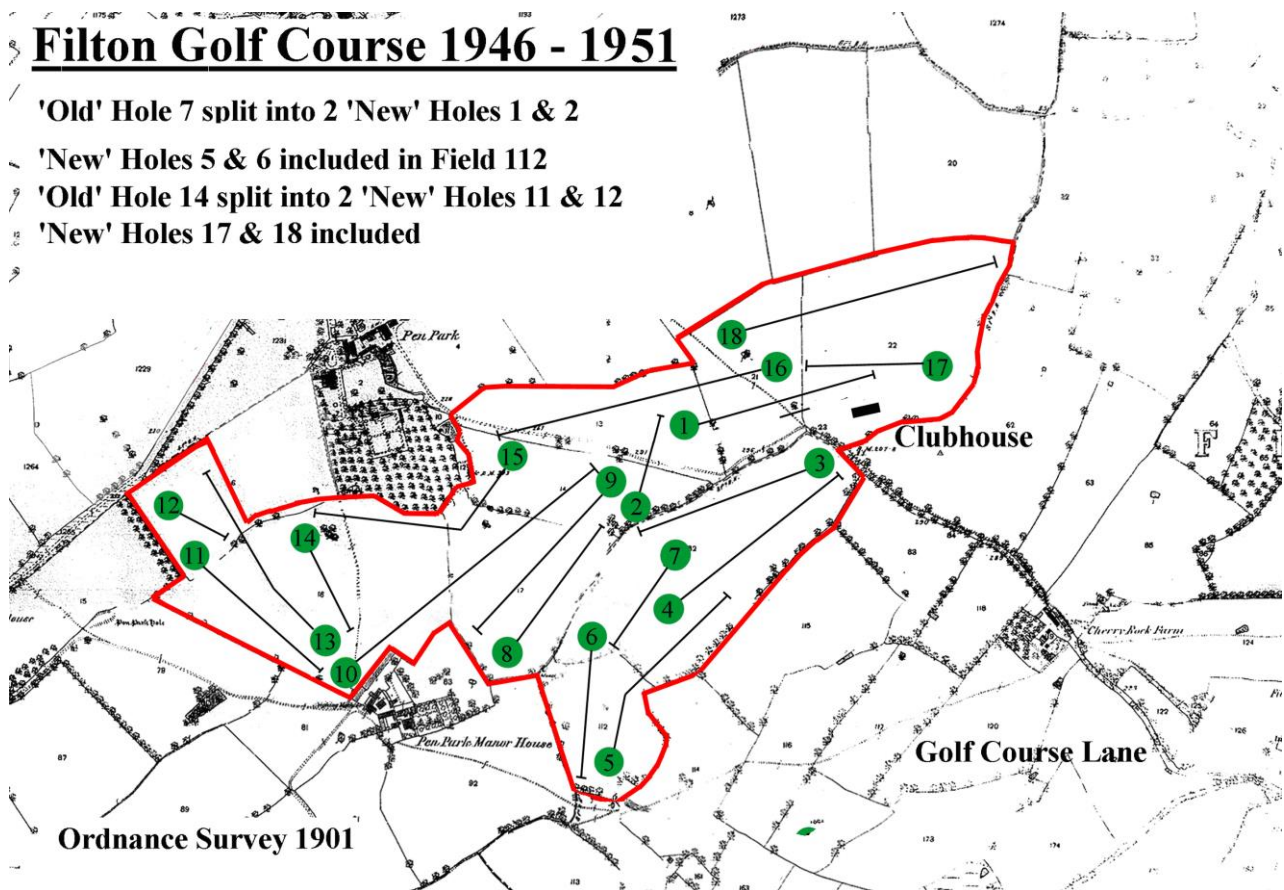
The outline of the 5th holes 'green' can still be seen as a flat plateau area just before the ditch on Rannoch and the 6th 'tee' is visible, in the corner by the pond. The holes were opened to play in September 1946 along with a 'new' 1st holes 'green' which was constructed adjacent to the gun site, and still remains as the Club's 1st hole green.

With the shortening of the 'old' 1st hole it allowed a 'new' tee to be constructed adjacent to the 'new' 1st green and play was to the original 1st hole green, 'tee' side of the lone fairway tree (just beyond the lake).

This arrangement would remain in place for the next 40 years. Finally a 'new' hole 18 was introduced and 'old' hole 6 shortened to a par 3, facilitating an 18 holes Course.

The holes 17 and 18 were un-popular however as it was necessary, after playing a short par 3, to then walk to the far corner of the field away from the Clubhouse to play the 18th hole.

Many members regularly played only 16 holes as they didn't relish the uphill walk back to the Clubhouse.



This configuration remained in place for 5 years, until in 1951, when the 11th hole was increased in length and the short par 3, 'Pimple' Hole was introduced.

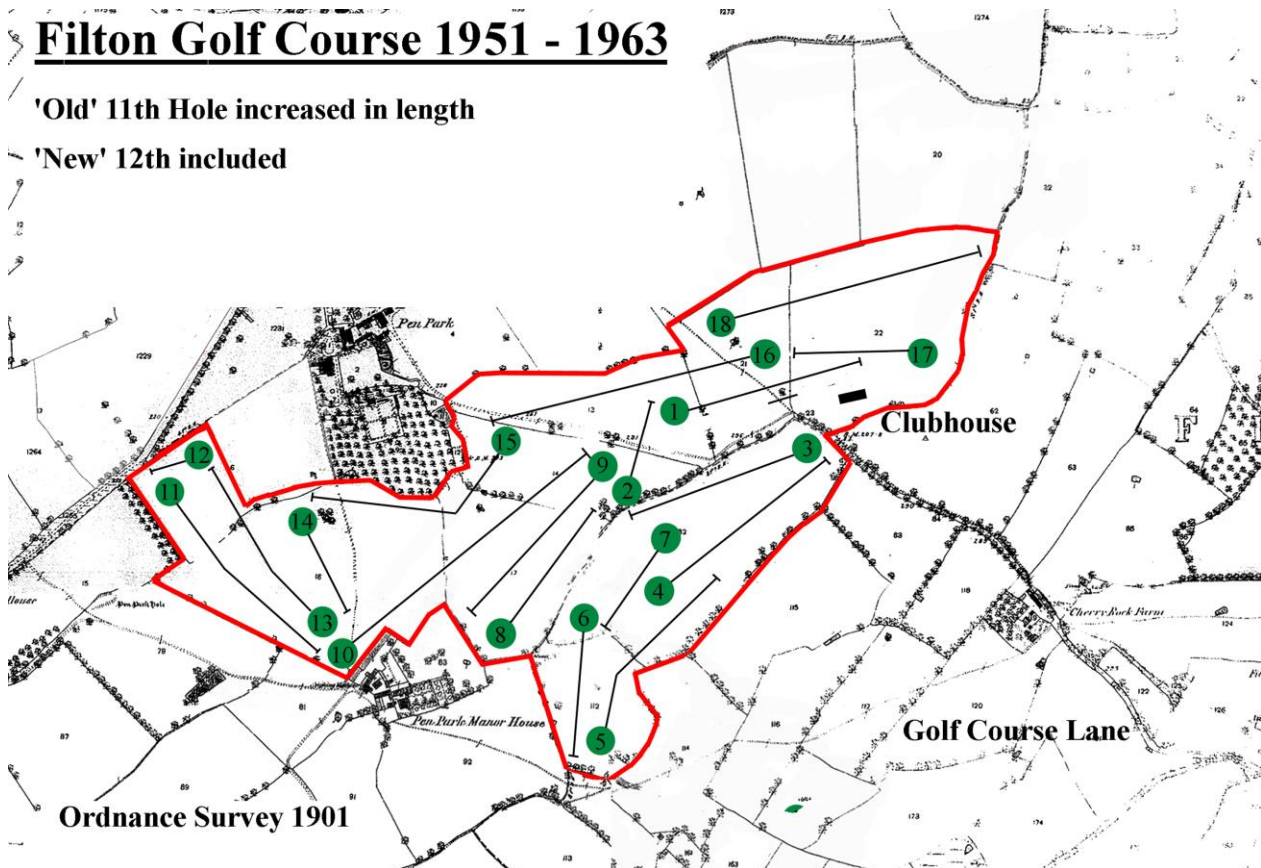
The position of the green for the Pimple was very close to a Garage Building on Charlton Road and its roof was frequently hit by a hooked shot.

One member tells the tale of having hit his 1st ball out of bounds he then securing a par by holing his 2nd ball from the tee.

Filton Golf Course 1951 - 1963

'Old' 11th Hole increased in length

'New' 12th included



In 1963 the un-popular 18th hole was abandoned, although its green was retained and remains as a 'Practice Green', and holes 5 and 6 taken out of play.

As a direct replacement for the loss of these 3 holes the 'new' 5th (Rannoch), 6th (Bowling Green) and 7th (Long Hill) were introduced. The 'old' short 17th was increased in length and became the 18th.

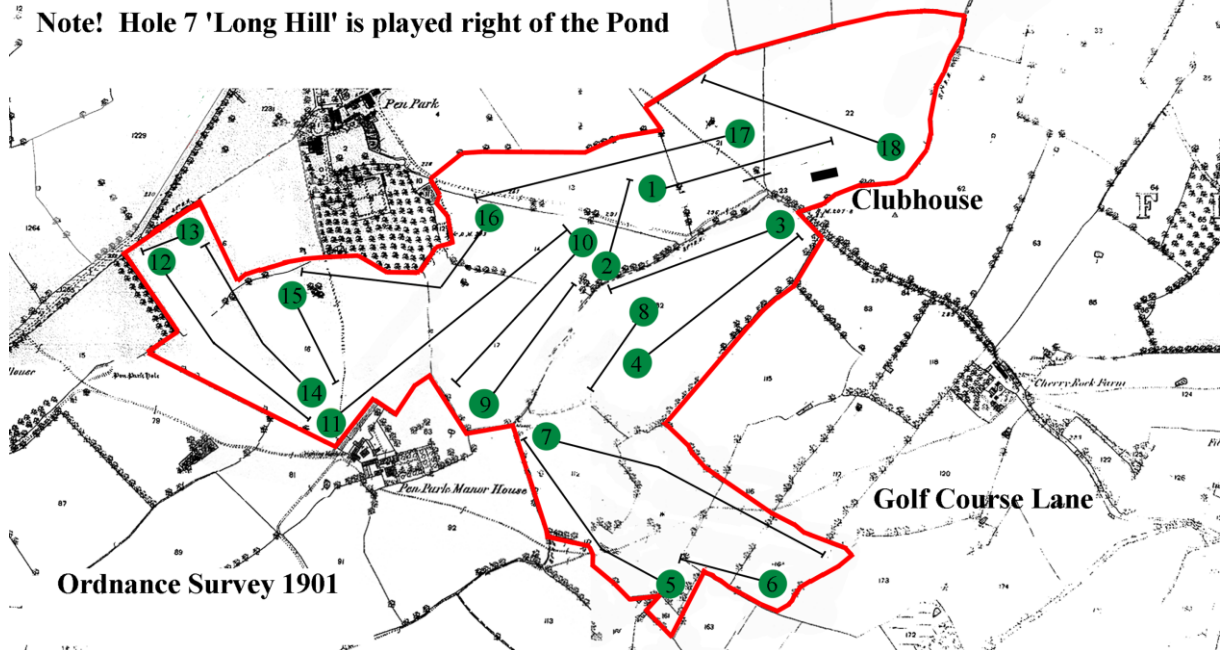
At the Annual General Meeting the Captain explained that ***the question of opening the Course had been considered in February, but the Greens Committee had agreed to keep it closed***, as the weather didn't permit, despite the Course having been out of play for 3 months.

