

The success of the Club during 1959/60 was mentioned in the Directors' report which stated:- "Golf seems to be growing in popularity, and the Club should look to the future with confidence."

D.H. Walsh was elected as Captain for the year, with the role of Secretary being taken over by Jack Burroughs following the resignation of John Davies. In recognition of his services to the Club, Davies was presented with an inscribed tankard. A.S. Bedford, the Treasurer, was able to report a healthy balance of £ 122.9s.10d. The Captain of the Ladies' Section was Miss. M. Paul and Mrs. Armin became their Secretary.

In his report for the year, the Secretary referred to the widening of the 3rd. and 7th. fairways, and to the levelling and excavation work on a number of greens. Unfortunately, problems had arisen when many young ferns appeared in the new grass.

It was the intention of the Committee to improve the "comfort and appointment" of the Club Room, and a list of extensive works and bar alterations had been drawn up. Although the urgency of this improvement was stressed, it was to be later in 1961 before much work was carried out.

Thanks were expressed to Dr. Stuart for his generosity in donating an Honours Board for the Cheddar Trophy, and also to John Davies and Dr. Armin for jointly donating a Winter Foursomes Cup.

In response to the Mary Bignal appeal, the sum of 5 guineas had been sent to the City Council, the money being raised by organising a special Medal competition.

A suggestion that Open Week should include a Club Championship was rejected for the time being, but the Committee agreed to change the format of Ladies' Day to a Mixed Open.

In conclusion, the Secretary reported that a Junior Member, Tony Shepherd, had been paid 5s. per week to assist Oatley with greens cutting.

The same team of Gunning (President), Walsh (Captain), Burroughs (Secretary) and Bedford (Treasurer) carried on through 1961. The Directors congratulated John Davies on his acceptance of the proposal that he should be President Elect of the Somerset Golf Union.

The Secretary reported that during the year Oatley's premises had been extended to provide a room for the Juniors. In addition, and after a trial with a small generator, one was purchased which was capable of supplying standard light fittings for the Clubhouse. At a cost of £ 37, the installation was revolutionary, but unhappily, not always reliable. A senior member recalls the occasion when a 'teach-in' was being held with the aid of a Peter Thompson record. The generator, through lack of petrol stopped, the gramophone stopped and the lights went out. Each member retained his position at the top of the back-swing until normality returned. Or so the story goes! Happenings of this nature were not uncommon, and Committee members were issued with candles at the commencement of meetings. When the lights failed on one occasion, Oatley was requested to take appropriate action. He replied, "I'm not going near that contraption, there's an adder living in it."

Secretary Burroughs informed members that there had been a fall in Open Week entries following the introduction of an 18 handicap limit. The drop in bar takings was almost 50%, compared with the previous year, and it was suggested that the Committee should re-consider the position.

The Club had been presented with a new cup, the Elsie Coles Cup; the donor stipulating that it should be played for with an 8 iron.



Winter Foursomes & Elsie Coles Cups

This had proved to be most unpopular and by agreement, was amended to "any one club."

Continuing his report, Burroughs commended the enterprise of A.J. Pearce and Bill Watson for arranging a beginners' night which had attracted 30 prospective golfers.

The Secretary informed members that in response to an appeal by the Club, the City Council would spend up to £ 100 on the roadway leading to the Clubhouse, but pointed out that the access was classified only as a footpath, and repairs would be carried out accordingly.

Prior to concluding the report, reference was made to the joint ball held with Mendip. Support from Wells was falling; only 70 members being present as opposed to 160 members from Mendip.

A recommendation by the Treasurer that the level of subscriptions be raised to 6 guineas for Men and to 4 guineas for Ladies was rejected.

In the early 60's, break-ins were a regular occurrence, and Bill Watson recalls that at closing time, the till and spirits were hidden beneath the floorboards of the Clubhouse, the precautions meeting with some degree of success. However, the premises were so easy to enter, damage to property was inevitable.

In April of 1962 A.J. Pearce became Club Captain; Gunning and Burroughs continuing as President and Secretary. A.S. Bedford, Treasurer for the previous ten years tendered his resignation and was replaced by A. Steward.

In presenting his report, the Secretary first paid tribute to the success of John Davies in becoming President of the Somerset Golf Union, an achievement applauded by the meeting.

On a more sombre note, Burroughs announced with regret the death of former Captain and long serving Committee member, Roy Cowling.

Reviewing significant happenings during the year, the Secretary stated that they had received notification from Mendip that the Associate Membership would be terminated, although existing commitments would be honoured. It was the intention to carry on with the joint ball for the time being.

He was able to report a marked improvement on the support in terms of both entries and bar takings during Open Week; the stipulation of the previous year having been removed. The keeper of the Bar Bill Watson, was also able to report an improvement in day to day sales, partly due to an improved stock-take system.

