



PAST CAPTAINS

(ONE HUNDRED & TWO)

1993 opened with a development in the long-running adventure of the by-pass. Fresh proposals were made by the Department of Transport, involving a newly designed junction. They were thought to involve taking more club land. Fortunately the borough council was opposed to the plan. Nevertheless, it was thought prudent to explore the possibility of trying to buy an additional 8.2 acres of land from Yew Tree Farm. The club was prepared to offer £36,000 for the land, an offer which was later raised to £49,000.

The winter of 1992/3 was the worst for thirty-five years. Despite this, the winter programme of course maintenance was completed. However, when the course was inspected in April by an STRI expert, it was found that the 7th, 8th and 9th greens were in poor health. The recommended treatment was an intense programme of hollow tining coupled with the felling of a number of trees around the 8th green. Consideration was given to the purchase of a verti-draining machine. Another possibility was the relaying of all three greens, but the cost of this was estimated to be around £45,000.

Running, maintaining and developing a golf club such as Stockport was becoming increasingly expensive. It had to be run on professional lines. Accordingly, a business plan was presented for 1993/4 by the newly-formed management board. It was proposed to raise subscriptions by 8%. There were warnings of increased costs from the proposed land purchase, non-recoverable costs of loss of land to the Department of Transport, the effects of corporation tax, loan repayments and the powerful bureaucratic requirements of Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, Health and Safety at Work and environmental legislation. The management board's proposals, involving a new memorandum and articles of association, were put to an EGM, prior to the AGM, on September 3rd 1993. The resolution failed to get the required majority for acceptance. Management of the club would, therefore, continue as before, under the chairmanship of the captain. The Finance Committee was re-formed, and

proposals were made to form Sub-Committees for budget, general purposes, the by-pass road impact, clubhouse development, visiting parties, and memberships and subscriptions. A further EGM was then required in order to effect full compliance with the original articles of association, in particular the reduction of the number of directors from thirteen to twelve, to re-appoint an honorary assistant secretary and also to make a new appointment of an honorary assistant treasurer. The meeting was called for October 1st and the Committee's proposals were accepted.

While this mini-drama was unfolding, another unfortunate episode in the succession of short-lived club professional appointments took place. As it transpired, le Brocq and Stockport Golf Club were mutually incompatible and le Brocq tendered his resignation only seven months after taking up his appointment. Another recruitment exercise had to be undertaken and this time Mike Peel was appointed. He had been an



THE GENTLEMEN OF STOCKPORT 1993

(ONE HUNDRED & THREE)

Assistant Professional at Swinton Park and Hazel Grove before being appointed as Professional at, first, Buxton and High Peak and, later, at Bury. For a number of years he played on the European Tour and had a highest finish of joint 17th in the French Open. Later he spent three seasons playing on the Senior Tour. Peel's notable achievements include, winning the North of England Assistants' title and both the Manchester and Derbyshire Championships. At the ages of 14 and 15 he also won the prestigious Carris Trophy for his age group.

As usual the proposed Hazel Grove by-pass maintained its prominent place in club business, but this time there was a degree of success for the club. In May 1993 it was reported that the Department of Transport had withdrawn its plans for a junction threatening the 1st green. Renewed protests from the club, supported by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, had been successful. The department agreed to review their plans, including the proposed High Lane/Disley by-pass which continued to threaten the 3rd green and 4th tee. By September 1993 the plans had been revised in such a way that the department would now require much less land from the club, perhaps 1½ acres.

Meanwhile, the owners of Yew Tree Farm indicated that their valuation of the land in which the club was interested was £60,000, substantially more than the £49,000 valuation the club put on the land. At this point, June 1993, it was agreed that such a sum was out of reach but that discussions should continue. *(It was decided in February 1994 not to proceed with this purchase.)* Plans for a major clubhouse redevelopment, costing between £300,000 and £400,000, had been drawn up by the management board, and it had been expected to put these before members at the EGM in September, but these were withdrawn following firm opposition from the ladies and concerns from several senior members. Income from green fees was falling, largely because of fewer weekend visitors. Membership numbers had fallen. There were now eighteen vacancies. Course and clubhouse projects

had to be postponed. And there was another potentially serious financial threat just around the corner. It was possible that corporation tax would be applied to green fees. This would cost the club around £12,000 per year. During 1993 the English Golf Union held discussions with HM Customs and Excise over VAT repayments to non-profit making sports clubs. Early in 1994 the club submitted data supporting a claim for repayment of VAT since 1990. Happily, the outcome was successful, £77,000 being received from Customs and Excise in August 1994 and a further £18,577 shortly after, representing interest.

