

The intention to purchase additional land adjacent to the Practice Ground and towards the new King Castle Estate was thwarted by the high asking price of £ 1,500 per acre. The Club had offered £ 15,000 for the 13 acre site, but no compromise could be reached. Greater success was to be obtained in extending the Clubhouse. Whitbreads, the brewers, had agreed to lend the Club £ 15,000 at 6% interest over a period of 8 years. This enabled a new kitchen to be built by Forsey of Butleigh for just over £ 12,000.

There was much sadness in the Club when Arthur Packer collapsed and died on the course whilst playing a round of golf, appropriate perhaps for someone who had been both President and Captain. Aged 81 at the time of his death, he had given much to Wells Golf Club and will long be remembered.

Mike Febrey continued as Captain for 1980 and with the completion of the new kitchen extension, social activities were more easily catered for. On the occasion of the New Year's Eve Party, well over 200 people crowded into the Clubhouse.

The Steward and Stewardess appointed the previous year did not stay long. Their departure enabled the Club to engage a young man of 19, Robert Davis. Robert had been Assistant Professional at Ross-on-Wye after learning his golf at Mendip. A determined character, Rob quickly and easily settled into his role as Steward. Having regained his amateur status, his



Arthur Packer

considerable golfing ability was a further asset to the Club.

There were a number of successes for Wells golfers during the year, in particular, the winning of the Somerset Golf Union's Trounsen Trophy and Windwhistle Cup at Enmore Park. The photograph shows the Wells team, Pat Knott, Nigel Pring, George Davis and David Holland.

Nigel Pring had been elected as Captain of the County Colts team and won the individual best score at the Bristol and District Golf League Finals. (Formerly the Western Daily Press League). He was also selected to play for Somerset in the South West Championships. His colleague Rob Coate won the Enmore Stag, a 36 hole scratch Stroke Play event competed for by leading amateurs in the West Country.



Trounsen Trophy & Windwhistle Cup

There were constant thoughts and ideas put forward, to extend the existing course to 18 holes, a project difficult to justify with a membership of 320. Even if the land became available, financing such a development would be difficult. Nevertheless, two members had been working on plans for development, and these were presented to a packed A.G.M. early in 1981. Colin Church and John Crew explained in detail both the design and funding, and the members overwhelmingly voted for the project to go forward. The land between the practice field and King Castle Estate was purchased for £ 40,000; planning permission having been obtained.

The prospect of changing the course to 18 holes necessitated the election of Committee members who would be able to support the Club with their expertise.

Captain for 1981 was Robert Coate, one of the youngest golfers to be accorded this honour. President was David Jackson, a local pharmacist.

The Junior Section having been re-formed, was enjoying particular success. The teaching skills of Roy Clifton, allied to the enthusiasm of the young resulted in many achievements throughout the area.

Nigel Pring had been engaged as Head Greenkeeper, and his staff, together with members' working parties, helped to prepare the new holes; the intention was to have them ready for opening by the Summer of 1982. Such was the level of their determination that the official opening took place with a four-ball-better-ball competition on the 31st. July, the winners of this first competition being Joe Snuggs and Mike Quick, the Ladies event being won by Jenny Barber and Sandy Snuggs. During the year the Ladies won the Rogers cup, the first time in the Clubs' history.



Rogers Cup team - 1982

Treasurer for 1982 was Eddie Westmorland, required to perform miracles and to a great extent, succeeding. John Crew took over the secretarial responsibilities, carrying out the wishes of a strong Committee. In order to encourage new members, "Golf for All" evenings had been held regularly, attracting between 50 and 60 potential new members. Part of the course was closed off in order that prospective golfers could strike balls with a degree of safety, clubs and balls being loaned by members.

The first Club Championship on the new course resulted in a win for the Head Greenkeeper, Nigel Pring. (See page 60)

In an endeavour to encourage new members, the Committee decided to waive the joining fee for a limited period. This together with the response to "Golf for All" evenings, resulted in a sharp increase in numbers to 450. There were many spin-off benefits with the increasing popularity of the Club. Social activities were plentiful. Quiz nights were well supported and a Mouse Derby attracted considerable interest and profit to the Club.