Mr. Burroughs referred to the significant progress being made by the Club's Junior Section; the report of their Captain Lance Perkins informing members that the Juniors had won six major Club competitions, and had played matches against both the Ladies and the Senior Sections. One of their golfers, Paul Hucker, had been selected to play for the County Juniors, and played off 4 handicap. He was to be their Captain for the coming year.

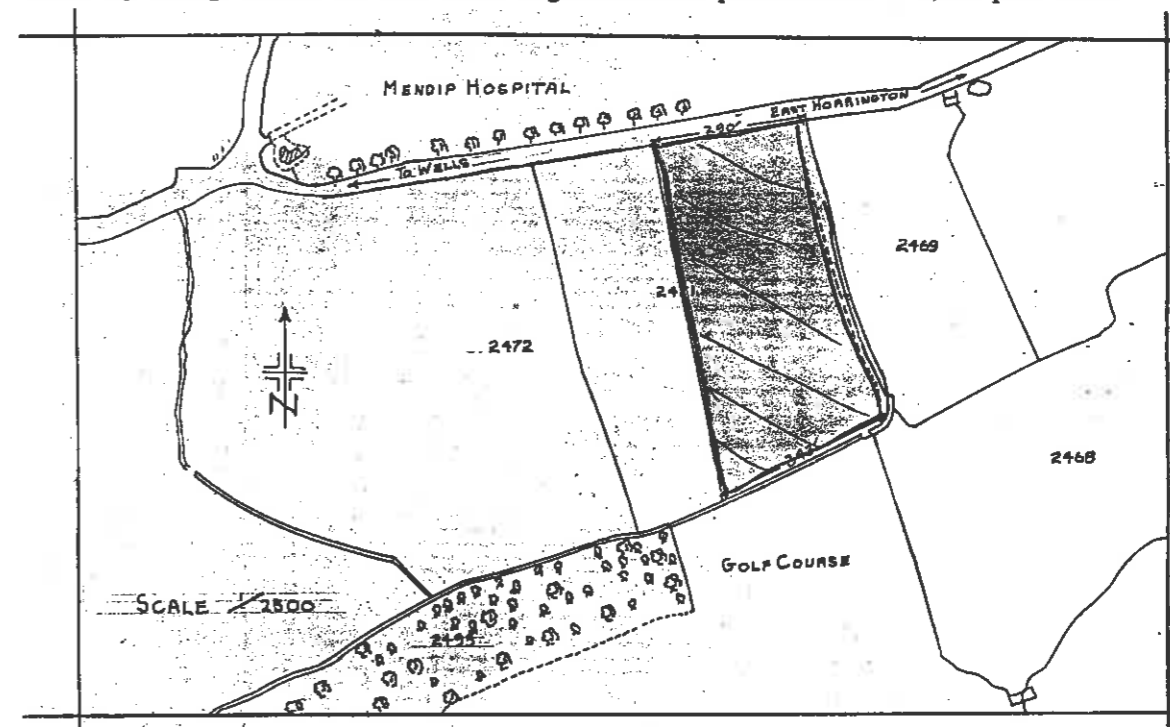
The Directors had recommended an increase of Green Fees and a limit to be placed on the number of Country Members to 20% of the total membership, or 30, whichever was the greater. The recommendation was approved.

Once again the Club had been experiencing difficulties over the tenancy of the Paddock and the safeguarding of water supplies. Various proposals had been put forward for an alternative use of the area, but after receiving advice from the Club's solicitor to the effect that the tenant could not threaten either access or water supply, action was deferred. However, it was not long before their solicitor advised that they should endeavour to regain tenancy, and a re-possession order was issued for Lady Day of 1964. (25th. March).

The death of President Roly Gunning in November of 1962 led to the election of Dr. Armin at the subsequent A.G.M. in the following May. Pearce was re-elected as Captain and Burroughs as Secretary.

The Secretary reported that the Club had suffered from a spate of burglaries during the year, and consideration had been given to the installation of alarms, but no action was taken. Much work was carried out to improve the comfort and convenience for members; the Clubhouse being completely re-decorated. Nevertheless, there had been a slight fall in overall membership although there were more full members than for many years.

The Club's financial position was apparently quite sound, for they were able to purchase new gang-mowers and a replacement tractor. The determination of the Club to continue its growth and positive attitudes was reflected in the purchase of over four acres of land adjoining the course. The land was owned by George Killen and after much negotiation was purchased for £ 1,000 plus costs.



Purchase of land (Site of current clubhouse)

It was unanimously

Resolved that further facilities by way of overdraft up to a principal sum of £1100 at any one time outstanding be arranged with the Company's bankers, Lloyds Bank Limited, in addition to facilities up to £200 already arranged and authorised by resolution No. 1 dated the 22nd November, 1948, making total facilities of £1300 and that a legal mortgage of the Company's premises at Tor Hill, Wells, be created in favour of the Bank to secure repayment to the Bank of all moneys and liabilities at any time due owing or incurred by the Company to the Bank and that Mr. A. T. Pearce..... and Mr. J. F. Burroughs (Capt. Secy) be authorised to make the necessary arrangements with the Bank.