On the resumption of play 3 'new' holes, Rannoch, Bowling Green and Long Hill were introduced. This didn't come without a problem however, as a letter of complaint from the ***B.A.C. Welfare Association with reference to the danger to the members of their Bowling Club, from golf balls*** was received.

A number of suggestions to overcome this problem were discussed and this resulted in a high fence being introduced along with a new tee.

Filton Golf Course 1963 - 1975

- 'Old' Holes 5, 6 & 18 abandoned
- 'New' Holes 5, 6 & 7 included
- 'Old' 17th increased in length and became Hole 18
- Note! Hole 7 'Long Hill' is played right of the Pond



If it's not one thing it's another and the close proximity of the newly built houses adjacent to the 13th and 15th green and projected building near the 16th fairway were now to create a difficult situation in 1969.

Although the problem was not of the Club's making and having little influence at planning stage the Club was now forced to consider altering the Course once again to protect the newly constructed properties. The eventual solution to the problem was to abandon the short 'Pimple' and 'Pond' Holes and replace them with the 'Drop' and 'Blackberry Hill' Holes, but this wasn't until 1975.

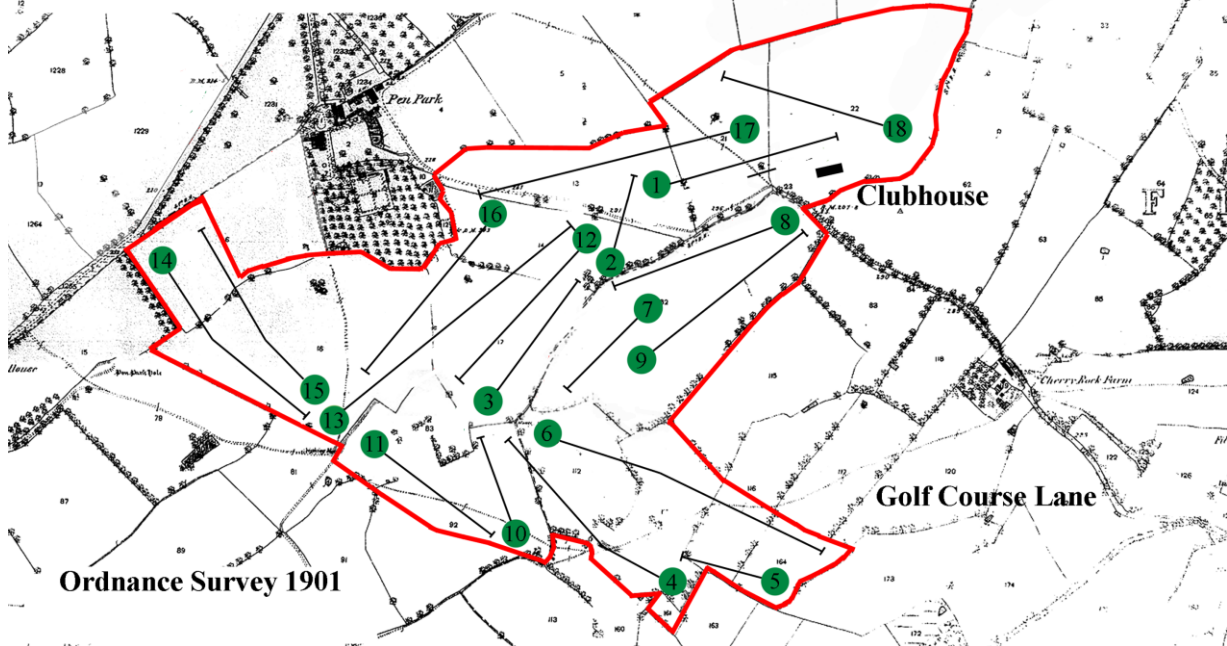
The land the 2 new holes were built upon, having become available following the demolition of the derelict and un-inhabitable 'Pen Park Manor House'. It is possible to see the outline of the Manor's 'Well' close to the Horse Chestnut Tree if you look closely enough, so it is told.

Another anecdote is that while constructing the holes, a member of the Greens Committee, when inspecting the progress of the work saw on several occasions an unusual looking bird, which on investigation, turned out to be the Hoopoe; a rare visitor to this Country from the Mediterranean area.

Filton Golf Course 1975 - 1983

Note! Pen Park Manor House and Farm demolished and the ground infilled to create a level area for the 'Blackberry Hill' Hole 11

'Old' Hole 13 abandoned



Prior to this last change, in 1972, a serious threat had materialised as to the **Future of the Club**, when Rolls Royce, got into financial difficulties. The Club's current lease was due to run out in 1973 and negotiations were already underway to renew the lease over a longer term. This was thrown into turmoil when at the Council meeting on 25th February 1970 the Secretary read a letter he had received from **Rolls Royce Limited, who advised that the Company is not prepared to give an assurance that the Lease will be renewed as it stands or to agree to lease additional land to the Club. The possible future of the land leased to the Club was also under consideration.**

You may be wondering at this juncture how Rolls Royce were now involved in negotiations regarding a 'New Lease' and the simple answer is that unbeknown to the Club they had become our new landlord in 1966. Sir Reginald White was unable to resist government pressure in 1959 to merge the Engine Division of the Bristol Aeroplane Company with Armstrong Siddeley to form Bristol Siddeley Engines, and the airframe side of the Bristol Aeroplane Company with English Electric, Hunting and Vickers to form the British Aircraft Corporation. He became Chairman of Bristol Siddeley and Vice Chairman, later Chairman of the British Aircraft Corporation and Vice Chairman of Rolls-Royce. Rolls Royce the nations leading engine builder, merged with Bristol Siddeley Engines in 1966 and the land secured in the deal by Rolls Royce included that on which the Course was situated.

To continue, in the circumstances the Club would be excused for taking a cautious view, but not so. Despite receiving a letter from **Rolls Royce with reference to the Club's proposal to extend the Lounge etc. The Company did not oppose the Planning Application, but suggested it would be prudent for the Club to wait until we had their assurance that they would not exercise their right to terminate the Lease in 1973**, a decision was taken by Council, to proceed with all the intended improvements and Course changes.

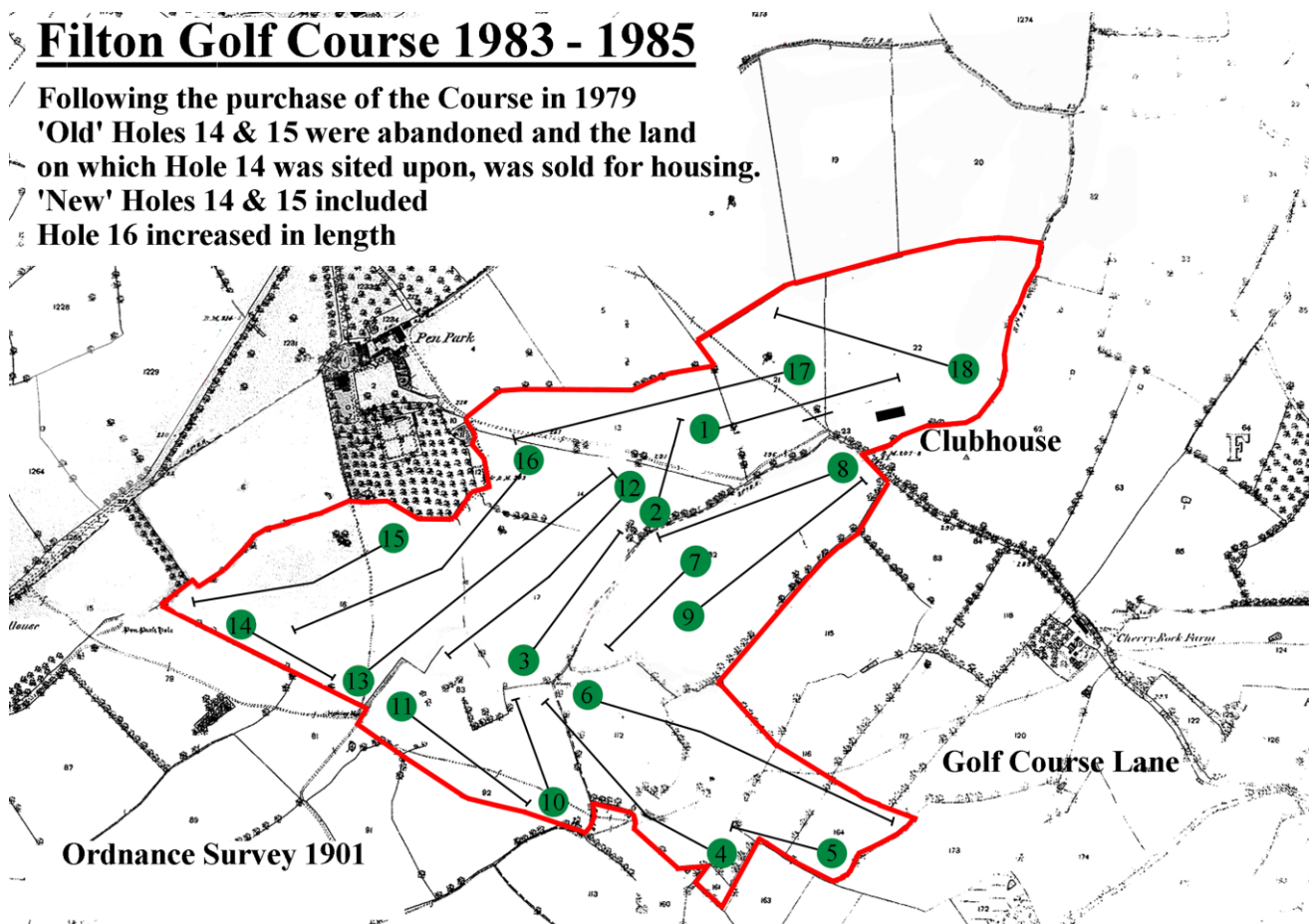
Rolls Royce was eventually placed in receivership in 1971 and many of their assets, the Golf Course being one of them, had to be sold off.