Dances continued to be popular and it was decided to hold a Dinner Dance at the Croscombe Country Club. 82 members and friends were present and enjoyed an excellent dinner and splendid evening.

# Golf club champion's 8-stroke victory

WELLS Golf Club held its 1982 Club Championship on Sunday and this was the first competition using the new full 18-hole course.

The championship consisted of a 36-hole medal competition with 18 holes in the morning and 18 in the afternoon.

The weather was showery and windy providing testing conditions for the large entry.

There were prizes for the best gross and nett scores, and the competition was intense.

After the morning session the leaders were closely grouped and it became clear that the eventual winner would be the one who

could best stay on top of his game in the afternoon.

This proved to be Nigel Pring who turned a one-stroke lead at the halfway stage into an eight-shot victory, with a four over par total of 140 over last year's champion Robert Coate.

### RESULTS

Gross scores: 1, Nigel Pring 71 + 69 = 140; 2, Robert Coate 75 + 73 = 148; 3, Nigel Henbury 72 + 78 = 150; 4, Peter Green 73 + 83 = 156.

Nett scores: 1, Paul Apfelstedt 68 + 67 = 135; 2, Nigel Pring 69 + 67 = 136; 3, Frank Abbott 68 + 69 = 137; 4, David Steele 67 + 70 = 137.

Thursday next week (August 26) sees the second Golf For All evening at the club where anyone interested is welcome to visit the club and try their hand at hitting golf balls and discussing membership and facilities.

From Sunday, August 29 to Saturday, September 4 is captains' week at the club when men's and ladies' competitions will be run, culminating in the captains' dance in the clubhouse on September 4.

**WELLS GOLF CLUB**  
East Horrington Road, Wells, Somerset

**"GOLF FOR ALL"**

OPEN EVENINGS 6.30 pm  
AUGUST 26 :: SEPTEMBER 2 & 9

COME ALONG AND TRY IT

*Golf for All advertisement*

### Club Championship Results - 1982



*Quiz Night - 1982*



*"Aunt Sally & Wurzel Gummidge", (Hetty & Marcus at the Fancy Dress Dance.*



*Dinner/Dance Revival - Croscombe 1982*

A competition to design the Club Logo was won jointly by George Paul and John Hawkins. A combination of both entries was designed and the logo portrayed on Club sweaters.

Further improvements were carried out to the Clubhouse, a central heating system installed and the roof-space insulated. Lighting was also improved, but as yet no significant alterations were to be made to the ladies toilet facilities even though their numbers had increased considerably.

The new 12th. hole was providing golfers and local residents with problems. Long, but inaccurate "driving" resulted in a number of broken windows, and displays of temper, not always from the responsible golfer. The tee was moved forward, and hole changed to a par three, thus helping to restore good community relations. However peace was only achieved following a course case. Site meetings of opposing Barristers eventually resulted in mutual agreement on the final tee position.

Subscriptions were to be increased in 1983 to £ 80 for full membership, and to £ 140 for full joint membership. Increases were made at all levels and the joining fee was fixed at £ 65.

Rob Coate added to his prestige in the 1983/4 year when he was appointed County Captain. Both Carol Church and Sandy Snuggs had been selected to play for the County Ladies and Karen Nicholls was chosen to play for the County Juniors.

During 1983 when the Captain was Colin Church, a further 7 acres of land was purchased to the east of the first fairway. The area contained a ready-made car park and provided practice ground facilities which could accommodate a caravan site.

The standard of golf played by Wells members was reflected in their achievements during the year. Rob Coate, leading a County Team including Rob Davis and Nigel Pring, succeeded in winning the Channel League. Karen Nicholls continued her improvement by winning the County Girls' Championship, and a most memorable victory was achieved by the Club team in winning the Somerset Bowl at Burnham and Berrow. Playing against Worlebury, the contest depended on the last pair, Chris Coate and Neil Falck. It was not until they had played the 20th. hole that victory was assured.

