

The Directors were able to report excellent progress at the A.G.M. of 1925. Although the services of Ham were lost early in the year, they had appointed a new Professional/Greenkeeper, a Mr. A. Marsh who had previously been employed at Walton Heath. There was difficulty in finding accommodation for him, but the problem was solved by Mr. Woodhams who purchased a house for his use.

The report indicated further changes, including the provision of a small "motor park" at the entrance to the Links. An Artisan section had been formed - the criteria being a minimum of 12 members. The formation was largely due to the efforts of Bishop Wynn Wilson, the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Artisan members were required to pay a 10/6d. subscription. That they were very proud to be permitted the use of club facilities is clearly indicated in their records. A long lasting relationship was soon established with Club officials and members alike. Dr. Allan, who was to become Club Captain, donated £ 1.10s.0d. for the first Artisans' competition prizes.

They were entitled to elect their own Captain, a Mr. F. Stanton, and his brother, Mr. C.J. Stanton, was to become Secretary. With very little equipment, and even less experience, they were allowed to determine their own handicaps at their initial meeting. Their optimism proved to be misplaced, when after one year, re-assessment was deemed to be necessary. F. Stanton, allocated a handicap of 5, was awarded a further 26 strokes. Another adjustment led to 20 strokes being added to the handicap of a Mr. Thyer. The Secretary, who had originally been assessed at scratch, left the area before revision could take place. Probably a wise decision! Nevertheless, the section thrived and enthusiasm was rewarded with matches against the Wells Club and Ladies' Section. The new Secretary, Mr. J. Needham, did much to establish the Artisans.

At the 1927 A.G.M., tribute was paid to the Club's founder, Jock Grant and the esteem in which he was held led to his nomination as the first Life Member of the Club.

The Annual Report of the Directors again referred to the improvements taking place on the course. Although there was a deficit on the year's working, this was largely accounted for by the need to employ additional staff. The importance of addressing this problem was stressed, and the Directors intended to discuss the matter at an early meeting. Meanwhile, each member was urged to assist with improving the membership.

WELLS GOLF CLUB.  
24 Chamberlain St.  
Wells. 26 Oct 1927  
Dear Mr. Grant,  
Your resignation came before the Committee on the 17th inst. - when it was accepted with great regret. In view of the fact that the Club owes its origin to you & of the many years voluntary work both as Secretary & member of the management the Committee felt that it would not also be

opportunity to pass without marking their appreciation of your services in the fact they have accordingly made you a life member of the Club - the only one yet made.  
I hope that your health will permit you to play on the Links for many years yet to come.  
Yours sincerely  
F. H. Holloway  
J.H.S.

Life Membership for Jock Grant - 1927

The Captain, Mr. H. Reynolds, supported the comments of the Directors, urging members to give greater help to the Club in any way possible.

The A.G.M. report for 1928 is reproduced below and gives a clear insight to the problems of the time:-

"In submitting their Annual Report, the Directors desire to congratulate the Professional (Marsh) on the improved state of the greens and general up-keep of the Links. During the past Winter, No. 9 green has been re-modelled, the wall guarding No. 1 green has been removed and the whole of the greens treated. Difficulty was again experienced with the grass on the fairways towards the end of last Summer, and on the initiative of the Captain, Mr. J. Reynolds, a motor-mower was purchased for £ 32.10s.0d; the whole of the purchase money (with the exception of a small balance of £ 3.9s.0d. still outstanding), being raised by voluntary subscriptions amongst the members. As foreshadowed in last year's report, the Committee came to the conclusion, for financial reasons, that they were only able to employ the Professional, and the engagement of the lad Boyce, was, with regret, terminated at the end of June last. The thanks of the Directors was expressed for all the ready assistance given to the Professional on the Links after the purchase of the motor-mower. The Artisans' Section now numbers 16 members, and is a distinct acquisition to the Club. The financial position of the Club is not at the moment encouraging, and it is imperative that all the present members should do their best to obtain new members. As is already known, the land and building belong to the Club (subject to £ 570 debentures), and apart from the reduction in income (which it is hoped is only temporary), the Club should, if new members are forthcoming, resume its former prosperous position."

