

Aware of the inadequacies of the changing room and shower facilities, the House Committee considered a number of improvements. The Stewards' accommodation was also under review. However, of more immediate concern, was the running of the Club, now a substantial business with a high financial turn-over. The Management Committee decided that the time had come for the appointment of a full-time Secretary/Manager, and in due course George Ellis was selected. George arrived from Bromley in February 1990 and was soon to stamp his personality on the Club.

Plans were going ahead for the purchase of the 17.4 acres which would enable the extension of the course to go ahead. The intention was to raise the cash by the issuing of £ 300 Debentures to all members; repayable either on the death of a member or on leaving the Club.

Early in 1990, Nigel Pring Head Greenkeeper, left the Club to establish a new course and leisure centre at Cullompton in Devon. His assistant Cary Rawlings was to follow him at a later date. Within a short time a new Greenkeeper was appointed.

With the Centenary of the Club due to take place in 1993, a special Committee was set up to plan events and competitions. Their task was also to arrange fund-raising activities and seek sponsorship for a number of projects.

Clive Keene was to be the Captain for 1990/91, and shortly after his appointment, he was informed that Planning Permission had been given for the development of the new ground. Work on the site commenced in May.

In order to improve the facilities for administrative work, a new Portakabin was purchased and linked to the existing unit, thus providing additional office space and a small rest-room at the end for the greenkeeping staff.

The general high standards of golf played at Wells were highlighted when on one occasion no fewer than 7 players were representing either the County 1st. or 2nd. teams. Players also enjoyed good support from fellow members, a coachload of enthusiasts travelling to Minehead to cheer their team to victory in the 1st. round of the Somerset Bowl. Unhappily, they suffered defeat in the next round at Brea.

The course record held by Rob Davis was equalled by John Goymer, although on a slightly different course, the 1st. and 5th. greens having been replaced. Karen Nicholls also equalled her own record, again on the slightly changed course.

The unbeatable combination of Rob Davis and John Goymer provided one of the shocks of the year when they met their match at Bristol and Clifton whilst playing in the Bristol and District Golf League. After 18 consecutive victories, their opponents had good reason to celebrate.

The popularity of the Wells course was reflected in the record number of visitors paying green-fees. An income of around £ 40,000 was generated from the 4,000 plus visitors.

Jan Nicholls, having for so long proudly watched the achievements of his daughter Karen, was now able to enjoy success in his own right; being elected Captain of Wells in 1991. Phil Tweedale, although accepting a nomination for Presidency once again, stated that this was the last occasion on which he would do so.

The intention to provide a new Steward's bungalow was soon brought to fruition; work commencing in June, and the building being completed by November. The provision of this accommodation

enabled the alterations to the Clubhouse to be planned, the intention being to provide new changing room facilities in time for the Centenary celebrations.

The loss of Nigel Pring and Cary Rawlings, and John Goymer who had turned Professional, greatly weakened the strength of the 1st. team and in consequence, they were relegated to Division 3 of the B.D.G.L. However, some consolation was forthcoming with the winning of the Trounsen Trophy and Windwhistle Cup at Burnham and Berrow.

The introduction of a new Club Magazine provided a record of the events and achievements of all sections of the Club. Intended to be a regular production, it was sent to all members and was well received.

Older members of the Club were saddened to hear of the death of the former Professional, Greenkeeper and Steward Alec Oatley. A most colourful character, occasionally argumentative, he will long be remembered as one of the Club "greats" for the part he played in the establishment and development of Wells Golf Club.

Philip Tweedale, having served the Club with excellence during his reign as President, confirmed his resignation at the 1992 A.G.M., his role being filled by Past-Captain, Trevor Holman. Trevor had also been nominated as Vice-President of the Somerset Golf Union. The Captaincy was awarded to John Chillington and David Holland was re-elected as Treasurer.

The level of the annual subscription was raised to £ 210, although there was much debate and many objections before the increase was agreed. Plans for the forthcoming year were outlined, and included the intention to provide improved men's facilities after the completion of the new Ladies' changing rooms.

The standard of catering was the envy of many other Clubs, and the resignation of the Steward was much regretted. However, the newly appointed Steward and his wife are continuing to maintain the high standards to which members have become accustomed.