Neil Falck, a model of even tempered consistency, was nominated as Player of the Year. Rob Davis won the Club Championship by one shot and the Club entered a handicap team in the Wessex League.



*Karen Nicholls*



*Somerset Rose Bowl Team - 1982*

Heavy expenditure had placed a strain on the finances, yet it became necessary to replace much of the out-dated machinery. As replacement was essential, reliable second-hand plant was sought. Purchases were made from Long Ashton Golf Club; a triple mower and slitting machine cost the Club £ 700. Additional purchases included a semi-rough triple cutter for £ 500 and £ 900 for a hand Triplex.

In a bid to increase membership, more "Golf for All" evenings were held, and the total rose to over 500.

The constant endeavour to improve facilities was proving to be demanding on those most deeply involved, the Committee members. Some felt the pressure was too great and others called on reserves of strength and determination to overcome difficulty, even to the extent of enquiring about the purchase of yet more land in King Castle Wood.

The existing public footpaths created problems, and a scheme for re-routing was submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment. This submission, together with the possibility of acquiring more land, was to form the basis for controversy in the years ahead.

Colin Church was to serve a further year as Captain supported by John Crew, and Eddie Westmorland as Treasurer. There were torrid times ahead for the leadership, not all members being enthralled by the purchase of 30 acres of King Castle Wood for £ 13,300. The intention was to construct 3 new holes, but planning authority was yet to be granted. Membership, however, had risen to 540.



*Left to right, Ladies Championship - Mens Championship and Mens Scratch Cup.*



*Carol Church & Nigel Pring, first winners of the new Championship Cups - Presented by Peter Smith of J.H. Haskins Ltd.*

Trophies were donated to the Club by J.H. Haskins, a Cup for the Mens' Championship and a smaller, similar Cup for the Ladies. THORN E.M.I. provided a "Scratch" Cup.

The support on Club Championship Day was excellent, with a large crowd watching the leading players at the 18th., now a traditional scene. The winner was Nigel Pring with a new course record of 65. To this he added victory in the Enmore Stag, thus completing a most successful year.

Karen Nicholls had continued to improve, and was selected to play for the England Schools' team. In addition, together with Carol Church she had been selected to play for the County. The contribution Rob Coate had made to both Wells and County Golf was recognised by the award of Life Membership.

The purchase of a Portakabin for £ 1,000 provided the Clubhouse with a Committee room, and further improvements were carried out to the Stud Bar. Difficulty had been experienced by the draymen in delivering to the Clubhouse, and a separate entrance was made to the rear of the building.

The honour of Captaincy fell upon my own shoulders in 1985, and Peter Rhodes assisted me as part-time Secretary, with Eddie continuing as Treasurer. I was fortunate to be supported by a team of excellent golfers. Rob Davis established a new course record and won the Club Championship in a play-off, Geoff Sinclair, a Scot, won the Mendip Vase, and with Nigel Pring and Rob Coate, regularly represented the County. The four played an important part in the first team's successes during the year. They won the newly introduced "Wellsmore Trophy", a home and away fixture against Enmore, and the Bristol and District Golf League's Greensomes Championship Cup, competed for at Chipping Sodbury.

The success of the players continued with the winning of Division 4 and resulting promotion. Confidence was so high that even a visiting County team fell victim to their skills. Ladies were not to be denied their share of glory, Karen Nicholls and Heather Rhodes achieving success in the Ladies County Championship. Karen became Champion, and Heather won the Phillips Trophy. Not content with the winning of the County Championship, Karen achieved her third Somerset Girls' Championship and with Joan Crew as her partner, reached the final of the Daily Mail Foursomes. Nigel Pring, partnering Pat Felstead, won the final of the Johnnie Walker Mixed Foursomes, a national competition, and the Lady Veterans team made their mark in winning the L.G.U. Veterans' Shield.