There now followed years of negotiation, until in 1979 Filton Golf Club had the opportunity to purchase the Course for £165,000. At a specially convened meeting the members were given all the facts and options available to them and following discussion, they agreed to proceed with the purchase of the Course, despite only having £25,000 at their disposal. The Club did have one trump Card though, Mr R.H.A. Richards who along his fellow Trustee Directors devised ways to secure sufficient funds. One lucrative inclusion was the proposal to sell off a parcel of land at Pen Park for Housing Development. The Trustees recognised that the land would be worth considerably more if Planning Permission for Housing was gained and once again the Club were fortunate to be able to call upon the expertise of one of its members, Chartered Civil Engineer Mr Derek Head. Derek drew up all the necessary Plans, Documents and Application Forms on the Club's behalf that were required to secure Planning Permission and at the second time of submitting, permission was granted.

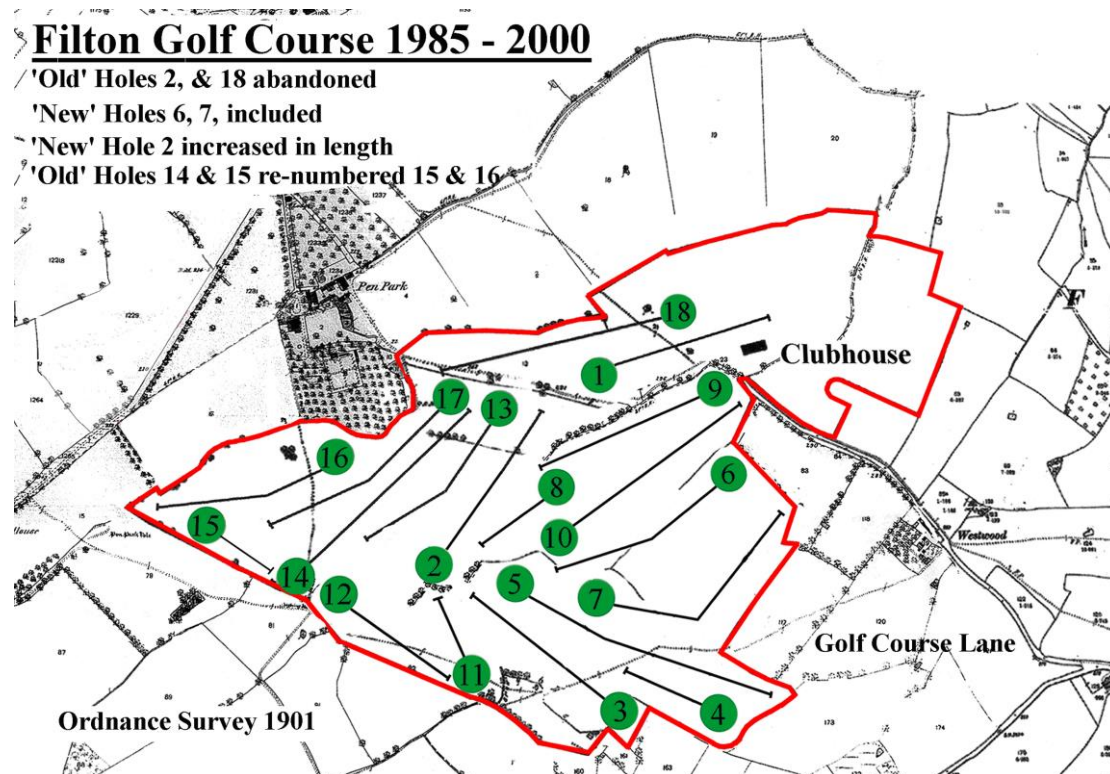
The parcel of land along with its Planning Permission was then sold to Bryant Homes and the money realised was used principally to assist the Club with its overdraft on the money borrowed from Lloyds Bank and on re-construction of the Course and Clubhouse.

It could be asked how did the Club secure such a large unsecured loan from Lloyds Bank in the first place? What, eventually persuaded the Bank to loan the Club money, was the knowledge that Mr R.H.A. Richards was involved. Ralph although not a guarantor, was held in such high regard in financial circles that the Bank didn't hesitate.

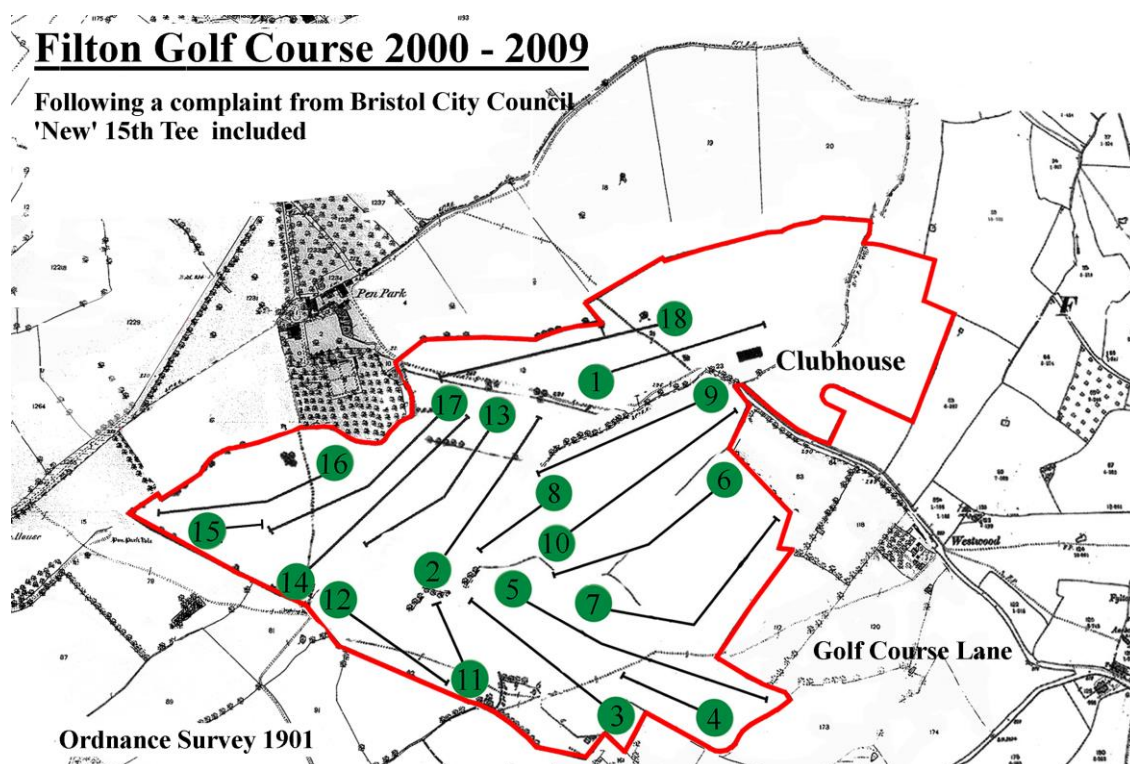
The selling-off of the Parcel of Land meant the Club lost holes 14 & 15, which were re-created as depicted on the 1983-1985 Course layout.



Now the Course was owned by the Club members plans could go ahead, to make improvements to 'Their Property'. This saw the next significant change to the Course taking place in 1985 when 2 'new' holes, numbers 6 & 7 were included. These replaced the short 'old' 2nd hole and the 'old' 18th; the latter is now used for practice. The 'new' 2nd was increase in length.



In 2000 the final change to date took place when following a complaint from the Bristol City Council regarding golf balls crossing the boundary hedge and endangering the public, a 'new' 15th tee was introduced.



APPENDIX

The Clubhouse

1914 - Post Cards of the Clubhouse & Course – Harvey Barton & Son Ltd.

Filton Golf Club - Chairmen and Captains

- 1 Rodway Hill Golf Club - Their Professional A. White attended our inaugural meeting
- 2 Thomas Francis Capern
- 3 1914 Gloucester County Championship at Filton
- 4 Percy Attwood – Club Professional 1939 - 1961
- 5 Arthur Lionel Vie Davis – Club Secretary 1945 - 1946
- 6 Sydney Ernest Gray – Spectator fell 120 feet down a mine shaft at Long Ashton G. C.
- 7 Alfred Walter Parkman – Club member and Renowned Local Singer
- 8 Pen Park Hole
- 9 Nicky Lumb and Greg Norman at Filton
- 10 The ‘Old Professional Shop’
- 11 The ‘New’ Professional Shop
- 12 Caroline Hall – Junior Member and Lady Professional European Tour Player
- 13 1920 Souvenir Booklet – Depicting the 1914 Extended Clubhouse and General Play
- 14 1936 Filton Golf Club Personalities

THE CLUBHOUSE

Filton Golf Club - Club House

Western Daily Press - 12th December 1911



The above is a sketch of the new club house which is being erected by the Filton Golf Club. The building is to be made of wood and iron with brickwork foundation. It will be most useful as well as ornamental.

Details of the accommodation appeared in yesterdays 'Western Daily Press', but it may be mentioned that it is ample for present requirements.

The committee, however, are reserving space for enlargement at a future date.

The site is an admirable one near the first green with a commanding view of the Welsh and Cotswold Hills, which can be seen on a clear day.

Builders are Messes Harrison & Co. of London, who are also builders of the new club house at Shirehampton Park golf course



In the above photograph the Filton Golf Club Chairman John Bolton can be seen at the extreme left wearing a suit.