Work on the new holes has now been completed, and members patiently await the opening, planned to take place on Centenary Day. The more able golfers eagerly await the opportunity to establish a new record for the extended course. The present course record was broken by Bradley Whittock, our Club Champion who recorded a 62 in the July Medal.

The end of the Victorian era saw the establishment of many Sports Clubs, and in particular, a large number of Golf Clubs. In consequence, several Centenary celebrations are taking place during the "nineties". A special link has been established with Dawlish Warren, and the two clubs are to compete for a crystal glass trophy to mark their Centenaries.

The Wells Centenary Committee has prepared an extensive celebration programme, and a large marquee has been purchased in order to facilitate social events. Fund raising has been continuous and



Trounsen Trophy Winners - 1991

successful; several thousand pounds being raised by sponsorship. A further £ 1,500 was raised when a function at the Wessex Hotel featured the "Rocking Berries", a successful pop-group of the 60's, still much appreciated by younger (and older) Club members!

During the course of 1993, special fund-raising activities will be organised for the benefit of C.L.I.C. (Cancer and Leukaemia in Children). A number of celebrities will be taking part in special events, and this should ensure a substantial contribution to our selected charity.

The appointment of a new Head Greenkeeper will ensure that the course will be in excellent condition, and we have sought expert advice on dealing with specific drainage problems on the 1st. and 5th. greens. Hollow-tining of the greens will be more easily dealt with following the purchase of new equipment. Many cosmetic improvements will also be made, including the provision of 150 yard markers and better tee facilities.

The continued improvement at Wells should assure a prosperous future. Clubhouse facilities, course development, and increased membership are combining to enhance the already established reputation of the Wells Club. Our young golfers are competent; the spirit of our members is excellent, and the Management team is determined that our success should continue. The foundation is laid for the next hundred years. Which of today's names will feature in The Early Years?



The Centenary Committee who were responsible for planning the celebrations for 1993.

Top (left to right) George Ellis (Secretary/Manager), Mike Cockram, Bryan Fernot, Tony Cope. Seated Daphne Pring (Lady Captain, Elect), Alan Shore (Centenary Committee Chairman), David Holland.

CENTENARY YEAR

DIARY OF MAJOR EVENTS 1993

Saturday 3rd April	<u>CENTENARY DAY</u> Club Competition - 4BBB Stableford Field led by the Captain, Lady Captain, Karen Nicholls and John Goymer (in period costume) Evening Function.
Monday 31st May	<u>COMPETITION OVER ORIGINAL 9 HOLES</u> To be played in period costume. Course to be re-constructed. Evening Function.
Thursday 3rd June	<u>CELEBRITY CHARITY TEAM EVENT</u>
Sunday 6th June	<u>CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP</u>
Friday 11th June	<u>100 HOLES FOR CLIC</u> Evening Function.
Tuesday 15th June	<u>SOMERSET PAST CAPTAINS - v - DORSET</u>
Friday 18th June	<u>CENTENARY SUMMER DANCE</u>
Saturday 26th June to Saturday 3rd July	<u>OPEN WEEK</u>
Sunday 4th July	<u>PIG ROAST and DANCE</u>
Sunday 11th July	<u>MIXED OPEN</u>
Sunday 18th July	<u>CAPTAINS INVITATION DAY</u> Shotgun start.
Saturday 7th August	<u>MENS INVITATION</u>
Tuesday 10th August	<u>CAPTAINS DAY</u>
Saturday 21st August	<u>LADY CAPTAINS INVITATION DAY</u>
Sunday 29th August	<u>CENTENARY TROPHY</u> For Clubs in the area who have reached 100 years old.
Sunday 5th September	<u>WELLS - v - COUNTY</u>
Saturday 11th September	<u>S.G.U. TROUNSON TROPHY</u>
Sunday 19th September	<u>B.D.G.L. FINALS</u>
Friday 15th October	<u>WELLS CAPTAINS-v-SOMERSET CAPTAINS</u>
Friday 10th December	<u>TEAMS SOCIAL NIGHT</u>
Friday 17th December	<u>XMAS DINNER</u>
Friday 31st December	<u>XMAS DANCE and DRAW</u> <u>NEW YEARS EVE DANCE</u>

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