Membership had by now risen to 563, and Junior members were required to have a handicap of 12 or under before being permitted to enter Mens' competitions. Children under the age of 8 were not allowed to use the course.

Mendip District Council rejected the planning application for 3 holes in King Castle Wood. Although disappointed, the Committee decided not to appeal as the cost would be high and public opinion was already vociferous in its objections. A secondary scheme for the provision of a par 3 in the woods behind the 5th. green was likely to be granted, but such were the conditions of wood management that this idea was also abandoned.

In an effort to improve the course, thousands of tons of debris and soil were used to provide a dividing mound between the 5th. and 6th. fairways, a move that did not enjoy unanimous support; arguments continuing for several years.



Robert Coate, Nigel Pring, Rob Davis, and Geoff Sinclair.

# Golf club extension scheme bunkered

WELLS Golf Club are to appeal to the Environment Secretary after their plans to extend the golf course were bunkered by Mendip District Council's planning committee last week.

The club want to form a championship course by cutting two strips through the ancient Kings Castle Wood to provide three new fairways and extensions to two fairways.

Their application was refused by 11 votes to eight. Development officer at Wells Golf Club, Mr. John Crew said: "They have effectively passed a death sentence on Kings Castle Wood."

He said the club wanted to carry out management in the wood, regardless of whether the district council approved or refused the application to extend the course.

"Now we are not being allowed to do anything at all in the wood," said Mr. Crew. "It is a tragedy for the next generation."

Planning officer, Mr. Len Morris, said the refusal of the

club entering into a management agreement with the district council. "Any scheme for the wood would obviously have to be discussed as management of woodland can vary from just minor ground clearance, to chopping down all the trees," he said.

The golf club first submitted an identical application in 1984, but it was withdrawn as they were unable to supply a survey and model of the trees which would be affected.

The new application was accompanied by letters from the Environment Department and the Forestry Commission together with a report from Mr. J. P. Newton on the forestry considerations.

However, as pointed out by Coun. Bernard Bush, the detailed survey and model of the trees affected by the plan have still not been forthcoming.

"We would just be backing a hunch if we approve the application and think it wouldn't affect the woodland," he said.

"Kings Castle Wood is one of the last pieces of ancient

## 'DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON WOOD'

application does not stop the club entering into a management agreement with the district council.

"So far as the claim that a championship golf course will provide an added tourist attraction, there are several such courses within the radius of Wells which are having a pretty lean time already.

"A decision to approve the application would result in an irreversible loss of a very important piece of woodland."

In support of the club's application, Coun. Bill Mackay said: "The golf club is very, very concerned that they are being looked upon as people who are totally going to ruin the countryside, when what they are proposing is a blend between a very good golf course and a well preserved wood.

"Their application is supported by the Ancient Monument Commission, and in both the report from the Forestry Commission and from Mr. Newton it is pointed out that the wood needs good management if it is to be preserved.

"The golf club is prepared to carry out their plan in stages, to give everyone the

woodland in the area, and until the golf club can prove their proposals will not damage the wood we must act very carefully."

Before the meeting a petition of 253 signatures from people in Wells against the proposals was presented to the council, and letters of objection were received from the Civic Society, Friends of the Earth, Men of The Trees, St. Cuthbert Out Parish Council and Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation.

The main objections were that it would destroy an area of ancient woodland, a beauty spot and an important landscape feature.

It would have a detrimental effect on the ancient monument, and on wildlife and conservation, as well as being contrary to the policies of the Structure Plan and the Draft Local Plan for Wells.

Coun. Roland Liddell said: "It would be entirely wrong to go against the views of so many people.

"Kings Castle Wood is one of the few remaining national ancient woodlands, and while everyone agrees the wood needs proper management, the golf club's proposals will

convert the woodland to what will in effect be a park.

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opportunity to look at it as it is going along."

While sympathising with people who think the wood will be destroyed, Coun. Mackay said: "In many instances people are horrified by things before they take place, but once it has happened they don't give it a second thought."