This resolution does not in any way limit or effect the instructions to the Bank contained in resolution to the Board. Dated 9th January, 1962.

DIRECTORS: *Donald E. B. Mundy*
Kenneth E. Allen

R. Armin

Resolution for land purchase

The acquisition of this land brought great benefit to the Club. Part of the site provided the area for our present Clubhouse, and in addition, enabled the Club to construct the present 9th. and 18th. greens and 1st. and 18th. fairways.

The Annual General Meeting of 1964 brought the election of Mike Carter who was to serve as Captain for two years. Dr. Armin continued as President and Jack Burroughs as Secretary.

The report of the Treasurer showed that all Debentures had now been repaid and the Committee intended to maintain subscriptions at their present level. Profit from the Joint Ball had only realised £ 15.4s.0d. for both Mendip and Wells, but a Derby Draw had raised the sum of £ 19.15s.0d.

Reference was made to the excellence of the work carried out by Alec Oatley and the Directors were pleased to increase his salary by 20/- per week.

The course was in a generally good condition, although some of the greens had been seriously affected by clover; the result of an extremely dry summer. Land purchased from George Killen was fenced in by Coates of Bridgwater, a condition of the sale. The Committee had decided to leave the large oak tree in situ - at the centre of the 1st. and 18th. fairways. No doubt this decision has been cursed by many a member, but it still stands today, having resisted the continual bombardment of golf balls.

Press report on land purchase

At the A.G.M. of 1965, both the President and Captain were re-elected, but Les Laws took over as Secretary from Burroughs who had indicated his wish to stand down. He was presented with a tankard in appreciation of his work for the Club.

Mike Carter was determined that a start should be made to raise funds for the building of a new Clubhouse. An appeal was made to all members, and in response the amount of £ 870 was forthcoming. The Treasurer reported a bank overdraft of £ 813.19s.0d. but it was agreed that subscriptions should not be increased.

Both Dr. Armin and Alec Oatley had devoted much time and energy to the care of the course and the Captain praised them for their efforts. Dr. Armin was one of the main-stays of the "A" team and supported all aspects of the Club.

The Annual General Meeting of 1964 brought the election of Mike Carter who was to serve as Captain for two years. Dr. Armin continued as President and Jack Burroughs as Secretary.

The report of the Treasurer showed that all Debentures had now been repaid and the Committee intended to maintain subscriptions at their present level. Profit from the Joint Ball had only realised £ 15.4s.0d. for both Mendip and Wells, but a Derby Draw had raised the sum of £ 19.15s.0d.

Reference was made to the excellence of the work carried out by Alec Oatley and the Directors were pleased to increase his salary by 20/- per week.

The course was in a generally good condition, although some of the greens had been seriously affected by clover; the result of an extremely dry summer. Land purchased from George Killen was fenced in by Coates of Bridgwater, a condition of the sale. The Committee had decided to leave the large oak tree in situ - at the centre of the 1st. and 18th. fairways. No doubt this decision has been cursed by many a member, but it still stands today, having resisted the continual bombardment of golf balls.

WELLS (Som.) GOLF CLUB LTD.

Dear Member,

It is the wish of the Committee that I write to you again concerning the appeal for the proposed new Club House. We appealed for a minimum of £5,000 and at present 27 members have offered £570.

In trying to analyse the reason for the non-operation of the majority of our members the following reasons have occurred to me, and I add my comments.

1. They are satisfied with the present Club House. I would point out that this building will soon be in need of major repair - especially to the roof. If some members are satisfied with the meagre facilities of the Club House others are definitely not and if we do not do something about it we shall lose members to other Clubs.
2. They always meant to take action on my last letter but have not yet got around to doing so. I hope many members fall into this category and will reach for their pens immediately!
3. They felt that the minimum £5 suggested was beyond their means. Please lend what you can.
4. They thought my first letter to be too vague and wanted further details. This is a difficult one as the exact details will depend on the result of the appeal and on the financial state of the Club at any particular time. The Committee feel that a minimum of 2½% should be offered, this rate to be reviewed annually and raised if possible. As I said in my first letter response to this appeal will involve a measure of sacrifice on the part of members. The loan would be required for a minimum of 5 years after which it is hoped that repayments can be made. The loan would not be required for a least another six months and could be made in two or more instalments. (For example some might prefer to lend so much a year for, say, five years.)

Please fill in the accompanying form and send it to our treasurer as soon as possible.