Given the significant contribution to club finances made by visitors, and visiting parties in particular, a report on visiting parties was made. Among the recommendations accepted from it were: non-refundable deposits of £10 per player to be made two months in advance; the re-introduction of casual visitors on non-competition Sundays; Tuesdays and Fridays would no longer be available for society visits unless specifically approved by the Committee; jackets need not be worn in the dining room at lunchtime.



THE LADIES OF STOCKPORT 1993

As part of the winter programme of course maintenance both the 5th and 7th tees were relaid. Unfortunately, problems with subsistence on the 7th tee followed and remedial work had to be carried out in the spring of 1994, and it was not until June that the tee was reopened. There were continuing difficulties, too, with poor growth of grass where the North West Water Authority's pipe had been laid across the course on the 6th and 9th holes. The course designer, Dave Thomas, made another visit to Torkington to comment on plans for course alterations should the Department of Transport's latest scheme for the Hazel Grove by-pass be adopted. For the first time all the fairways were verti-drained, and the fence along the Offerton Road was replaced by a hawthorn hedge.

Old photographs of members gathered in the clubhouse show most of the men to be smoking. Indeed, for many years there was a smoke room in the clubhouse. Attitudes to smoking had changed by February 1994 for the question was raised of banning smoking in the dining room. On this occasion no decision was reached, but the subject reappeared in July when two ceiling fans were installed in the dining room and members were requested not to smoke. A notice was put up banning smoking, but it was soon re-written merely requesting, not banning, smoking. Another sign of the times was the need to prepare a health and safety at work dossier covering all aspects of the club's activities, followed by appropriate staff training.

In April 1994 the Membership Sub-Committee made a number of recommendations concerning subscriptions. It was suggested that the differential between ladies' and men's subscriptions should be changed from the current 51% to 65%. If the claim for VAT repayment was successful it was thought that it might be possible to lower subscriptions, but it was felt that it would be wiser for the club to retain the money for future course and clubhouse major expenditure. A meeting of members concurred with this view. Subsequently the Committee agreed that while subscriptions should remain unchanged for 1994/5, with no VAT benefit they would need to be increased by 14.2% in order to compensate for this. Happily, as has been seen, this proved to be unnecessary. At an EGM held in June, new articles of association and bye-laws were approved, as was the granting of an honorarium to the honorary secretary. A new category of member was also approved.

AGM 5th Sept 2003

DAVID KENNEDY SPENT THREE YEARS TRAINING TO SAIL 30,000 MILES AROUND THE WORLD ON A STEEL YACHT. THERE WERE SIXTEEN IDENTICAL YACHTS MAKING THE TRIP (WHICH TOOK EIGHT MONTHS), SAILING THE 'WRONG WAY' (EAST TO WEST) AROUND THE GLOBE.

Social members would be charged an annual subscription of £30, largely to avoid infringement of the licensing laws.

At last it was decided to seek planning permission for two separate phases of clubhouse development. The first was to construct a new administrative office beside the

ladies' entrance which would allow the office area in the Steward's bungalow to be incorporated in his living accommodation and to upgrade the ladies' toilet facilities. This was estimated to cost in the region of £120,000 and work would begin in November. Phase two was estimated to cost around £200,000. Further expenditure would be required on the course, with a new irrigation system urgently needed, at a cost of almost £27,000. The STRI inspector also recommended reconstructing the 7th and 8th greens, as had been suggested before. But this was deferred. In September 1994 the incoming Captain, Don Bennett, announced the formation of a working party to raise funds for the forthcoming clubhouse redevelopment. Although cash in hand stood at £80,000, largely due to the VAT refund, the total refurbishment project would require £320,000. New legislation reduced recoverable VAT by £3,000 in the first quarter of the year.