Coun. Roy Hewitt said the proposal intends to maintain the wood, which at the moment is damp and rotting.

"At the moment access to the ancient fort is unpenetrable. Surely it is better to have proper management which will allow the public to get to see these remains."

Committee chairman, Coun. Michael Purse said it was only when the golf club put in the application that people started bothering about the wood.

"There is a great difference between conservation and preservation," said Mr. Purse.

"When you look at the application there will be no irreparable damage and you will be able to see the Iron Age Fort at its best advantage — this is conservation not preservation."

### Proposed Development of King Castle Wood

## Raucous inquiry over golf club's footpath diversions

Wells Golf Club intended to improve public safety on the course by making footpath diversions, a public inquiry was told.

The claim was made by Mr. Adrian I'Anson, solicitor to Mendip District Council — which had approved the diversions — prompted laughter and cries or "rubbish" from the many objectors who packed the inquiry held in Wells Town Hall yesterday.

The inspector heard it was proposed to divert one public right-of-way from its present position to the east of development on the Kings Castle estate to a new line approximately 120 metres further east.

Another footpath would be diverted from its present position where it enters the western edge of the course at Strawberry Wood and crosses in a south-westerly direction to Kings Castle Wood.

Instead, it would follow the eastern edge of the Strawberry Wood and the western edge of the golf course.

Mr. I'Anson said the diversions intended to "eliminate conflict and danger" between footpath users and the golfers.

The existing routes included a blind corner which meant walkers on the footpath were likely to be in danger of being hit by golf balls.

Confirming this, Mr. John Crew, the club's development officer, said the diversions were being sought so golfers could give right-of-way to walkers crossing the fairway. He added: "The club now has 600 members and they are not all competent golfers."

Mr. Crew said the diversions had been sought originally in 1983. They had not been finally confirmed by Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council until December 1984.

Replied to the inspector, he agreed it was the redesigning of the course following the land purchase which had created the problem of the "blind corner".

Mr. Crew said Wells Golf Club had spent between £15,000 and £20,000 on landscaping and tree planting to create pleasant walks to be enjoyed by the people of Wells.

The inspector read out the names of nearly 20 objectors who had notified him they wished to give evidence to the inquiry.

He also read out a letter written on behalf of Mendip Ramblers, with a membership of 200 walkers. He said similar points were made by the numerous individual objectors.

These were that one of the proposed diversions exposed walkers to the danger of crossing a fairway. The existing route was convenient for bus routes from Bath and

the club should re-site its fairway if it considered this was dangerous for the public. The proposed re-routing of the other footpath would involve a very steep climb which in winter would be impassable.

The inspector assured the objectors they would all be heard individually if they wished. He also invited them to question the representatives of Mendip District Council and the golf club on their evidence.

While Mr. Crew was answering questions put to him by members of the public he told the inspector he had to leave because he had another appointment in Bath. The inspector said this was unfortunate as he was the chief spokesman for the club. Mr. Crew left the inquiry at 11.25 am.

The inspector had earlier announced that he was preparing to take evidence "all-day".

### Proposed footpath diversion

Sponsorship of the 1st. team was forthcoming from Canon (South West) who provided funds for the kitting-out of players.

The Annual General Meeting of 1986 resulted in the same leadership team. Treasurer Eddie Westmorland, reported an upturn in finances; a balance of £ 10,000 replacing an overdraft of £ 12,000 ( an achievement remarked upon in the Wentworth Golf Club Magazine).

Subscriptions had risen from £ 34,000 to £ 38,000, and green fees from £ 2,200 to £ 2,400. Revenue from Fruit Machines had risen, as had income from bar sales.

The pond which was sited to the side and front of the 11th. green had been the source of a number of complaints, children and golfers having been seen wading in search of balls. To eliminate danger, the pond was drained and a bunker substituted.

For some time the water supply had been proving inadequate and a larger water-main was brought to the Clubhouse from East Horrington. The improved water supply was expensive, costing well over £ 1,000.