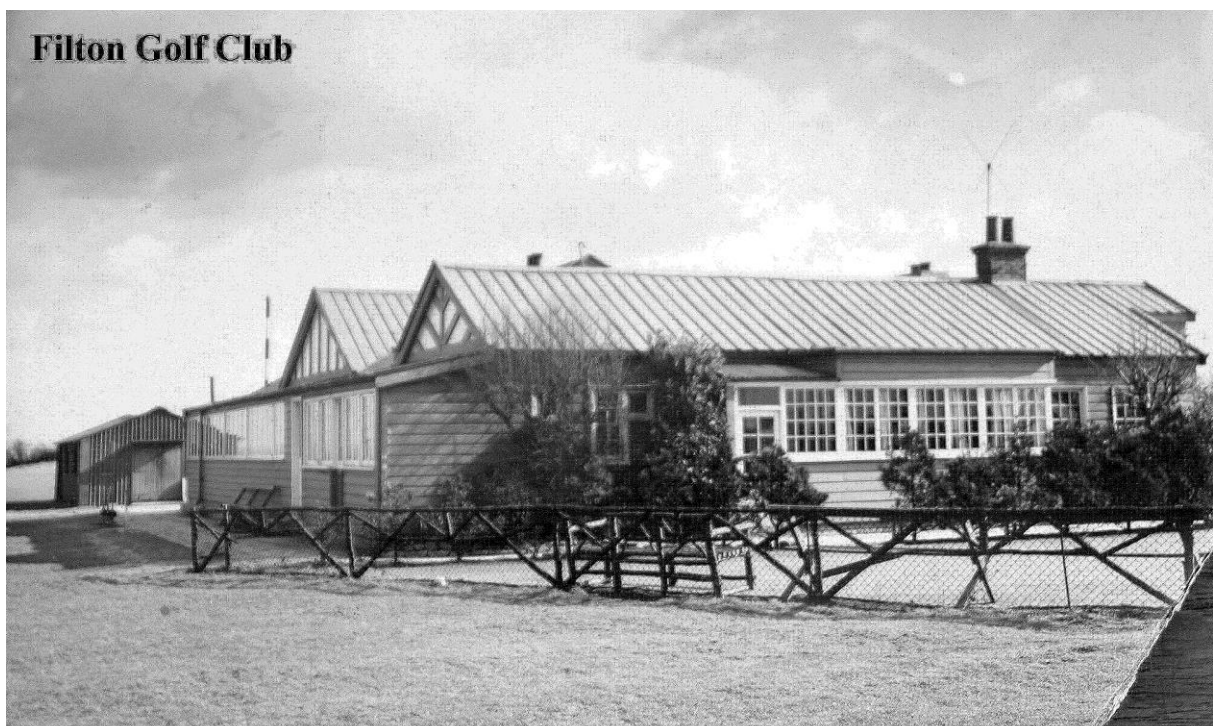
The specific date this photograph was taken although unknown, was prior to a Clubhouse extension having been completed in the later part of 1914. The original Clubhouse roof structure, containing a single gable can be clearly seen, which endorses this.

In 1914 the original Clubhouse was extended and a second chevron roof gable was added, as shown below.



Filton Golf Club House in 1914, having had constructed a new extension, with a chevron gable.

This structure was to remain until 1952 when the front balcony was incorporated into the main building.



The next change to the Clubhouse took place in 1967 when not only the windows were modernised, but an extension, which is seen in the photograph below protruding out at the left hand end of the building was constructed.

The extension was to facilitate the Secretaries Office and Committee Room, which could be used for card playing etc.

This was to change however many years later when Council at their meeting 21st May 1990, when the ***Council agreed that as the upgrading of the 'Committee Room' was imminent, it would be necessary to inform those members who use the Committee Room for card playing, that on completion of the work, card playing would not be allowed in that room and that they should be informed that card playing would still be allowed in the Men's Bar, subject to the satisfactory behaviour of those taking part.*** It was also agreed that ***a notice regarding this change should be posted on the Secretary's Notice Board.***

A letter from Mr Ted Wiffill (card player) was read to Council at their next meeting and the ***Chairman said that he together with some Council members had already met Mr Wiffill and explained to him the reason for banning the card players from the Committee Room.***

Some years later when a doorway was formed leading from the Main Entrance Corridor and into the Committee Room the opening created exposed the original external timber boards, which had been covered over with plasterboard to form the Committee Rooms inner wall. The boards were still painted white as shown in the photograph.

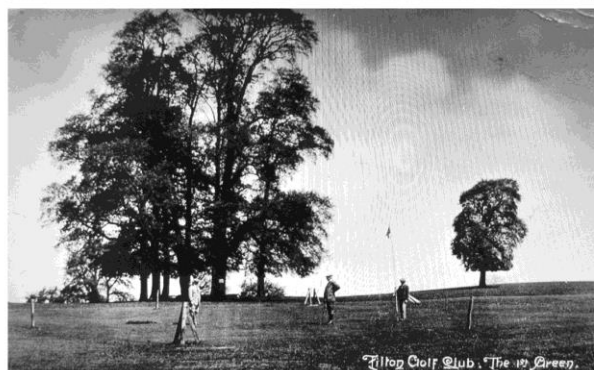


The final major re-construction of the Clubhouse was in 1985, when after 71 years the roof finally lost its two gables when one complete structure was constructed. Many other changes took place to leave us with the Clubhouse of today.



1914 - CLUBHOUSE & COURSE

Filton Golf Club - Clubhouse & Course Post Cards Printed in 1914 by Harvey Barton & Son Ltd.



CHAIRMAN & CAPTAINS

Chairman and Captains – Mr Maggs supplied the panels (Page 32)

Year	Chairman	Captain
1909-1910	J.W. Bolton	J. Fish
1910-1911	"	"
1911-1912	"	Capt. R.M. Knolles
1912-1913	"	No Appointment
Made		
1913-1914	"	Capt. J. Berrow
1914-1915	"	"
1915-1916	"	"
1916-1917	"	"
1917-1918	"	"
1918-1919	"	"
1919-1920	"	H.J. Andrews
1920-1921	"	"
1921-1922	"	A.W. Parkman
1922-1923	A.J. Carruthers	H.C. Hull
1923-1924	J. Powell	"
1924-1925	W.H. Curtis	"
1925-1926	A.P. Dawes	"
1926-1927	A.W. Parkman	"
1927-1928	W.E. Maggs	"
1928-1929	John Storrs	"
1929-1930	Andrew Nelson	F.W. Trory
1930-1931	"	R.B. Everett
1931-1932	R.B. Everett	A.E. Mickleburgh
1932-1933	F.J. Tudball	R. Dawes
1933-1934	B.H. Greenway	A.C. Vowles
1934-1935	H.Gray	G.S. Phelps
1935-1936	F.S. Eden	F.S. Eden
1936-1937	R.B. Everett	A.L.V. Davis
1937-1938	"	T.S. Foweraker
1938-1939	T.S. Foweraker	E.Shield
1939-1940	"	W.H. Simmonds
1940-1941	"	G.M. Kinlock
1941-1942	"	L.J. Benson
1942-1944	"	"
1944-1945	"	G. Hannaford
1945-1946	T.W.C. Glover	"
1946-1947	"	"
1947-1948	"	"
1948-1949	"	S.E. Gray
1949-1950	"	"
1950-1951	"	"

Chairman and Captains

1951-1952	R.S. Brown	D.S. Maunsell
1952-1953	"	L.J. Benson
1953-1954	J.F. Harper	A. Macfarlane
1954-1955	S.E. Gray	A. Benson
1955-1956	"	J.C. Millhouse
1956-1957	"	G.H. Hamilton
1957-1958	"	D.J. Lockyer
1958-1959	"	A.O. Watson
1959-1960	"	A. Benson
1960-1961	D.S. Maunsell	M.P.G. Hull
1961-1962	P.L. Allerton/C.E. Neath	W.S. Clarke
1962-1963	C.E. Neath	"
1963-1964	"	A.E. Pearce
1964-1965	"	T.E. Bower
1965-1966	"	A.B. Liddle
1966	"	W.L. Howland
1967	"	J.C. Oxland
1968	"	R. Ashton
1969	"	J.G. Cruse
1970	"	E.J. Smith
1971	"	P.R. Stock
1972	"	M.B. Franklin
1973	"	R.E.S. White
1974	"	C.J. Corbett
1975	"	K.P. Gooder
1976	"	L. Moore
1977	K.P. Gooder	J.M. Clarke
1978	"	R.L. Wilkins
1979	"	M.J.A. Hutton
1980	"	D.J. Head
1981	"	S.C. Micklewright
1982	"	D.F. O'Leary
1983	J.T. Cowood	J.T. Cowood
1984	"	I.A. Foulner
1985	"	G.L. Williams
1986	"	R.H. Marsland
1987	"	P.F. Deadman
1988	"	E.W. Butcher
1989	"	P.H. Briggs
1990	"	Dr N.A. Karuna
1991	I.A. Foulner	C.F. Hewitt
1992	"	M. Burns

APPENDIX 1

Rodway Hill Golf Club - Founded 1898

Their Professional – **A. White attended our inaugural meeting** (reference Chapter 1)

An 18 hole Course on Rodway Hill adjacent to Mangotsfield Railway Station. It is on pasture and common land rented for £5 per Annum from Mangotsfield Parish Council, with both natural and artificial hazards.

The Memorandum of Agreement states: inter alia, "... grants William Windus, George Andrew Imlay, William Hewat Russell and others for the time being members of the "Rodway Hill Golf Club" permission to play golf upon and over the land known as Rodway Hill." And "... it will be lawful for the club to clear and level certain spaces on the said land not exceeding six in number and not more than 50 feet square in extent as putting greens and for this purpose may take up and relay the surface of the turf on the said hill ... and it shall also be lawful for them to construct a hole in each of the said greens not exceeding six inches in diameter and twelve inches in depth, such hole to be protected when play is not in progress by the insertion of a wooden plug."

There was a Challenge match on 22nd July 1903 between A White the home Professional and E Foord, Burnham & Berrow, which the latter won 3 and 2. (GI).

"Interest in the examination in golf which the Rodway Hill (Bristol) Club imposed upon all members who desired to compete for their Captain's Prize the other day has been general, and now we are able to present to readers the "paper" that was set. It was handed to competitors immediately before playing, and they were called upon to give their answers forthwith, the answers in each instance to embrace both match and stroke play.