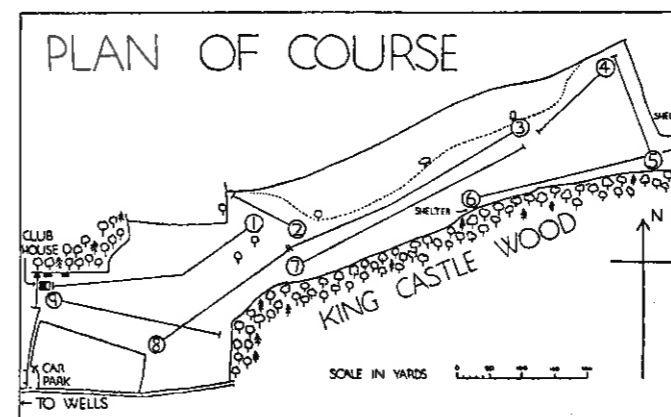
I feel that the future of Wells Golf Club depends very much on the result of this appeal. If, through lack of support, we have to shelve this project, if we cannot keep pace with and take advantage of the present increasing interest in golf, we shall have turned away an opportunity to expand and prosper - a missed opportunity that we may regret bitterly in future years.

Yours sincerely,
M.A. Carter
Captain.

Mike Carter's letter

There was a high level of enthusiasm for golf at Wells and the number of matches increased. Occasionally, matches would be the basis for excellent social involvements, and Marcus Irwin recalls a match against Enmore when some of the visiting team were "sleeping it off" in the Clubhouse until the following morning. Catering arrangements were somewhat different to those of today. The first Wells pair to finish their match had the task of cycling to the local fish and chip shop to obtain supplies for both teams. At weekends, team members were more fortunate, for Mrs. Hucker and Mrs. Hawkins would prepare the teas.

Then, as now, there were amusing incidents at the expense of the Committee. Marcus Irwin relates an Open event at Wells when the Committee had sponsored a major prize for a hole in one - but had forgotten to effect any insurance. One particularly unlucky player watched as the ball rolled towards the hole, wobbled, and stayed out. The sigh of relief from Committee members was accompanied by groans from the player's supporters. During the year there was to be much development on the course. The Paddock was re-possessed from the tenant and work was started on preparing a new 9th. green.



Course Plan

The amount of £ 145 was spent on bull-dozing and shaping ground for a new second fairway and green, but the most important development in the year was the decision to build a new Clubhouse. Estimates were obtained from Edgells of Radstock and the Committee called an E.G.M. to obtain the agreement of members to proceed.

The estimate for the building of the new Clubhouse was just under £ 7,000 and arrangements were made for the loan of £ 8,000 from

the bank. As a condition of the loan, the bank required guarantors to the sum of £ 2,000, and in a very short time a number of members had agreed to accept the responsibility.

The E.G.M. to consider the project was held at the Fountain Inn as the road to the Clubhouse had deteriorated rapidly and would have caused problems for vehicles. The meeting was well supported, and the motion to proceed with the building of a new Clubhouse received unanimous approval. A second proposal empowering the Committee to use the borrowed money as and when required was also agreed. However, it was necessary to undertake a legal mortgage of the Company's premises at Tor Hill and St. Cuthbert's Out in favour of the bank. The Captain and Secretary were authorised to carry out all necessary arrangements.

At the same meeting, a further proposal to increase all subscriptions with the exception of Juniors was well debated and met with considerable opposition. However, the Treasurer advised that he would not be prepared to negotiate a bank loan unless the increase in subscriptions was agreed. The proposition then received unanimous support.

Having achieved the support of members, other ways of raising cash were investigated, including applications to the Watneys Brewery and to the Department of Education and Sport. They were unsuccessful.



Loxton Cup

The efforts to extend the number of trophies continued, and further success was achieved when the Loxton family donated a cup which the Committee decided should be competed for by ladies. The cup, valued at the time at £ 12.10s.0d. was originally awarded to L/Corporal F.S. Loxton of K. Coy., Wells, an inscription subsequently removed.

Towards the end of the year, burglaries became more frequent; substantial damage being done to the Clubhouse in addition to the theft of stock. Social activities suffered in consequence as the following extract from Minutes clearly indicates:-

"A very successful Christmas Social was held on Friday 17th. December, which was attended by about 60 members and friends. Unfortunately, on December 18th., the burglars once again visited the premises and removed all stock left over from the Social evening, together with almost every other moveable item of Club equipment."

In spite of the difficulties, the atmosphere in the Club was extremely good and a number of amusing incidents are recalled by members of that period. Matches against Enmore were appropriately termed "Drunkards versus Inebriates" - and apparently with good reason! There was an occasion when it was necessary to use the Club tractor to recover "tired" golfers

from the course. Nowadays they permit their electric trollies to guide them home!

Paul Hucker recollects the times when Junior enthusiasm was such that many of them would almost live on the course during the Summer, cooking their own 'fry-ups' on the primus in the Junior hut.