The application to divert footpaths had created much local interest, and the ensuing Public Enquiry was well attended by Club representatives and local objectors.

When the outcome of the enquiry was made known, decisions were not entirely in favour of the Club. A footpath from Strawberry Wood across the 4th. and 5th. fairways, was diverted around the perimeter of the 7th. tee and 4th. and 5th. greens, but the footpath running parallel to the 15th. fairway and crossing the 9th. and 1st. fairways was to remain. There was also an agreement to divert slightly the footpath around the perimeter of the King Castle Estate. The stone stiles to the sides of the 12th. and 15th. fairways were to remain.

The mound dividing the 5th. and 6th. fairways was still creating problems for members, and generating numerous complaints. Eventually, the Committee agreed to reduce the height, using the soil to improve the 6th. and 7th. tees.

The area of King Castle Wood which the Committee had purchased, was proving to be of no use for development and the Committee decided to sell the land and search for a new area. Interest had been shown in an area towards the southern end of the course, some 17 acres of land. However, it was only available on a seven year lease, an arrangement of little use to the Club. A further offer to lease the land for 30 years at £ 1,700 per annum was rejected by the owners, who countered this with an offer of £ 5,800 per annum, to be reviewed every 5 years. This was also rejected by the Club.

Several other possibilities were explored, land to the east of the 1st. fairway, part of Strawberry Wood and the field to the west of the 7th. tee were all considered. The land to the west of the 5th. tee, which many years ago had been leased by the Club, was also considered. The A.G.M. discussed all possibilities but no action was taken. King Castle Wood, however, was sold to the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservancy for £ 16,000.

The continued growth in membership necessitated additional car-parking facilities, and improvement was made to the land purchased from the Mendip Hospital. Plans were drawn up for the building of a new Professional's Shop and submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Further improvements included the installation of a new boiler house.

With the moving from the area, of the Secretary Peter Rhodes, the Committee decided to appoint a part-time Secretary Manager; Mike Davis. The increasing membership and continual endeavour to improve, were placing great demands on voluntary time and such a move had become essential.



*The new carpet in the Club lounge - the new bar didn't come until 1991*



*Somerset Rose Bowl Team - 1986*

With the growth of the Club, golfing standards were maintained at a high level. A second team was entered in the Bristol and District Golf League, and once again the 1st. team won the Somerset Bowl, defeating Taunton & Pickeridge in the final at Weston-super-Mare.

In the same year, 1986, the Ladies won the Rogers Cup, competing in the final at Saltford, against Weston-super-Mare. The progress of Karen Nicholls continued apace. In addition to becoming County Champion and breaking course records at Wells, Mendip, Saltford and Burnham and Berrow, she was selected for an International Match against France. Her other achievements included becoming South West Champion. Such were the achievements of 1986, that a special Party/Disco was held at the Club, to recognise and celebrate the successes.

At the Annual General Meeting of 1987, Colin Genge became Captain. Eddie Westmorland again served as Treasurer and the appointment of Mike Davis as Secretary/Manager continued. The responsibility of Presidency fell upon the shoulders of Philip Tweedale.



*Rogers Cup, Winning Team - 1986*

The improving popularity of golf was reflected in the continued increase in membership and levels of sponsorship from local companies. Of the 670 members, 108 were Juniors, a strong base for the future of the Club.

The support the Club received enabled them to stage their largest ever event, the Bristol and District Golf League's Greensomes Championship. In spite of difficulties being experienced on the dual 3rd./17th. fairways, the event was a huge success.

Plans for the new Professional's Shop had been passed, but regrettably, Roy Clifton was never to use it. Having been with the Club for 9 years, he decided to move to pastures new. Barely a month had elapsed before a replacement was appointed; Andrew England, chosen from 24 applicants. Andrew had learned his golf at Shirehampton, and had previously been engaged at Filton where he was a teaching Professional. It was some months before he was able to move into the new Shop, and he traded with no little inconvenience from the Stud Bar, suitably converted for his temporary use.