F.A.R. George was appointed Club Captain; a position he was to hold for two years. On his election, he stressed the need for members to pay their subscriptions promptly and assured the meeting that he would do his best during the coming season to secure new members and encouraged others present to do the same.

The progress of the Artisan Section was clearly indicated in their annual meeting held in May, 1929. Their numbers had increased to 20 and for the first time, included ladies.

Report for Year 1928

We are pleased to be able to report considerable progress during the year 1928. We now have 20 members including 4 in our ladies' section. Care must be taken in proposing additional members that they are such as the members of the Wells Golf Club will accept willingly. We now enjoy very special privileges such as very few Artisans Clubs, as far as we know, possess. We are allowed to play at any time except when a match is in progress, we are admitted to nearly all club competitions, sometimes at reduced fees, our subscription is small, & we are permitted to drive from the first tee. We believe that all these privileges will be continued so long as we are careful to observe all rules & the etiquette of golf, that we make a great point of replacing turf, and that we give way to

the members of the Wells Club if we have any difficulties in keeping position. The attention of new members is drawn to these points, & we hope that everyone will do his best to assist the Wells Club in all its undertakings, by joining in flag competitions, helping with and attending whist drives, and assisting in work undertaken by their members. In this connection it may be pointed out that there is still some painting required at the Club house, a great deal of which has been done by our Mr. Stanton.

Members are also invited to give a small donation to the fencing which has cost the Club over £40. This fencing became necessary to avoid a loss of £15 a year for pasturing sheep on the course.

At their Annual Meeting, the Captain of the Wells Club drew attention to the fact that they were anxious to give no better accommodation

for keeping our clubs and clothing when funds permitted & for this kindly thought we are grateful.

It is pleasing to note that the handicaps of some of our members are now coming down & we have at last succeeded in holding our own in a Match with the Ladies Section of the Club. The Wells Club revised our handicaps at the end of December last and we hope that some of our younger members will thrive in the coming season to get well below the 20 mark. So far we have only one member below that figure.

Mr. Woodburn as winner of our last year's competition, has been Captain during the year.

We tender our best thanks to the members of the Wells Club & particularly its Captain, for the interest taken in our Section, the privileges we receive and the many offers of games which we receive from its members.

C. Woodburn  
7<sup>th</sup> May 1929.

Both the Club and the Artisans' Section moved into the thirties with growing confidence. A strong bond had been established between them. The Captain referred to the 'chubby' feeling amongst all members, now totalling ninety. An appeal was launched to raise money for the provision of a fence to surround the Links, and with the retiring Captain, F.A.R. George starting the appeal with a donation of £ 10, practically the whole of the cost was met by the members. The new Captain, elected in 1930 was to be F.G. Vincent. He asked that the Artisans agree to a subscription increase, making the amount 15s. per annum, a request to which they readily agreed. They were rewarded with the provision of their own hut, and in addition to a small room approximately 8' x 7' for meetings and club storage, two small rooms were provided for the ladies. Each Artisan had a personal key, and such was their enthusiasm that they painted the hut themselves and carried out other maintenance work.

Club membership had again increased in 1929 and there was an increase in profits. The Directors, in their annual report, paid tribute to the efforts of certain members in raising funds. For the first time Whist Drives were introduced and received popular support.

During the course of the year, the death had occurred of one of their original and most stalwart members, Mr. B. Dyer, and the members paid due tribute to the service he had given the Club. His memory is perpetuated by the Dyer Cup, donated by the Club and competed for annually by members with a handicap of 18 or over. In earlier days the Basil Dyer Cup was competed for every 6 months. The first year the Cup was competed for was in 1930 when a further trophy was introduced, the Cheddar Trophy donated by members from Cheddar.



Dyer Cup & Cheddar Trophy

The Club Captain for 1931/2 was Dr. A.C. Hincks, who was able to preside over a year of little incident. Membership steadily improved and the Club was on a sound financial basis. At the end of the year, Dr. Allan resigned his position as a Director and his work for the Club was referred to by the Secretary:-

"As a long service Director and member of the Committee, he had always taken in the affairs of the Club. He had, out of his own

pocket, paid sums of money for the upkeep of the course, and latterly, paid for the cost of re-laying No. 5 green."