Occasionally, it was necessary to call in Reggie Boyce and his horse Charles to assist with the cutting of the fairways. Charles (who would not respond to any other name), was on one occasion struck violently on the rump by a golf ball. This was too much for Charles who bolted, leaving Reggie standing as the gang-mower tumbled down the 1st. (the present 7th.). It was a further two days before Charles was re-captured.

Bill Watson still recalls the ramshackle furniture and pieces of carpet placed strategically over rotting floorboards, but the prospect of the new Clubhouse was a great source of encouragement.

In spite of the new Clubhouse on the horizon, only 35 members turned out for the A.G.M. of 1966; a particularly disappointing response in view of the rise in membership to over 200.

Dr. Armin was re-elected President, and Arthur Packer became Club Captain. Arthur was a well established member and a competent golfer. In his early days at the Club he had caddied for members in order to provide himself with greater learning opportunities. One of his notable and remembered services was to act as caddie for the Lord Chief Justice.

The Secretary reported to members that the relationship which had existed with Mendip Golf Club was to be completely terminated. The discontinuance the previous year of the two-way affiliation was followed by a letter, regretting that owing to lack of support from their members, they would be unable in future to co-operate in the annual Dance.

It appears that shortly after receiving this communication, Mendip offered to share with Wells the cost of purchasing spray equipment. Wells however, decided to purchase their own equipment and proceeded to offer it on hire to Mendip at 30/- per day. There is no record of whether the offer was accepted!

Reports on the activities of the Social Committee highlighted the difficulties of generating support and enthusiasm. A quiz night resulted in more panel members than audience, and a Whist Drive was so poorly attended that it was unworthy of the effort taken in the organisation. Nevertheless, there was an air of expectancy and excitement amongst members, for by August, work had commenced on the new Clubhouse.

The Committee was faced with the problem of providing the necessary fittings and furnishings, and the following extract from Minutes gives some idea of the expenditure in 1966:-

"The Secretary had ordered furniture from Kraft Products Ltd. to the value of £ 306. All the air heating equipment for the whole Club had been ordered, and with discounts the cost had totalled £ 159.17s.6d. Other electrical items had been ordered and the Secretary was able to obtain substantial discount on all items. Hotpoint Cooker: £ 31.19s.0d., Refrigerator: (6cu. ft.) £ 45.11s.9d., Swanage Setriconic Wall Clock: £ 6.8s.4d., Swan brand electric kettle (6 pint): £ 5.2s.6d., Goblin (Power) Vacuum Cleaner: £ 19.16s.7d. Also ordered was a boot scraper and cleaner and a ball cleaner from Pattisons."

The Secretary had been instructed to contact the Licensing Justices to ascertain whether notification was needed for the moving of the Club premises from one end of the golf course to the other.

It had been proposed and agreed that 2 Fruit Machines should be provided, one of the Mountain Climber type and the other a "one-armed-bandit." The Secretary would make the necessary arrangements.

There still remained a large number of items to be purchased, including a carpet for the lounge, curtains for the windows and screen, cutlery and crockery. Arrangements for all these were in hand and all would be available in time for the Opening, whenever this date had been decided.

Eventually, the Opening Ceremony was planned to take place on November 26th., and the Social Committee were required to make the necessary arrangements. Their recommendations were as follows:-

"That the Club should spend £ 10 on a simple buffet for this occasion. It was felt that the Captains and Secretaries of all the Golf Clubs in Somerset should be invited to attend, together with the President and Secretary of the Somerset Golf Union; the Mayor and Mayoress of Wells; the Town Clerk; the Chairman of the Rural District Council; Mr. Les Moulard; Mr. Terry Read of the Bristol Evening Post, and the Secretary should contact T.W.W., Report West and Points West to see if they were interested. These and all members of the Club should be invited to attend the Opening Evening commencing at 7.30 p.m. with the actual Opening Ceremony taking place somewhere between 8.30 and 9.00 p.m. The following proposal was made, that firstly, the President of the Club should welcome the guests, he to be followed by Mr. Pearce who would give a brief outline of the history of the Club leading up to the building of a new Clubhouse. The Captain to introduce the celebrity who would declare the Club open, and the Secretary to wind up by asking for wholehearted support from the membership in the use of the new premises. The Secretary had contacted Mr. Charles Laws of the Somerset Golf Union regarding a suitable person to open the new Clubhouse, and he was willing to assist in obtaining the right celebrity.

Looking further ahead, the Social Committee thought that it would be essential to run a bridge section and to arrange some Winter Film Shows of golfing interest. It was anticipated that occasional Saturday evening Dances would be held on the premises.

For Opening Night it was desirable for a bar extension to be obtained."

To celebrate the opening of the new clubhouse, a special exhibition match was arranged; Paul Hucker and Malcolm Hawkins against Les Moulant (the Wells Professional) and his son, Sid Moulant. Indeed a battle of the local giants! The winners were Paul and Malcolm. (Note: Mark Moulant, the current circuit Professional is the son of Sid Moulant.)