On the course it was decided that the winter 1994/5 programme of maintenance would include a reconstruction of ten bunkers. In addition several bunkers were to be filled in: the dog-leg bunker on the 12th, the bunker on the edge of the copse on the 14th, and the bunker 150 yards short of the 17th green. A code of conduct for greens staff was also introduced. Earlier in the year a computer had been given to the club, a gift from Don Bennett, then the Vice-Captain, which enabled members to enter their own scores in competitions. Analysis of 1,200 individual competition records revealed that the most difficult holes were the 1st, 3rd, 10th and 8th, while the easiest were the 6th, 17th, 18th and 9th.

Although planning permission was granted by the borough for both phases of the clubhouse refurbishment, when the Development Sub-Committee examined the projects more thoroughly it was found that the initial estimates were well short of the actual costs. Phase 1 would now cost £196,000 (an increase of £76,000) and the complete project was now estimated to cost £467,000. The Committee felt that with a combination of bank borrowing, the existing surplus, and increase in subscriptions and special golf events, phase 1 could still be funded. Phase 2, however,

would have to be postponed and approached more carefully. Tenders from six potential contractors for phase 1 were obtained, ranging from £155,000 to £252,000. Cost reduction meetings were held with the contractor with the lowest tender and a final figure of £124,422.56 plus VAT was arrived at, somewhat closer to the original estimate. A contingency of £4,500 was added and work began on November 22nd. Discussions on phase 2 continued in an attempt to lower the sum required to something nearer the first estimate. For this reason it was decided not to renew lockers.

In August 1994 the men's silver trophies were valued at £14,000. Two months later thieves were disturbed trying to break in to the clubhouse. The alarms had not been triggered, yet they were found to be in working order. It was decided, then, to fit further devices to the men's and women's trophy cabinets.

Also in August, news was received that the house adjoining the 1st fairway might become available for sale. Lady Gregson enquired if the club might be interested in purchasing it. She pointed out that the garden and cellar were occasionally flooded by excess water draining off the golf course. Nor was she the only one with flooding problems. There was a leak into the mixed lounge in the clubhouse, and no one had discovered where the water was coming from. So a metal tray, drained externally, was fitted over the entire area, and everything hidden behind a false ceiling.

Course irrigation was completed by November, and the cost was reduced by £3,000 when a member generously donated a quantity of electric cable. The greens staff were now all trained in the use of chain saws, a legal requirement. Their winter programme included alterations to the bunkers on the 16th hole. They were to be lowered by some eighteen inches and re-contoured. There were still problems with the grass where water pipes had been laid across the 9th hole. A meeting was arranged with North West Water Authority to consider their remedial work. Greens staff had discovered a series of unconnected drain pipes just below the surface. Further trimming of trees around the 8th green was agreed, to assist air circulation and the health of the green. Recognition of the good work being done by the greens staff

came when Paul Pearse was voted Greenkeeper of the Year for the North of England.

With work under way with phase 1 of the clubhouse developments, a financial year end forecast of a possible loss of £115,400 was predicted. Concern was expressed over the unknown effect of corporation tax on non-member income. It was feared that there would be a substantial increase in water rates following the installation of irrigation, and there were doubts that sufficient money had been set aside for the maintenance of and repairs to machinery. However, the architects, Fairhurst's, discussed with the phase 1 contractor the possibility of running phase 2 concurrently. It emerged that a saving of £50,000 could be made this way. There would be eight weeks of considerable discomfort with neither kitchens, dining room nor toilets. But the total cost of the project would now be £354,000. Discussions were still taking

place to try to finance the improvements and it was noted that there was a need to share the issues with the whole membership. It was possible that the club might be able to claim an extra £10,000 in disallowed VAT for the period from 1990 to March 1994. The club's VAT advisors were considering a test appeal, with the club contributing £500 to the costs.