The Secretary concluded his statement by proposing a sincere vote of thanks to Dr. Allan for his long and valued services to the Club.



In continuing his report, the Secretary remarked that the past year had been very wet and the Golf Research Station had been called in to advise on the treatment of greens. He also referred to the success of the Artisan Section; their members having performed admirably in a number of competitions.

W.J. Bown was appointed as Club Captain, a position he was to hold until the Spring of 1934.

The Artisan Section produced their annual report in April 1932 which detailed some of their achievements.

In June of 1932, the death occurred of the Club's founder, Jock Grant. The sadness of the members was reflected in the letter sent to his widow by the Club Secretary, Mr. F. Holloway. (See page 25)

Once again attention was being paid to the increase in membership and the improvement of playing conditions. However, of special importance was the invitation to the Artisans to become members of the Wells Golf Club. Their golfing standards had rapidly improved.

Within the space of a few years, G.E. Boyce had won both the Dyer Cup and the Cheddar Trophy, and R. Needham won the "much coveted" Dickenson Cup and the Cheddar Trophy for good measure. Several Artisans had represented the Club in matches against Yarlington and Cannington and were rightly welcomed as full members of the Club. The Club Captain for 1932/3 and 1933/4 was W.J. Bown, who did much during his period of leadership to stimulate membership and general enthusiasm amongst the golfers. The extreme wet weather of the previous year had necessitated the seeking of advice from the Golf Research Station in order to overcome the difficulties. The treatment was partly successful, but, as Dr. McGarvey stated when he assumed the Captaincy in the Spring of 1934, "the greens were being maintained in as satisfactory a manner as possible, having regard to the limited funds at the disposal of the Committee." The Professional, Marsh, was continually being praised for his efforts in maintaining the course to a high standard.

In the Spring of 1935, W.J. Bown was again elected Club Captain, a position he was to hold until 1939. Extremely popular with fellow golfers, he worked continually for the benefit of the Club. In thanking the members for honouring him once more with the Club Captaincy, he expressed the wish to see the Club prosper. He remarked on the excellent attendance of members, and hoped that it was an indication of the success of the Club during the year. They had heard much about the course and the greens, and he assured members that they would continue with the improvement. It was also important to increase membership and he hoped that all members would work to achieve this end.

### Report for the year 1931.

It is a pleasure to be able to report another year of progress. The chief events of the year have been the winning of the Wells Golf Club's Dyer Memorial Cup by G.E. Boyce in June & their Cheddar Valley Trophy in July by Mr. F. H. Dell. We have however failed to hold the Dyer Memorial Cup.

We have had 4 games with the East Somerset Anticline 2 at Wells and 2 on their course, which proved very enjoyable.

We have also played the Ladies & Gentlemen of the Wells Golf Club and on this occasion proved successful in each match.

We thank Dr. Allan for his prize competition the section for handicaps below 24 was won by R. J. Needham & that for handicaps over 24 by Miss Hayer.

The ladder competition was not very successful owing to lack of interest on the part of some members. The winners Messrs Tanner, Dell & Appleyard played some very keen games. Suggestions are invited for a Summer Competition.

We regret that we have lost three of our best players this year for reasons connected with their employment, but on the other hand some of our members are making very good progress.

Chairman  
11/4/32.

### Artisans Report of 1931

## WELLS (Somt.) GOLF CLUB LTD.

Secretary:  
Mr. F. H. HOLLOWAY,  
24 Chamberlain St.

Treasurer:  
Mr. F. O. STOTE,  
Lloyds, Bank.

Match Secretary:  
Mr. H. E. REYNOLDS,  
Pinecote, Green Ore.

Registered Office:  
24 CHAMBERLAIN STREET,  
WELLS.

2<sup>nd</sup> June 1932

Dear Mrs Grant

I am desired by the Committee to express to you & your family the deepest sympathy of all the members of the Golf Club in your recent bereavement.