The questions set were:

1. If a ball be lost in match play or stroke competition, what do you do?
2. What is the penalty if your ball strikes you or your caddie in match play or stroke play?
3. If a ball be played out of bounds, what do you do?
4. A ball may be lifted from any place in stroke competition. What is the penalty?
5. What is the penalty if you tee up outside the limits of teeing ground in match play and stroke competition respectively?
6. What is the penalty in match play and stroke competition for grounding your club or moving any obstacle in a bunker?

These questions, which are straightforward and easy to those who know the rules and will give the matter little thought, strange to say proved too much for many of the competitors, and it was surprising what a number failed to qualify.

All the questions - which really numbered twelve, inasmuch as twelve answers had to be given - had to be answered, failure in one disqualifying the competitor.

The Sub-Committee who were appointed to deal with the competition consisted of the Captain J G Wills), the hon. Secretary (Percy Baldwin), and the hon. Match Secretary (Talbot Plum), all of whom were barred from entering the event (GI 29.9.1905).

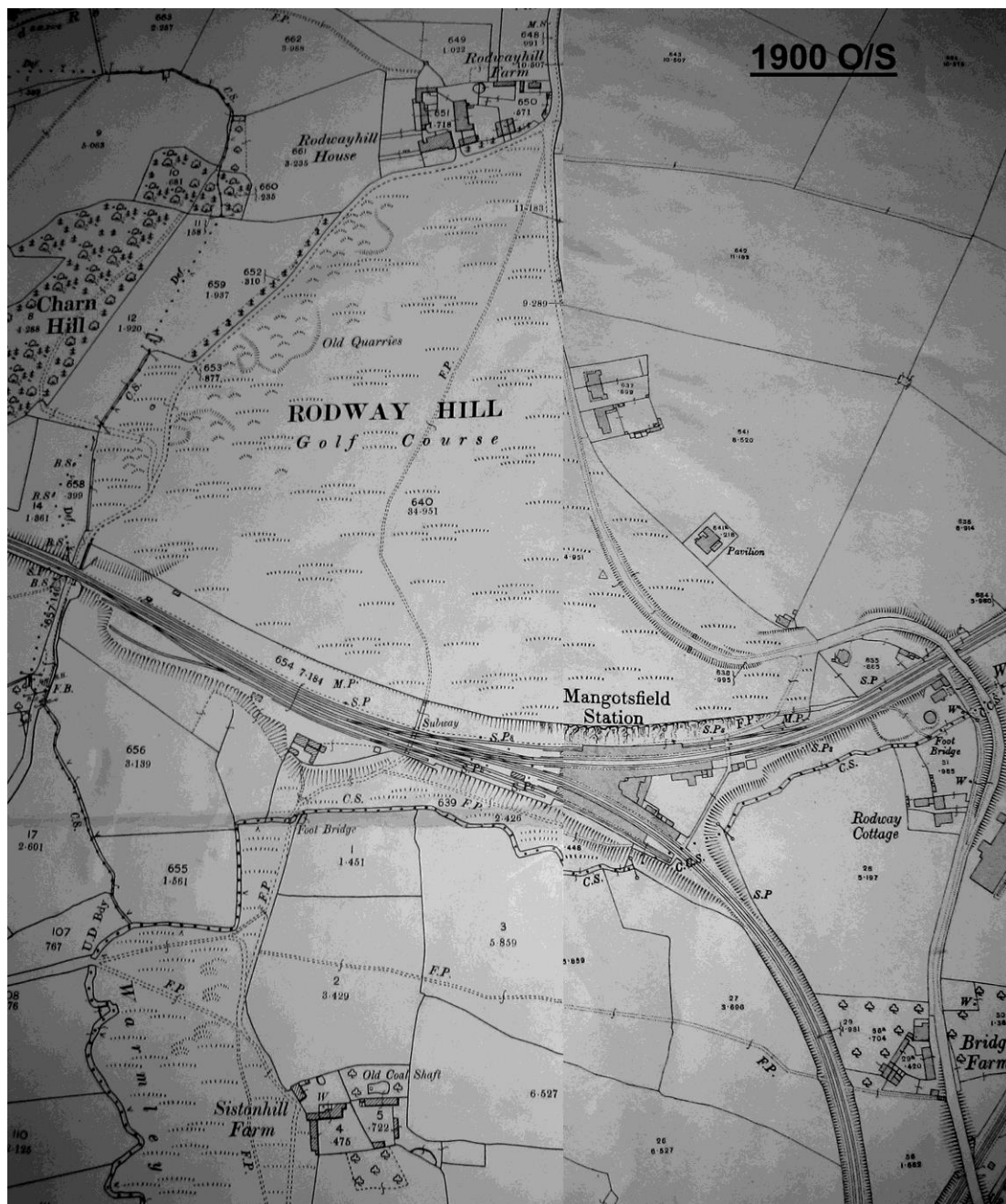
Length of Course, 4877 yards - Bogey 79

Hole No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Length in yards	232	144	185	480	265	230	460	315	305
Bogey	4	3	4	6	4	4	5	4	4

Hole No.	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Length in yards	185	235	225	280	205	310	250	300	210
Bogey	4	4	4	5	3	5	4	5	5

Membership peaked at 300 but latterly was down to 160. Closed in 1926 but was revived in 1927.

Requisitioned by the 'War Ministry' in 1941, The Clubhouse became an Officers' Mess.

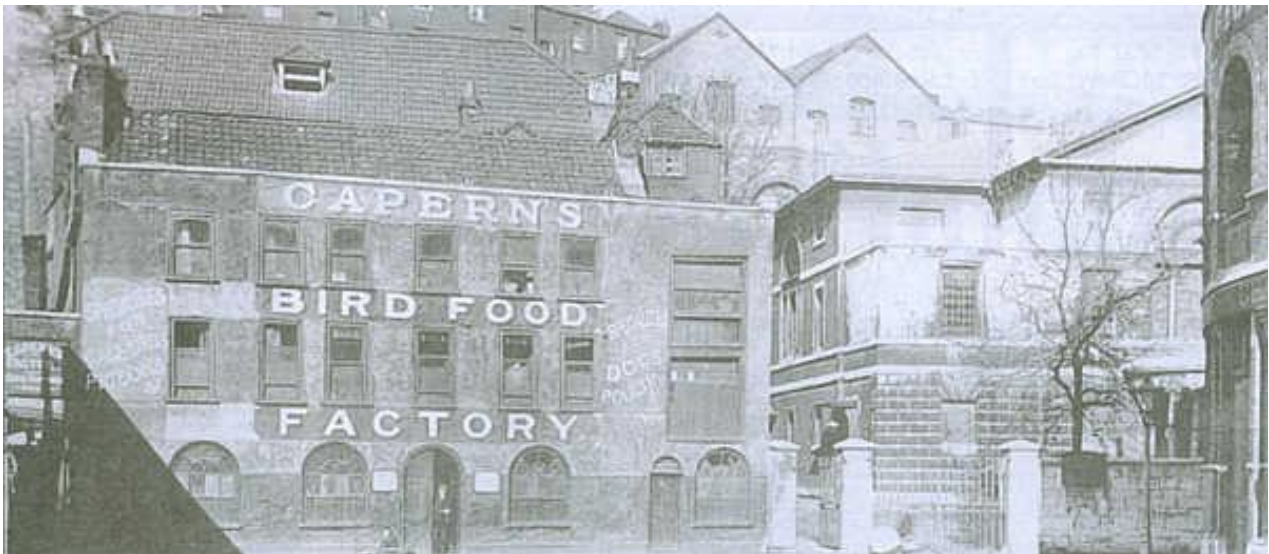


APPENDIX 2

Thomas Francis Capern – The Clubs Financial Saviour (Page 15)

Mr F Capern, of Weston-super-Mare, founded this well-known firm of bird-food manufacturers in 1879.

He was a chemist by profession, but an aviculturist by inclination, and he enjoyed some little fame as an ornithologist throughout Somerset. As a result of his knowledge of birds, many friends and customers sought his advice concerning the correct feeding of their birds, and their treatment in illness. His fame grew and the supplying of bird-foods became a profitable sideline. A few years later it had increased to such an extent that Mr Capern decided to devote the whole of his energies in this direction. He moved to Bristol in 1889, and so great was the amount of business that another move became necessary in 1897. The present premises were then taken over, but have been so greatly enlarged during the past thirty years as to be almost unrecognizable. The result is that the “House of Capern” is now the largest in Great Britain, dealing solely with bird foods and medicines; and the factory is probably the best equipped of its kind. The firm has some fifty specialties, of which mention must be made of the following: Capern’s Seed and Fruit Mixture with Egg-flakes, Finch Mixture, Refresher for Finches and Linnets, Linnet Mixture, New Food for Black Birds and Thrushes, Lark Food, Parrot Food, Dove Food, Budgerigar Mixture, Foreign Finch Mixture, Bird Tonic, Canary-anodyne for chills and colds, and the Famous Nature Food. The distributing agent in America is Mr. A. J. Edge, 156 Newman Avenue, Clason Point, New York City, New York.



His Stokes Croft factory moved to the old sugar warehouse in 1896 and stayed there until 1956 when it moved to Yatton.



When the 40-bedroom Hotel du Vin opened in Lewin's Mead just before Christmas five years ago in 1999 at a cost of £4.5 million, it signalled the end of 15 years dereliction for the old sugar warehouse, which the hotel had bravely opted to make its Bristol home.

It was Capern's that added the ornate hood to the doorway in 1922 (and which is still there today) and gave the plain warehouse its gentrified Georgian look.



Part one of the tea sets made by Wedgwood for Capern's

APPENDIX 3

Gloucestershire County Championship (Held at Filton Golf Club)

The Citizen – Thursday 18th June 1914

GOLF.

Glo'stershire Championships.

MINCHINHAMPTON CLUB'S SUCCESSES.

The annual championship meeting of the Gloucestershire Golf Union was held on the Filton Club's course near Bristol on Wednesday, in fine weather. There was a record entry of 112 players for the individual championship, and 24 clubs for the team championship. Two rounds of 18 holes each were played. J. H. Beavis, of Minchinhampton Club, won the individual contest, taking the championship cup and the Filton Club's silver cup for best gross score with 75, 74—149. A. R. Smith, of Minchinhampton Club, won the silver medal with 80, 76—156, and D. Ramsay, Rodway Hill, the bronze medal with 80, 77—157. The Filton Club's silver cup for best net score was won by S. P. Evans, Long Ashton, with 80, 12—68. The standing record for the Filton course was 77. Beavis by his win secures the right to play in the county unions competition for the "Daily Mail" gold and silver cups, played on the Walton Heath course on September 16, 17, 18, and 19. The team championship was won by Minchinhampton with 236, Gloucester being second with 237, and Rodway Hill third with 244.