The development to extend the course was continually under discussion by the Committee, and when the opportunity arose to purchase land to the left of the 1st. fairway, an E.G.M. was called to seek members views. Plans were presented to purchase the land for £ 70,000, thus providing an additional 4 holes. Members made their views known in no uncertain manner and rejected the scheme!



*New Professional's Shop - 1987*

In addition to the competitive league teams, friendly contests took place on a regular basis; in particular, with the Wells Stragglers. The range of their fixtures was continually being widened. Such was the interest, that a special Stragglers' Christmas Dinner Match was arranged against Sherborne with 10 pairs a side. At home for the first contest, Wells were the victors. A similar contest for a Salver was held between Wells and Worlebury. As with most of the Stragglers' matches, the bar takings showed a marked improvement.

In 1987, a Captain's Challenge Trophy was introduced as a mixed event, the Club Captain selecting the Lady Captain as his partner. The event has now become a traditional one and is well supported.

Karen continued her run of success, winning the 1987 County Championship title and breaking the course records at Bath (Sham Castle) and Saltford. It came as no surprise when she also lowered her own course record at Wells to 69.



*Wells v Sherborne Christmas Dinner Trophy*



*From left to right, Jones Cup (See Chapter 8), Karen Nicholls Cup, Melhuish & Saunders Bowmaker Cup, Ladies Winter Foursomes, & the Presidents Cup.*

There can be no doubt that over the last decade, progress at the Wells course has been remarkable. Improvements to the course, standards of attainment and professional attitudes have earned the respect and admiration of Golf Clubs throughout the South West. The election of Past Captains George Davis and myself to outside Committees gives clear indication of the esteem in which the Club is held. George still serves on the Somerset Golf Union Committee, and I continue to be a representative on the Bristol and District Golf League Committee.

Eddie Westmorland resigned his position as Treasurer in 1988, a role taken over by Dave Holland. The Captaincy was taken over by John Saunders and Phil Tweedale continued as President.

There was an improvement in the number of Societies taking advantage of the course facilities and a rise in the number of green-fee players. Increased support was also noticed in the Ladies' Section, growing in popularity and attracting new members. This in turn helped to generate greater interest in mixed golf.

An innovation which was destined to fail was the introduction of a "Buggy for Hire" scheme by our Professional, Andrew. Supposedly to assist the less mobile or agile members, the manoeuvrability of the Buggy was far from equal to the Wells terrain. The machine went out of control whilst descending the 7th., argued unsuccessfully with a tree and was withdrawn from service. No record exists of remarks made by those who were being transported. Not altogether surprisingly, it has not been seen since!

An elderly John Davies re-visited the Club after an absence of many years. Having served as Club Secretary between the years 1946 and 1960, he was able to recall the days of scythe cutting the fairway rough, and the improvisation with primitive machinery. Like many others who have returned after a long absence, he was greatly impressed with the changes the course had undergone, and the general excellence of conditions.

During the year, improvements were made to the Clubhouse, in particular to the windows. These were replaced with plastic coated double-glazing and were maintenance free. The existing window frames had rotted, and gave the Clubhouse a scruffy appearance. The cost was over £ 2,000, but made the building far more presentable.

The 1st. team enjoyed a successful year, and were promoted from the 3rd. Division to the 2nd. Division.

The 2nd. team were less fortunate; being relegated from Division 5 to 6. However, the Wessex League team enjoyed a successful season, and won the League Championship for the first time.

Individual members continued to enjoy success; Rob Davis, Cary Rawlings, Kevin Budd and Peter Bullingham all receiving County honours.

Bullingham was also elected as County Junior Captain at the South West Meeting.

One of the younger players, John Goymer became Club Champion, and the Greenkeeper Nigel Pring, won a trip to California. 41 greenkeepers competed at Hunstanton in Norfolk and Nigel's 36 points in the 18 hole Stableford enabled him to lead the field.