The problem of suitable dress for the Clubhouse was an immediate concern, and the Committee recommended that members be required to wear jackets and neck-wear in the Lounge after 7.00 p.m. They further recommended that members should be similarly dressed during the day, but was to be discretionary for those members who may be playing again. Ladies were not permitted to wear golf clothes in the Lounge after 7.00 p.m.

The first Steward for the new Clubhouse was Mr. E. Bates who took up his position on November 14th. Club members had taken great care to ensure that their new treasure was protected. Paul Hucker, Malcolm Hawkins together with Colin Church, actually slept in the Clubroom pending the arrival of the new Steward or the installation of the burglar alarm. Improvement in the facilities led to a substantial increase in insurance cover to almost £ 150. However, the new Clubhouse had generated greater interest as the membership details given at the December meeting clearly indicated.

The Secretary reported that the membership total as at the 12th. December 1966 was as follows:-

Total Membership	246
Ordinary Male	140
Ordinary Ladies	13
Joint	36
Junior	37
Country	9
Associate	2
Theological	1
Life	3
Honorary	2
Social	2
Non-playing	1

Arthur Packer was largely responsible for the building up of the Veterans' Section; the Seniors of today. He persuaded other clubs to take part in regular friendly matches and these were included in the annual fixture list. The Club team was also spreading the range of fixtures, and Sham Castle, Lansdown and Bristol and Clifton were included for the first time.

The memory of the frequent burglaries at the old Clubhouse led to the purchase of a two ton safe for the nominal sum of £ 1, plus a pint of beer for the delivery man! As they had managed to sell the old Clubhouse to the Stratton-on-the-Fosse Football Club for £ 75, they were well satisfied. In addition, the generator was purchased by a Clevedon Scout Troop for £ 12. Records do not indicate whether "Oatley's Adder" was included!

The service of the new Club Steward was very short-lived. Without notice, he disappeared, and the bar was manned by volunteers pending a new appointment. The Secretary had expressed his intention to track down the missing Mr. Bates with some urgency. Unpaid bills amounting to £ 45 had been generated by him.

One of the sadder moments in the Club's history came when Alec Oatley tendered his resignation. Described by many as "a genius with grass," his work for the Club had been selfless and enthusiastic. His letter was posted on the Club's noticeboard and the Secretary in writing the acknowledgment, invited Alec to be present at the A.G.M. to be held in May. Meanwhile the work in maintaining the course was taken on by Leslie Moulant who was helped by Arthur Laws and a number of working parties.

The tolerance and humour of the Committee was shown at the February meeting of 1967 when membership applications were being discussed. "The Secretary reported the case of a Miss. Higgs who had applied for Playing Membership. Miss. Higgs was a lady of 80 who had started playing golf in the last 2 years and was already a Playing Member of Mendip Golf Club and wished to join Wells Golf Club in order to be able to play with a friend of hers who was one of our members. The Secretary suggested that in this case she should not go on the waiting lists, as at 80 she had no time to wait, and it was ultimately agreed that her application be accepted."

There was a good response to the advertisement for a new Steward, and after careful investigation, a Mr. Stokes was appointed, his wife to assist him. They were able to take up the appointment in March 1967. To recognise the service Alec Oatley had given to the Club, a Testimonial Fund had been set up in order that a suitable presentation could be made to him at the A.G.M.

The year was one of many changes and development, including proposals for variations to the existing course.

A Professional's Shop was purchased from Edgells for £ 182.3s.0d. Measuring 16 ft. x 10 ft. it provided a significant improvement in the supply of equipment for members. Further expenditure was necessary for the purchase of a new tractor for £ 190; an allowance of £ 50 being made against the old one. Great plans for the development of the course were constantly being considered, including the planting of some 500 trees. Unfortunately, Committee members failed to agree on the siting, and in consequence they were never planted. Today's members might well have reason to be grateful for such indecision.

5. Social Committee Report. Given by Mr. Mike Carter, who stated that the 1965 Piccadilly film would be shown on Monday next. He has written to film suppliers for lists and asked for assistance in 'pushing' the Derby Draw. It is proposed to hold a Car Rally, details of which are still being investigated.
6. House Committee Report. Given by Mr. Malcolm Hawkins.
 - a) A complaint from the members that roller towels were not always available. It was stated by the Secretary that the machines were being misused but that there were always towels available.
 - b) Dirty clothes left all around the Locker Room. It was necessary to clean up the Locker Room which the House Committee would see to and in the meantime the Secretary agreed to suitably worded notices being displayed.
7. Development Committee Report. Given by Mr. Allan Pearce. He stated that a proposed new course plan had been given to him by Mr. Mowlant for comments. This had been discussed in detail in Sub-committee. The following were the propositions and the General Committee Comments.