Mr Grant was as you know better than anyone the founder of this Club and the existence of the Course as it is today was in no small measure due to the many years work he put in to make it what it is.

May I also be allowed to tender you my own personal sympathies? Mr Grant gave me my first lesson in golf & was of the greatest assistance to me when I became Secretary.

Yours sincerely  
F. H. Holloway  
Hon. Sec.

Letter to Mrs. Grant following the death of Jock Grant.

During the Winter, the No. 2 green was entirely re-laid, and although adverse weather conditions had created difficulties, the Directors were confident that the green would eventually be one of the best on the course. Much of the progress during the year was attributable to members and friends who had contributed in many ways to the Club, especially Sir Walter Forrest, Alexander Livingstone and 12 other ladies and gentlemen, for the gift of tee boxes. Dr. Allan and Mrs. S. Mogg had been responsible for improvements to the canteen, and Messrs. Ormiston and Batterham had donated Spoons for monthly competitions. Mrs. Cowern had presented a handsome silver trophy for a new mixed 2 ball foursome competition.

Other major contributions were made by Bill Ball who agreed to erect a shelter adjoining the 6th green, and by Mrs. Boddington and members of the Ladies' Committee who provided teas on Saturday afternoons during the Summer months. Largely due to an increase in membership, Directors were able to report that substantial progress had been made and they hoped that this would continue. Several of the Artisans had taken the opportunity to become full members and had contributed to the improved financial position of the Club.

W.J. Bown concluded his address to the members by saying:- "I so hope that we are going to see a turn for the better, and that at the end of the coming year our Treasurer will be able to present a favourable balance sheet."

During the year, Alec Oatley became a paid assistant of the Club. His job as assistant to the Club Professional earned him the sum of 8/- per week. This was to be the beginning of a long, if stormy, association with the Club and many of our present members will have memories of his involvements.

The Directors' report at the 1936 A.G.M. showed once again the improvements being made, and reference was made to the benefit resulting from the engagement of Oatley.

Two Open Meetings, the first in the Club's history, were held during the year, one in the Summer and one in the Autumn. Thanks were accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Boddington who so ably organised these events which would again take place in the following year.

As a reward for the keen interest and support he had given to the Club, Dr. Allan was awarded Life Membership. Although unable to visit the Club as often as in previous years, he still maintained an active interest. In proposing the award, Mr. Holloway referred to his generosity during his period of Captaincy, and the enthusiastic support he had always given to the Club. The award was unanimously approved.

The Artisans were continuing to enjoy success and purchased their own trophy, aptly named after the person who had done so much towards their formation, the Wynne Willson Cup. The cost of this trophy was £ 5 with an extra 5s. for the engraving. This trophy is now competed for by the Juniors in their Club Championship.



Wynne Willson Cup



Cowern Trophy

Over the next few years a number of minor changes had taken place, but once again, the development of the Club was to be affected by the outbreak of war. Mr. Bown's reign as Captain ended in the Spring of 1939, having achieved many of the objectives he had outlined in 1935. Membership had increased, the course had improved, and even the Lady members were honoured when they were empowered to spend up to £ 3 on a new lavatory. From his own pocket the retiring Captain paid for improvements to the roadway leading to the Links and also for the enlargement of the motor park.

At the Annual General Meeting of 1939, Mr. Holloway who had been Secretary for 25 years, tendered his resignation. In recognition of his work he was presented with a canteen of cutlery and awarded Life Membership. A further Life Membership was also awarded to Mr. W.H. Derrick for his great assistance to the Club over many years.

The newly elected Captain was Mr. W.R. Anderson and the Secretary, Mr. F. Wyatt.

The outbreak of war in September 1939 resulted in a number of changes. Significantly, although Oatley's wages had been increased to 20/- per week in February, the Club dispensed with his services in December, stating that they could no longer afford to employ him.

September 1939.  
Present:  
Messrs R. A. Anderson (Chairman) / H. E. Reynolds, J. J. Needham, W. J. Bown, J. A. George, J. Court, G. S. Ormiston, Dr. Hincks, Mr. & Mrs. Boddington & the Secretary & Assistant Secretary.

Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Canteen.

Mr. Bown reported that the management of the canteen had been placed in March's hands as from the 1<sup>st</sup> September inst.

Position of Club on eve of the war

The Secretary reviewed the steps taken during the last year to keep the Club going & suggested that it might be necessary to cut down the expenses of the ground staff. To fence the greens as was done then, the Links to be let for the feeding of young stock at an enhanced rent. After a discussion the Secretary was directed to see Mr. Gould & ascertain from him whether he would be willing to give up possession at an earlier date than 25<sup>th</sup> March next.

The Secretary also promised to obtain the probable cost of fencing.

The whole matter to be discussed at an

Directors Meeting - September 1939 (Page 1)

As had happened during The Great War, part of the course was used for sheep grazing, and the approach field was sown to wheat.

It was also intended to fence in the greens to protect them from the grazing animals.



Although a special Committee had been formed to arrange dances and other functions, most planned activities had to be cancelled. This was a particular blow to the Club as social involvement had been thriving, the last dance realising a profit of £ 25.

*adjourned meeting to be held in a week's time*

*Westside Cup*

*Resolved not to hold this Competition during the present season on account of the war.*

*Dickinson Cup*

*Covern Trophy*

*Resolved that the Finals of these Competitions be limited to 18 holes during the present season.*

*R. Anderson*

*Chairman*

*Directors Meeting Cont. (Page 2)*

duty it was to look after the greens. He had carried out his task efficiently and had undertaken other duties to the satisfaction of the Committee.

The Directors also referred to the problem which had arisen due to the poor condition of the motor-mower, now worn out and beyond repair. Happily, the Captain, Mr. G. Ormiston and Mr. F.A. George each made a generous donation of £ 50, enabling the Club to purchase an almost new replacement. The appreciation of the Directors was recorded in the minutes. "The sincerest thanks of the Club and all its members were accorded these gentlemen for their spontaneous and generous action."

1940 was to bring with it further difficulties. The Professional, Marsh, now worked only four days a week; there were no competitions or matches, and sadly, few were able to play golf. Committee meetings were rarely held, many members being involved in Civil Defence duties.

The Annual General Meeting of 1941 took place in May, and the Captain for the year was to be G. S. Ormiston.

The Directors' reported that the course had been well maintained in spite of the loss of Marsh, who had resigned in order to take up war-work. The Directors had received his resignation with much regret, as he had given long standing and valued service to the Club. Fortunately, and due to the efforts of the Club Captain, they were able to secure the services of Mr. Jack Stevens, an Artisan member, whose

*Professional.*

*The Secretary read A. Marsh's resignation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> August last which was directed to be recorded in the Minutes:-*

*Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 1941*

*8 Mill St. Wells*

*F. J. Wyatt Esq*

*Dear Sir*

*"I have been thinking for a long time now of taking up work of national importance & after giving full consideration I think it is only fair that the time has come for me to take on that kind of work, therefore will you please place my resignation before our Committee to terminate on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> day of August.*

*Wishing the Club every success*

*Yours faithfully*

*A. Marsh*

*Professional, Wells Golf Club."*

*Letter of resignation - A. Marsh, 1941*

The Secretary, Mr. Wyatt, announced his retirement but the post was readily filled by the previous long serving Secretary, Mr. Holloway who agreed to continue until the end of the war.

The difficulties the Club was experiencing seem to have created a spirit of determination. Members readily assisted in maintaining the course, cutting the fairways, tending tees and preparing greens in addition to keeping equipment in a good state of repair. Had such help not been forthcoming, the course would soon have deteriorated.

Throughout the duration of the war, Ormiston remained as Captain, and presided over a Club struggling for survival. By May of 1944, membership had fallen to 67; 22 of whom were ladies and 3 were Life Members. Outstanding subscriptions amounted to £ 20.

The few members able to play regular golf and the course restrictions caused by the use of the land for the war-effort, resulted in the total lack of both matches and competitions. There were frequent occasions when only a handful of golfers could be seen on the course, even on the long Summer evenings of extended daylight.