Debbie Rutt, a Junior, qualified for the Golf Foundation Finals, played at Wolverhampton. Although unsuccessful, she acquitted herself well and greatly benefited from the experience.

Attempts to improve the course continued, and the 5th. green was rebuilt, the level being raised. The 1st., 2nd. and 3rd. greens suffered through lack of drainage and sunlight. Additional drainage improved the 2nd. and 3rd. greens, but the 1st. remained a problem, many heated discussions taking place on ways to bring about an improvement.

Club membership again increased, and by the end of 1988 all new applicants were placed on a waiting list. This situation was unique in the Club's history and provided a substantial platform for future development.

Negotiations had re-commenced to purchase the 17 acres of land to the south, many of the Committee being convinced that this was the ideal site for new holes. Attempts were also made to buy the football field adjacent to the practice ground. The land was owned by the Health Authority, and the Mendip Hospital was due to close in 1990.

Before the end of the year, an E.G.M. was called in order that the Club Rules could be up-dated and the Articles of Association amended. An additional recommendation of the meeting was that members attaining the age of 80, and having been a member for at least 5 years, would have their subscription waived.

The Chairman of the Greens Committee, Douglas Smith, was elected as Club Captain in the Spring of 1989. Dave Holland supported him as Treasurer, and a lively Philip Tweedale continued as President.

Plans for the new course were drawn up, even though no final decision had been reached on the purchase of the land required. The project had been costed at £ 273,000 and financing methods were to be considered when final planning permissions were obtained. Meanwhile, the new 5th. green was brought into operation, and, in the face of much controversy, the 1st. green was re-built, being sited in front of the original.

Long awaited improvements were carried out to the Clubhouse, both the bar area and the kitchen being remodelled at a cost of £ 15,000. The work proved to be immensely successful and was much praised by members for the improvement to bar and dining facilities.



*Winning Somerset Rose Bowl Team & supporters at W-S-M*

Golf successes continued to be plentiful. The 2nd. team won Division 6, and achieved promotion. The Club again won the Somerset Bowl; this time defeating Vivary Park in the final, held at Weston. The Windwhistle Trophy was retained, and a strong Wells side defeated a County team in a friendly challenge match. The abilities of Goymer, Bullingham, Fricker and Rawlings were recognised with their selection to play for the County.

The Ladies' Section was growing in both strength and popularity. Members who so frequently gaze at the clock, strategically placed on the wall of the Professional's Shop adjacent to the 1st. tee, will be interested to learn that it was purchased through the fund-raising efforts of the ladies. Rumour has it that one of the reasons for the positioning was to remind golfing husbands that they did not actually live on the course.

Night golf was inflicted upon Wells players for the first time; an experience enjoyed by a few! Teams of four gathered together on a frosty Autumn evening, equipped with specially made balls with luminous inserts. Fluorescent tabs were attached to flagsticks, and teams were provided with a torch.

The intention was to play 4 holes, the 10th. to the 13th. Mixed teams were not encouraged, as there was a distinct possibility that some of the Wells players would not return until the following morning. This in no way reflects on the morals of the ladies taking part. In the event, the winners were visitors - an invited County quartet. Most of those who survived the night excursion were able to enjoy hot soup and liquid refreshment in the safety of the Clubhouse.

The Club President introduced his own competition, the Tweedale Trophy, with the winners in each of a series of medal competitions taking part in a final. The event continues to be well supported and is established as an annual competition.



*Philip Tweedale Trophy - Captains Challenge - Glenys Palmer Cup*

With the assistance of Chris Coate, Kathy Kingman and Karen Nicholls, I was able to originate a Family Greensome Competition, the proceeds being donated to The Golf Foundation. Strictly for family members, the event has proved to be popular. In the first year over £ 300 was raised.

Rob Davis after 10 years as Steward, left his employment at the Club in October, his place being taken by Alan Pickstone, whose wife Beverley was to do the catering.



*Harry Parkes (Junior) Cup - Open Family Greensomes  
and the Junior Aggregate Cup*