<u>Hole.</u>	<u>Propositions.</u>	<u>Committee decision.</u>
1st.	Old 4th Green made into hazard.	Agreed.
2nd.	The new Tee extended to meet the present Tee.	Agreed.
3rd.	No Change.	N.A.
4th.	Site for new Tee and Green.	For further discussion.
5th.	Develop new site.	Agreed.
6th.	Proposed short hole.	For further discussion.
7th.	Working party to clear stones above Green.	Agreed.
8th.	Controlled dumping through the valley for the next few years.	Agreed.
9th.	Enlarge and improve Tee & Green.	Agreed.

Proposal for course changes.

The Club's prestige was enhanced by the performance of Paul Hucker who played superbly in the County Championship but unhappily finished in the runner-up spot.

(i)	Mens Ordinary Membership	10 guineas
	Ladies Ordinary Membership	8 "
	Joint Ordinary Membership	14 "
(ii)	Country Membership (Living within a radius of 15 - 30 miles from Wells)	
	Men	8 guineas
	Ladies	5 "
	Joint	12 "
	(Living outside a radius of 30 miles from Wells)	
	Men	6 guineas
	Ladies	4 guineas
(iii)	Five Day Membership with a maximum of 50 Members playing Monday to Friday only, not eligible for competitions but may use Club-house every day	
	Men	6 guineas
	Ladies	4 "
(iv)	Junior Membership	Subscription to remain unaltered.
	Entrance Fee to be increased to 3 guineas.	

Subscriptions - 1967

An advertisement was placed in the Golf Illustrated and the Western Daily Press for a full-time Greenkeeper at a salary of around £ 800. A Mr. Waskett was engaged as Professional, Greenkeeper and Steward; his wife to assist with catering, the existing Steward having been given one month's notice. This occurred in August of '67, but within 3 months the Club and the Wasketts' had parted company. With difficulty, the Club survived without a Steward and Greenkeeper until January of 1968. The great respect with which the Oatleys were held by the Club, led to their re-appointment.

The Committee had been concerned about the rising costs of electricity, for even after a determined effort to restrict usage, the bills for the flat seemed excessive. Meters were checked and found to be correct. However, it was later discovered that kitchen equipment had been wrongly wired to the flat meter! The Treasurer's report shows the level of concern.

Apart from the staffing problems, the year was a quiet one. Hucker again proved his ability, with a hole-in-one in the Somerset Colts' Championship, and also competed in the British Youth Championships. Committee meetings were held in Lloyds Bank at Glastonbury in preference to the Club changing rooms. (Presumably they were unable to use the main Club Bar area as members would be present).

The Treasurer informed the meeting that we should be over our overdraft limit of £350 at the end of the year. This was causing him some concern and he went through the accounts in detail. From this it became clear that our income had to be increased, otherwise expenditure on the course would have to be so cut down that the course would suffer. There were probably two areas where savings might be made in Club expenditure. One for towels, which was costing £60 a year, and electricity, £500 a year. All members of the Committee were asked whenever they saw any evidence of electricity being wasted, to do something about it. It looks unlikely that very much saving could be effected in any other area. There was a long discussion on ways and means of increasing income and the Secretary pointed out that there were, in fact, only three sources of increased income, (one) from increased subscriptions, (two) from an increased number of playing members, and (three) from increased use of the Clubhouse bar. The first was undesirable due to their having been increased in the last two years. The second was a limited source of additional income which meant that our main expectations must come from the use of the Clubhouse. The meeting agreed that with such functions as had been held the previous week, i.e. the Tramps Supper, that members might take to use the Clubhouse a bit more then. It was left with all members of the Committee to think about this problem and come up with some suggestions at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The A.G.M. of 1967 was delayed until the beginning of June, and was held in the new Clubhouse. Dr. Armin was re-elected as President and Arthur Packer and Leslie Laws continued in their roles as Captain and Secretary. Once again the level of subscriptions was the subject of much discussion but agreement was reached.

A number of difficulties arose during 1967, in particular the resignation of Les Moulard who had been the Professional and Greenkeeper. Leslie had been an excellent servant of Wells and his appointment as Professional at Mendip was well deserved. Sadly, within a short while he was to lose his life in a car accident.

Open Week produced a profit of £ 20.14s.0d., attracting some 227 entrants. This event was becoming well established, attracting members from many clubs in Somerset and Gloucestershire.

The Social Committee had been particularly active, with their main event being an anniversary dance to celebrate the opening of the new Clubhouse. The band cost the princely sum of £ 2.10s.0d., but good support was not forthcoming.

The Steward prior to the Wasketts' had created many problems, not least, the tale of the 36 chickens. Ordered by Bates, payment was not made. The vendors placed the matter in the hands of their solicitors, and in the words of our own solicitor Tim Pollard, at the time "the Club did not have a leg to stand on." Payment of the outstanding £ 17 was made.