TEAM SCORES.

Minchinhampton First Team (J. H. Beavis 74, A. R. Smith 76, H. M. Newman 86), 236.
 Gloucester (J. H. Baker 77, E. F. T. Fowler 82, O. M. Wilson 78), 237.
 Rodway Hill First Team (D. Ramsay 80, A. D. Anderson 83, F. J. Stone 81), 244.
 Shirehampton Park First Team (C. Bostock Smith 80, B. H. Matthews 82, C. Risbridger 85), 247.
 Knowle (J. M. Fowle 83, Dr. C. W. James 82, P. Berrill 86), 251.
 Long Ashton (A. G. Morris 81, C. A. Bernard 82, A. C. Pickering 83), 251.
 Filton (I. Parnell 84, G. Dennett 84, D. E. Innes 83), 251.
 Stinchcombe Hill First Team (C. W. S. Clarke 83, Rev. D. G. Mills 84, H. Baines 86), 253.
 Cirencester (A. Stradling 81, J. H. Clappen 86, O. Gilbert 86), 253.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

E. J. Burkett	87.	87—174
J. W. S. Toms	82.	84—166
Arthur Taylor	87.	92—179
C. Bostock Smith	82.	80—162
F. N. Andrews	98.	105—203
H. G. Newth	101.	101—202
A. E. Smith	92.	100—192
F. Vowles	85.	90—175
W. Harvey Barton	97.	96—193
L. C. Saunders	89.	94—183
G. R. H. Popplestone	92.	94—186
A. S. Winterbotham	82.	89—171
A. R. Smith	80.	76—156
A. G. Morris	81.	81—162
J. H. Beavis	75.	74—149
D. Ramsay	77.	80—157
J. Parnall	83.	84—167
J. D. Patchett	80.	84—164
H. A. Robbins	82.	87—169
Eric Fowler	91.	82—173
J. H. Baker	80.	77—157
N. Durnford	91.	88—179
G. Dennett	86.	84—170
F. Johnstone	93.	97—190
F. H. Thomas	93.	90—183
R. Ehlers	92.	91—183
A. B. Carter	96.	97—193
C. Risbridger	103.	85—188
J. Osborne	91.	93—184
G. A. Weeks	86.	90—176
S. Pollard	86.	88—174
P. F. Toms	83.	85—168
G. M. Campbell	92.	93—185
W. L. Bate	83.	79—162
A. D. Anderson	82.	83—165
D. W. Smith	90.	80—170
G. Griere	80.	82—162
F. E. Preston	96.	94—190
A. A. Lister	92.	99—191
B. H. Matthews	84.	82—166
A. H. Scott	94.	87—181
S. J. F. Panes	91.	91—182
C. W. S. Clarke	90.	83—173
G. Garrard	92.	87—179
L. Grist	88.	95—183
E. W. Pratt	91.	85—176
H. Johnson	85.	85—170
Dr. Henderson	90.	90—180
C. R. Newman	83.	86—169
A. S. Brookes	92.	94—180
H. M. Newman	87.	86—173
W. Payner	95.	87—182
H. Baines	79.	86—165
H. C. Foster	87.	85—172
C. A. Bernard	83.	82—165
S. J. Wood	85.	83—168
D. M. Humphries	85.	83—168
A. C. Pickering	80.	88—168
A. Stradling	87.	81—168
S. Tubbs	86.	90—176
Dr. Aubrey	93.	88—181
S. W. Tubbs	91.	90—181
J. Warn	90.	89—179
R. Ratcliffe	93.	89—182
C. M. Wilson	95.	78—173
H. S. Hill	81.	84—165
L. K. Barnett	85.	87—172
F. S. Lunn	93.	90—183
E. J. Lunn	88.	83—176
Rev. D. Mills	86.	84—170
O. Gilbert	85.	86—171
D. E. Innes	87.	83—170
J. H. Clappen	93.	86—179
A. G. Duddridge	92.	92—184
C. J. S. Clemens	91.	86—177
M. H. Thomson	89.	94—183
R. A. Drewett	90.	93—183
F. K. Peto	92.	92—184
L. Gabell	95.	86—181
H. Mawdesley	89.	94—183
H. Stanley	88.	87—175
S. G. Bailey	89.	97—186
W. J. Duncalf	80.	84—164
Dr. R. Moore	94.	91—185
E. J. Stone	85.	81—166
Dr. D. Roberts	96.	93—189
H. A. Webb	95.	92—187

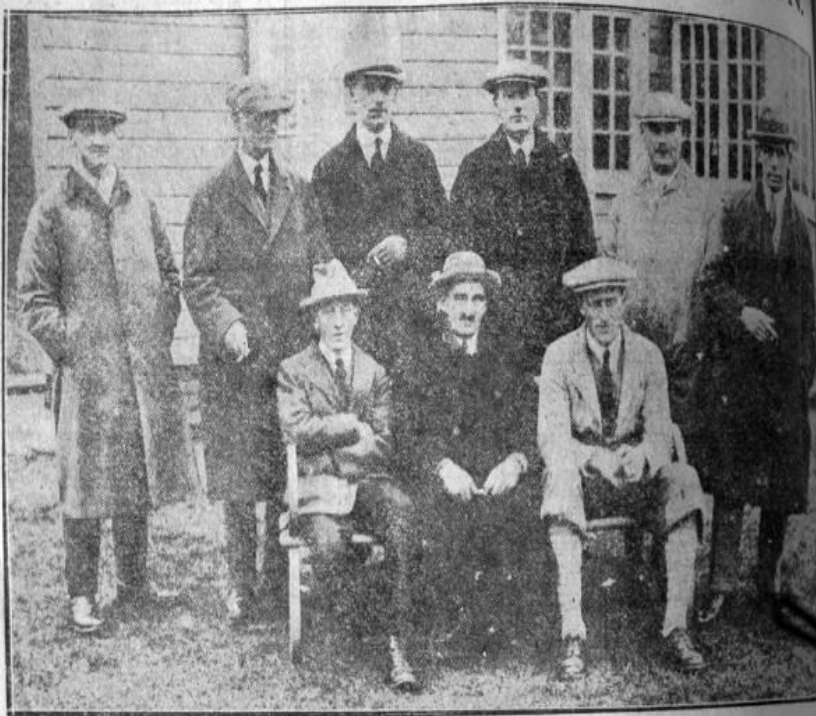
Winner

APPENDIX 4

Percy Attwood

FEBRUARY 21, 1924.

PROFESSIONAL GOLF FINAL AT FILTON



Standing, left to right—R. Crook (Filton), W. B. Hayward (secretary, Filton), C. H. Young and R. E. Witherspoon (hon. treasurer and hon. secretary of the Gloucestershire and Somerset Professional Golfers' Alliance), W. Jeffrey (Weston), C. Pixton (Shirehampton)
Sitting, left to right—P. Attwood, H. C. Hull (captain of Filton), and C. A. Whitcombe.

In cold, bracing weather the final round of 36 holes in connection with the Knock-Out Tournament, promoted by the local Professional Golfers' Alliance took place yesterday over the Filton golf course, the committee of that club having placed the course at the disposal of the Alliance.

The finalists were:—C. A. Whitcombe, the Lansdown professional, undoubtedly one of the leading players in the country, and P. Attwood, the professional attached to the Long Ashton Club. Both players had had close matches in the preliminary rounds, and a good match was expected.

There was a large number of spectators notwithstanding the cold weather.

Attwood started well by winning the first hole, but afterwards Whitcombe showed

remarkable form, and secured a lead of five holes at the end of the outward journey.

He was out in 33 and, maintaining his fine form, came home in 37, making his total 70 thus breaking the record for the course, 71, which was previously held by Mr C. A. Hull, the captain of the club.

Two Mistakes

Whitcombe finished 9 up on the morning round, and had played wonderful golf. He only made two mistakes, once missing an easy putt, and at the 16th his short approach shot was weak, but it should be mentioned that his shot dropped on a worm cast which stopped the ball. Attwood, who was round in a score of 2 over the bogey, was unfortunate in finding himself so much in arrears.

The afternoon round was followed by a big crowd of interested spectators, probably the biggest crowd that had ever followed a local match. The round started sensationally. Whitcombe was stymied, and, in endeavouring to negotiate it, put his opponent's ball in the hole for a 3—the bogey score is 5. The Bath pro won the next in a par score, halved the 3rd in 6—both players were at fault—won the 4th and 5th in 3, 4, halved the 6th in 4, and, by winning the 7th in 5 to 6, won the match by the large margin of 12 up and 11 to play. The bye was played, and resulted in a half.

Whitcombe generally outdrove his opponent, and his approach shots were more accurately played. His light iron work was remarkable, and his putting was an object lesson. Attwood did not produce the form he displayed in his match with Brews at Bath, but he was up against one of the best players in the country.

The following are details of the rounds—

MORNING.

C. A. WHITCOMBE (Lansdown).

Out:	5 3 4 5 2 4 4 3 3	.....	37
Home:	4 5 4 4 3 5 4 3 5	.....	39

P. ATTWOOD (Long Ashton).

Out:	4 3 5 5 3 5 5 4 4	.....	39
Home:	5 6 5 4 4 5 3 4 5	.....	41

AFTERNOON.

C. A. WHITCOMBE.

Out:	5 3 6 4 3 4 5 3 4	.....	37
Home:	3 5 6 4 4 4 3 4 5	.....	39

P. ATTWOOD

Out:	3 4 6 5 4 4 6 4 3	.....	39
Home:	4 4 5 5 4 5 3 4 5	.....	38

Aggregate for 36 holes.

Whitcombe	.....	146
Attwood	.....	157

The prizes were distributed by Mr L. Goodenough Taylor, vice-president of the Alliance, who congratulated the Executive of the Filton Club on the excellent condition of the course and the good arrangements made and carried out for the match.

Mr C. A. Hull was an efficient referee. Further reference to the match will be made by "Bunker" in the "Sports News" on Saturday next.

**Percy Attwood would go on to become the Clubs
Professional / Greenkeeper 1939-1961**



Percy Attwood announced his retirement in 1961 after 22 unstinting years of 'Loyal Service', as the Club Professional and when required also the Head Greenkeeper.