Damage estimated at well over one hundred pounds was caused to the 5th. fairway and 4th. and 5th. greens by cows straying from a field belonging to Mr. Pointing. After 3 months of discussion, Pointing informed the Club that the cows in fact belonged to his brother, and correspondence should be sent to a different address. He further pointed out that cows were eating golf balls which had been driven onto his land. At that point the matter was dropped!

In April of 1968, the Somerset Colts played a match at Wells. Hawkins and Hucker combined to enter a team in the Western Daily Press League, now known as The Bristol and District Golf League. This involved the Club in 12 matches and was intended to replace the "A" Team fixtures, but members decided to continue with both teams. Shortly after the formation of the new team, Hawkins left to take up a position as Assistant Professional at Woking Golf Club.

The Annual General Meeting held in May of 1968 brought a Scot to the helm of the Club once again; Robert (Bob) Black, ex-professional footballer and competent golfer was made Captain and Dr. Armin re-elected as President.

The new Treasurer was Mr. Langley of Lloyds Bank, Glastonbury. Arthur Packer took over the task as Secretary from Leslie Laws.

The year was to be one of the most difficult in the Club's history. No fewer than 60 members resigned from the Club, and there was a general decline in interest and support from the remaining members. Mr. Crease, in presenting the report of the Social Committee, asked for help in raising members from "the apathetic state which they appear to be in".

WELLS (Somerset) GOLF CLUB LTD.

HON. TREASURER
L. Langley,
Lloyds Bank House,
WELLS.

HON. SECRETARY
Leslie Hill,
Cranhill Farmhouse,
Cranhill Road,
STREET.

Tel: Street 2573

EAST HORRINGTON ROAD, WELLS, Somerset.
Tel. 2782



£100 8% Debenture Shares

Dear

We have much pleasure to inform you that the Debenture share certificates are now ready for your application.

As you know it was proposed by your committee, last April, that the issue of debenture shares should be made available at £100 each, yielding 8% interest before tax.

We know it may be possible to invest at higher terms, but feel that with the Club's interest at heart, you will accept that this is a reasonable return for your support and enjoyment of better facilities and maintenance that can be had.

Enclosed is an application form, and we ask you to complete and return at an early date, before January 1st 1970.

Thanking you,

I remain, Yours sincerely,

Leslie Hill
Hon. Secretary

P.S. Your friends are welcome to purchase, if you let me have name and address I will send a form.

Debenture Share Issue

Lack of support was much in evidence when the Club decided to issue Debentures to the value of £ 10,000.

Although these were in units of £ 10, only 2 members expressed interest and the plan was scrapped. A plan to raise money by loans at 8% was substituted.

In 1969 Arthur Packer became the Club's President; the same year as he was made a Life Member. The honour of Life Membership was also awarded to Dr. Armin for the excellence of his work and interest in the Club's development. An engraved tankard was presented to him at the A.G.M. Trevor Holman was elected Club Captain.

There was an increase in subscriptions for 1969/70; men having to pay 12 guineas and the ladies 10 guineas. Joint membership was 17 guineas. For 5 day membership the cost of £ 8.8s.0d for men, and £ 6.6s.0d. for ladies was levied, and increases were also made for Junior membership. As an incentive to increase membership, the sum of £ 1.1s.0d. was offered to anyone attracting a new member. Green fees were increased to 15/- for weekdays and to 25/- for weekends and Bank Holidays. All these measures, coupled with a number of fund-raising activities, failed to lift the Club from the financial depression.

Members volunteered to man the bar during the Steward's time off; a Lottery raised £ 190 and a Premium Bond Draw £ 100. A Dance was planned for the end of Open Week, but all efforts to revitalise flagging interest and support were destined to fail. Troubles persisted, and it became necessary to ask the Stewardess to leave, and shortly afterwards, Alec Oatley was sacked. The latter decision leaving the Club without Steward, Greenkeeper or Professional resulted in a great deal of friction within the Club. Resignations were inevitable, and it was only through the determination of some Committee and other members that survival was possible. The Committee decided that an appointment would be made with reduced rates and new conditions of employment.

The services of Dennis Clements were offered to the Club as Professional, to teach and sell equipment. Although he agreed to waive his retainer, his offer was rejected by the Committee. Bob Black volunteered to give instruction and the Secretary sold equipment on behalf of the Club.

To overcome the problem of greens maintenance, Albert Clarke was given a year's contract on a self-employed basis, and later the Committee had a change of heart, engaging Clements as Professional. The post of Steward (and Stewardess) was difficult to fill and a number of changes took place.

Earlier in the year, the death had occurred of Bill Tucknott and his family presented the Tucknott Trophy in his memory. At the time, the format for the Trophy was a Four Ball Better Ball Bogey Easter Holiday competition.