APPENDIX 5

Arthur Lionel Vie Davis



Arthur Lionel Vie Davis

Sportsman Vie Davis dies at 89

Mr. Vie Davis, sporting personality and former Bristol headmaster, has died aged 89.

Throughout his life, Mr. Davis, of Kent Road, Bishopston, was actively involved in sport, and only four weeks ago helped with the administration of the men's open day at Fliton Golf Club.

Miss Gwen Groves, his housekeeper for five years and a family friend for 30 years, said today: "He was always ready to help anyone. When he could no longer participate in sport, he helped others do so."

Mr. Davis, a widower since 1959, served in the First World War and was twice mentioned in dispatches.

REFEREE

He had played Rugby with the Knowle and Cotham clubs and for two seasons with Bristol Football Club. He was a Rugby referee for 25 years.

He was a member of Fliton Golf Club since 1919 and was made a life member. He was secretary in 1945.

He retired from the post in 1947 and became secretary of the Shirehampton club the following year. He relinquished that post in 1952.

For many years Mr. Davis served on the committee of the Gloucestershire and Somerset Golfers' Alliance, was president in 1954 and became secretary in 1959.

TRAVEL

He was a former treasurer of Gloucestershire County Golf Union.

Other sporting interests were billiards and Gloucestershire County Cricket Club.

Mr. Davis retired as headmaster of Sefton Park School, Bishopston, in 1944, and afterwards travelled to New Zealand and Africa.

He leaves twin daughters, Mrs. Joan Collins, now in New Zealand, and Mrs. Lilian Morris, of Druid Road, Stoke Bishop.

Sydney Ernest Gray

GOLF COURSE RESCUE

Bristol civil servant badly hurt in 120-ft fall into mine



Mr. S. E. Gray

For more than five hours last night a 62-year-old Bristol Civil Servant and well-known golfer lay trapped seriously hurt nearly 120 feet down a disused mine shaft on the fringe of Long Ashton golf course.

Police, firemen and ambulancemen, armed with 120 feet of rope, fought a two-hour battle to bring to the surface Mr. Sidney Gray, of 14, Hampton Road, Redland.

Lashed to a stretcher, he was finally rescued at about 8.15 p.m. and rushed to Bristol Royal Infirmary with multiple injuries.

Mr. Gray, former president and captain of Filton Golf Club and secretary of the Gloucester Captains Golfing Society, went to Long Ashton to watch a golf match early in the afternoon.

Mr. Eric Lampard, captain of the Long Ashton Club, said last night: "We had search parties out combing the whole course when Mr. Gray was missed shortly before five o'clock."

CRIES FOR HELP

Mr. Gray's cries for help were heard coming from a thicket near the ninth green. Fenced round, inside the thicket, is an old iron-ore mine, masked by bushes. A warning notice is posted at the sloping entrance.

But Mr. Gray could not be seen down the shaft. His echoed shouts pin-pointed his plight.

Emergency services raced to the course from Nailsea, Flax Bourton, Bristol and Clevedon. Police-Sgt. Bill Quick, of Long Ashton, was lowered by rope into the darkness.

Ambulance driver Eric Rundle, of 41, Beaconsfield Road, Clevedon, followed. They gave first-aid to Mr. Gray and stayed with him

until he was secured to the stretcher and hauled to safety.

"It was only by luck that the two players passing near the green heard his cries for help," said Mr. Lampard when the rescue operation was over. "It seems Mr Gray lost his footing and slipped into the shaft."

Mr. Gray was still conscious when he was brought to the surface.

Mr. Gray was captain of Filton from 1948 to 1951 and chairman there from 1954 until he retired because of ill-health early this year. He is an executive member of the Gloucestershire and Somerset Golfers' Alliance of which he is a past president. He is a low handicap golfer and a very steady player.

Mr. M. P. G. Hull, the Filton captain, said: "Mr. Gray's first remarks on being brought to the surface were: 'Did we win? We were able to tell him that we had won.'"

It was a 'Western Daily Press' league match between Filton and Long Ashton. Because of ill-health, Mr Gray had not been able to play for the past eight months or so, Mr Hull stated.

It was stated from Bristol Royal Infirmary late last night that Mr Gray had been X-rayed and that his condition was "fair to poor." His injuries include a fractured pelvis, fractured rib and suspected abdominal injuries.


Alfred Walter Parkman

Mr. Alf Parkman

DEATH OF NOTED BRISTOL SINGER

The Evening Post regrets to announce the death of Mr. Alfred Walter Parkman (79), for many years Bristol's most popular singer.

HE died last night at his home at 30, Chesterfield Rd., St. Andrew's.



Known affectionately as "Alf," Mr. Parkman's fine bass voice and cheerful personality made him a familiar and popular figure from his early youth at innumerable concerts and social functions in both Bristol and the West Country.

He sang regularly at functions until about two years ago.

Among Mr. Parkman's more recent engagements was when he sang at the Lord Mayor's Party for returned P.O.W., at the Red Lodge last November.

He was the founder of Bristol Glee Singers, who owed much of their success to his striking personality and enthusiasm.

It was with this quartet that he broadcast on many occasion, beginning in the pioneer days of radio.

Mr. Parkman began his working career on the clerical staff of the Midland Railway Co.

For some 20 years he was a traveller for Messrs Bennett Bros. Also with the firm was Mr. S. H. Pratt, and in 1919 they left to establish the firm of Alf Parkman Ltd., printers, at 12, Pritchard St. Until his health failed him in recent months, Mr. Parkman maintained his interest in the business and went to the office daily.

Church Organist

Three years ago, on Christmas Day, Mr. and Mrs. Parkman celebrated their golden wedding.

They were married at St. Lawrence, Lawrence Hill, where Mr. Parkman was then organist and choirmaster.

He was a church organist for 40 years. After leaving St. Lawrence, he went to St. Thomas, Eastville, and then to St. Werburgh's.

A popular Freemason, Mr. Parkman was also a member of the Savages, for whom he provided so much entertainment over a number of years.

When, in 1927, he celebrated his 60th birthday, and 40 years' service as a vocalist, his many friends took the opportunity of paying their tribute to him.

Some 150 of them entertained him to dinner at the Royal Hotel. In the chair was Mr. Fred Weatherly, famous Bath song writer, who was an old friend and admirer of Mr. Parkman's musical gifts.

The Lord Mayor (Ald. E. M. Dyer) and many prominent Bristolians attended the event.

Mr. Parkman frequently sang in Bristol Cathedral.

Cricket, Golf

In his younger days he played cricket for Stapleton, and later took up golf with considerable success.

He was a member of Filton Club, and often his bag contained no more than four clubs.

Mr. Parkman trained as a singer under the well-known tutor, Pieraccini.

His most popular songs were "Asleep in the Deep," "The Bandolero," and "The Nightingale."

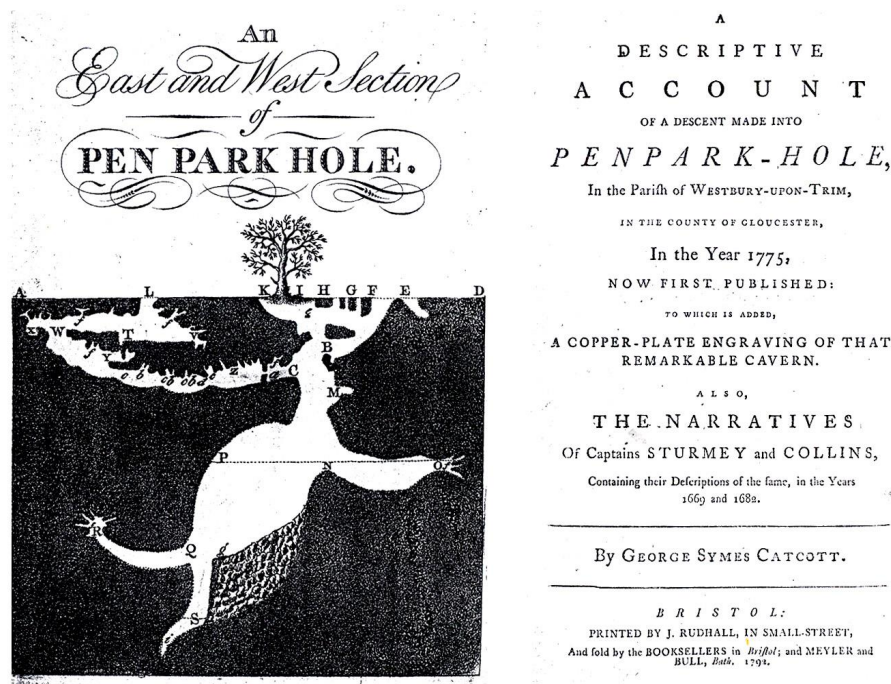
Showered with congratulations on his 70th birthday, he still retained the quality of his voice, in a way that was remarkable for his age.

He leaves a widow and three daughters, two of whom are married, and an elder brother who lives at Weston-super-Mare.

The funeral service will be held at All Saints' City, on Saturday, 11 a.m. Cremation at Arns Vale.

APPENDIX 8

The Pen Park Hole - Caused difficulty in obtaining Housing Development Planning (Page 132)



WESTERN DAILY PRESS & BRISTOL MIRROR - 29 MAY 1956

THE APPALLING possibility of someone falling down Pen Pole Hole, Southmead, led Bristol Housing Committee, yesterday to order an investigation.

The hole is an old lead mine, thought to be 300 feet deep, and to be filled with water to a depth of 150 feet. The committee plan to fill it in.

But first they have, to solve a local mystery: Where is the hole?

The exact location is not known. The only clue the committee has to go on is that the mine has two entrances close to Pen Park Road where a new school is going to built.

There is evidence that lead was mined there in Roman times. It was explored in 1669 by a Captain Sturmy, who became ill four days after returning from the descent and died in a fever. An even speedier and more spectacular tragedy took place there a little more than 100 years later when the Rev. Thomas Newman, one of the minor canons of Bristol Cathedral, visited one of the entrances after morning service on March 17, 1775, with two young ladies and another man.

FELL TO HIS DEATH

In trying to sound the depth with a piece of string, he caught hold of the branch of an ash tree for support. The ground was wet and slippery, he lost his foothold, the branch broke in his hand, and he fell into the pit. It was an ironic co-incidence that at church the ill-fated cleric had that morning taken for the text of his sermon at Clifton the 88th Psalm, which contains the words: "I am counted as one of them that go down to the pit Thou has laid me in the lowest pit, in a place of darkness and in the deep".

His body was found floating on the water in the hole eight days later.

APPENDIX 9

PRESS, Wednesday, December 20 1978—PAGE 9



Eye to eye . . Nick Lumb, left, and Greg Norman. The game is the same, the aim is different.

Nick and Greg go with a swing

By John Reece

NICK LUMB, of Filton, and Greg Norman, of Australia, have two things in common: Golf and an impressive physique.

The photograph bears out the latter point, and if may even be argued that they share the same stance and the same sort of smile.

They have totally different ways of life, however, and live in different worlds, coming together just the once at Filton early this year when the Australian paid a business visit to demonstrate new clubs and equipment.

Lumb, a former Yorkshire amateur with a good playing record and an even greater business acumen, turned professional to fulfill his one great ambition to be a successful club business man.

The playing of golf did not come first with him. He wanted to be a first rate club professional as a way of life, and to let it all happen from that point.

In other words, he would play the game when the business could allow him to. There was never a time when his game would interfere with the shop.

IMPRESSED

So he built and stocked what he has always been proud to call the best shop in the West, extended the premises, made new rooms specialised in goods, filled his lessons book and installed video recording equipment. Business took off. Nick Lumb was on his way.

Norman, on the other hand some years younger at 23, is one of the great players of the day.

He came streaking to the top in Australia in 1976, moving his first season from fourth place in the South Coast open, third in the Queensland Open and then finishing as winner of the West Lakes Classic.

The great Peter Thompson, five times Open champion and one of golf's leading administrators was impressed: "Norman, for his age and experience, is without doubt the best-looking golfer I have seen in Australia, at 21 surpassing even the promise of Graham Shearer, Newton, Marsh, and all the others."

MAGIC

"He is enormously powerful with shoulders developed in the surf and legs on the football field. More important, he comes equipped with an uncomplicated technique that repeats itself effortlessly."

It was this start as a professional that made the press hail Norman as the "next Jack Nicklaus" but I think it was his unusual bleach-white hair that gave rise to the comparison.

Norman is certainly an outstanding figure of a man. He holds himself well and, as Lumb says, he looks impressive and radiates confidence.

On that Filton occasion Lumb partnered Norman in a fourball match against Stuart Brown of Tewkesbury Park, and Nick Job, the British tournament player.

Of Norman, Lumb said: "On the practice ground before the game he was utter magic. His rhythm was

superb, and I found him very, very impressive."

"When we went out to play he wasn't quite the same somehow, but there is no mistaking the talent."

Brown said: "He is the quietest Australian I have met! He is most powerfully built, and immensely fit, fitter than almost all professionals."

"He is typical of the school that learns to hit the ball one way only, so that with the wind he hits the ball monstrous distances because it carries such a long way in the air. When he has to turn into the wind he becomes just moderate."

APPROACH

"This is something Norman is learning by playing over here," said Brown. "He does not strike me as a great putter, but obviously, when he does putt well, he is going to win any tournament because the rest of his game is so good."

And it was Brown who had the last say that day, chipping in from off the 18th green to win the match. "Typical me," he grinned.

I asked Nick Lumb if he had to do anything drastic in his own game to lift it in order to play a man like Norman, or to play in any competition.

"Not much, really," he said. "It is a question of opportunity and then the approach to it. Last year I was determined to do well, and that early win in the Uniroyal at Long Ashton set me on the way."

"Then business interrupted play, and that was that!" Success had quickly bred success. Lumb found people calling on him "from all over the place" and he became booked up solidly.

ROMANCE

Next season he hopes to practise more and make an early start, with a reasonably full year on the West region PGA circuit in prospect.

It is a funny old circle. The better Lumb plays the less chance he will have to play because people will flock to him to find the secret, or whatever it may be.

And that is being a successful club professional.

Meanwhile, Norman will return from Britain to Australia next month to start the tournament treadmill.

In his two short years as a professional he has won seven major events, but he considers himself to be behind schedule in winning.

His last victory was in the New South Wales Open last month when he scored 64, 72, 69, 70 for 275 and a three-stroke margin over fellow Australian Billy Dunk. Bristol's Jettery Hall was on 238 in that event with 71, 75, 71 and 72.

Currently, there is romance with Britain's golden girl of tennis, Sue Barker, and next year all the world of golf to conquer with just about all the armaments that are required to achieve it.

APPENDIX 10

'Old' Professional Shop

Photographs: Courtesy of Nicholas Lumb - Filton Golf Club Professional 1975 – 2000



Nicky Lumb pictured in the 'Bulldozer Cab' demolishing The 'Old' Professional Shop.



Nicky with members of his staff including Assistant Professional Andrew England & Alan Harris (bottom left)

APPENDIX 11

The Opening of 'New' Professional Shop

Photographs: Courtesy of Nicholas Lumb - Filton Golf Club Professional 1975-2000 and from Derek Head – Trustee Director.



Tony Jacklin greeted by Don O'Leary



Ken Gooder, Derek Head, Tony Jacklin, Don O'Leary and Nicky Lumb



Tony Jacklin & Nicky Lumb with local fellow Professionals



Celebrations following 'Official Opening'



Ralph Richards



Derek Head (centre) with Main Contractors

APPENDIX 12

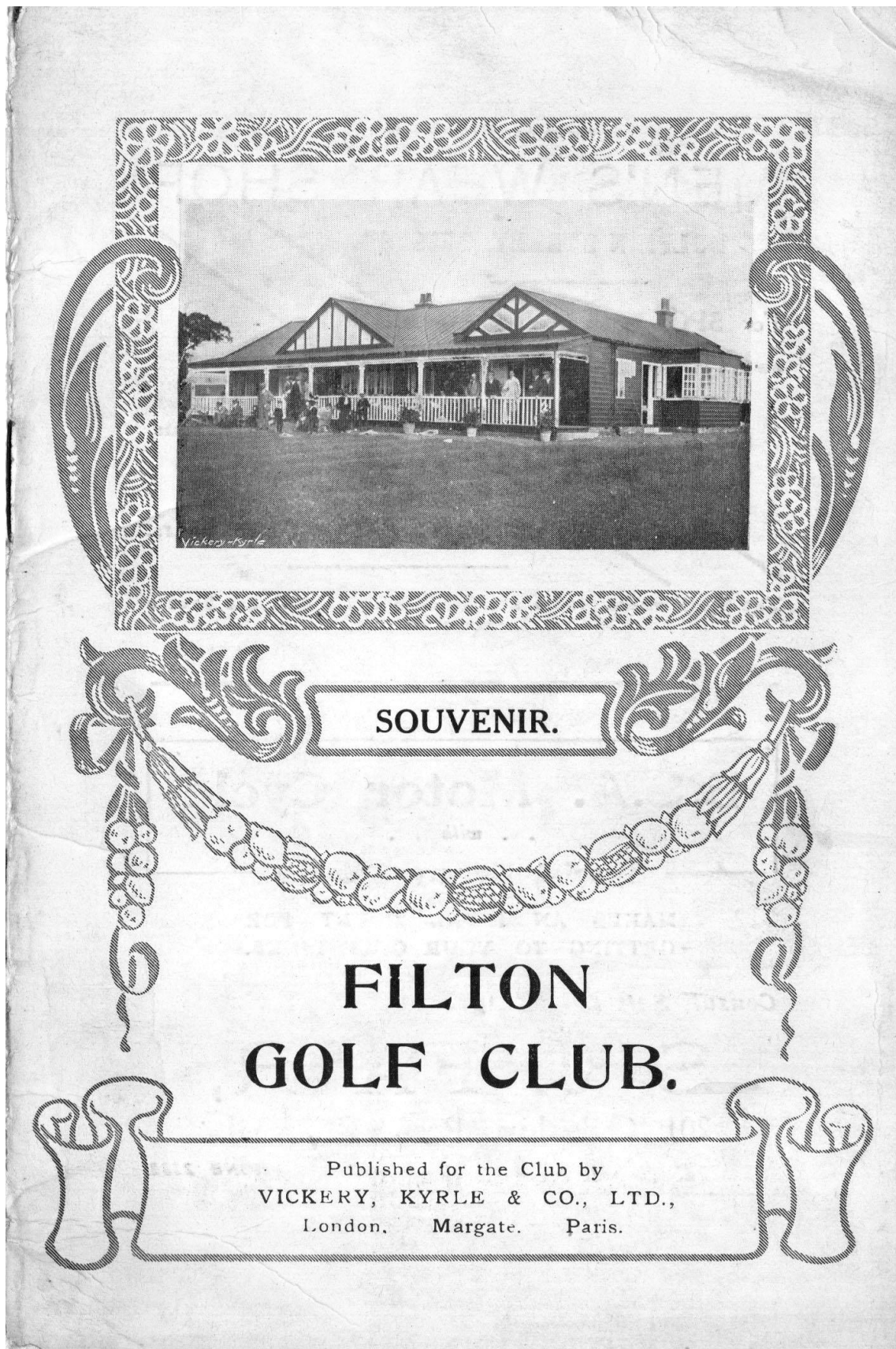
Caroline Hall

1988	England Girls' International	
1989	England Girls' International English Schools' International S.W. Ladies' Champion	
1990	England Girls' International English Schools' International Cotswold Gold Vase Champion Frilford Heath Ladies' Scratch Champion English Girls' Champion England U21 International	
1991	England Girls' International Cotswold Gold Vase Champion Gloucestershire Ladies' Champion English Girls' Championships (Runner-up) England U18 Strokeplay Champion British Ladies' Open Amateur Championships (Semi-finalist) England Ladies' International (Home Internationals) England Ladies' European Team Championships (Winners) Great Britain & Ireland Vagliano Team	
1992	S.W. Ladies' Champion England U21 International Gloucestershire Ladies' Champion England Ladies' International (Home Internationals) Bristol & District Ladies' Scratch Champion Harder Hall Open Invitation - Florida USA (Runner-up) U21 French Open (Runner-up) Welsh Open Strokeplay Championship (Runner-up) ENGLISH LADIES' CHAMPION CURTIS CUP (GB & IRELAND WINNING TEAM)	

Caroline started as a junior and went on to achieve the above honours before turning Professional and playing on the Ladies European Tour

APPENDIX 13

1920 – 10th Anniversary ‘Souvenir Booklet’



An original Copy is kept in the Filton Golf Club archives

APPENDIX 14

1936 – Filton Golf Club Personalities