Phase 1 was progressing on schedule, due for completion on March 31st 1995. But there was concern among some members that the costs were too high. They were now predicted to reach a final total of £165,780 including VAT. Plans for phase 2 were, therefore, revised. Two options emerged. The first was to provide a new 2-storey entrance for ladies and men from the current ladies' entrance and to create a new single-storey kitchen and an extension for the dining room. This was estimated to cost £150,000 plus VAT. The cheaper option was to replace the kitchen only at a cost of £100,000 plus VAT. Both these costings assumed an immediate start on the work. Several Committee members expressed reservations about going ahead so quickly and the decision was delayed for a few days to allow time for reflection. An overdraft arrangement of £80,000 was arranged with the bank in March to cover the anticipated shortfall over the next two months. The bank agreed not to register a legal charge over the land, as would have been normal, considering the short-term nature of the facility.

The Department of Transport was succeeded by the Highways Agency, in as much as it had any bearing on the club. In January 1995 the agency announced that revised compulsory orders would be served in the spring. These would be for land behind the 1st green and to the right of the 1st fairway near the lay-by on Offerton Road. This turned out to be the wettest January for fifty years, yet the course was only closed for a single day. In March, white plastic 150-yard distance markers were to be placed in the fairways, their distance being measured precisely by laser, at the same time removing the old green metal posts. Interestingly, the green posts are now back in position since, while the white discs could be seen from outer space by satellite cameras, they were not visible to players on the fairway! A health and safety handbook was compiled for greens operations.

Phase 1 was completed on time, apart from a little painting, and the final cost was

£130,000. The overdraft stood at just under £10,000 but it was forecast that the year would end with a surplus of £12,000. However, it was expected that a similar overdraft would be required at the same time in the following financial year as it was proposed to repay members' loans. The work done so far was well received, particularly by the ladies, whose locker room facilities were much improved. New showers and lavatories had been constructed for the men, the old ones being boarded up before being converted into a visitors' changing room. Unfortunately when the new showers were brought into use, there was insufficient water pressure for them to work adequately and the old showers had quickly to be re-opened. Water pressure has remained a problem ever since. For their part, North West Water Authority agreed to pay for repairs to the damage caused to the course when laying pipes across the 6th and 9th holes several years previously.

The Hazel Grove by-pass surfaced once again in May 1995. This time it was announced that the public enquiry into it was being postponed until the end of the year, with a further four months before recommendations would be published. In fact no decision was made until March 1997.

With phase 1 complete, thought was given to the funding of phase 2, but it was felt that it would be better to refurbish those areas immediately around the phase 1 work. Redecoration, new carpeting, attention to the lockers and lighting were the priority. Members were asked about the demand for lockers and their opinions sought about phase 2 proposals. As predicted, it was agreed to repay all outstanding members' loans (amounting to £18,000). An Am-Am tournament in aid of the development fund raised a sum of £3,000.

As noted in years past, Stockport Golf Club has been very successful at managing debt. By June 1995 the overdraft had climbed to a peak of £28,850, yet in July it was possible to report a club surplus for the year of

£49,994. The greater concern at this time seemed to be the fact that the water pressure was inadequate to supply the showers. A test showed that there was a 12% reduction in pressure and a 53% reduction in flow. It was

thought that the likely cause was a blockage. A new water main from the club entrance to the hydrant connection was commissioned at a cost of £2,300. The design engineers accepted full responsibility should a larger tank be required. In July it was reported that the new water main had achieved the objective.

Joe Montague retired as Bar Steward in August 1995. The warmth of feeling towards him felt by members was reflected in the generous collection made for his retirement. He was also awarded full membership of the club.

Confusion arose among members concerning the new category of

social member. Some felt that social members should be allowed to play an occasional round of golf on the course. It fell to the Committee to make it clear that only playing members of the club were entitled to play golf on the course. This was later amended to give the secretary discretion to allow occasional rounds to be played by a social member after payment of an appropriate fee. It was also agreed that there should be no pressure for non-playing wives to become social members!

Running the club had become ever more complex in recent years and when the new Committee took office in

March 95 Problems
THE STEWARD REPORTED THE LOSS OF 56 PACKETS OF CIGARETTES FROM THE SPIKE BAR OVER THE PAST 6 WEEKS. THERE WAS A NEED TO KEEP THEM UNDER LOCK AND KEY. THE STEWARD ALSO REPORTED THAT THE HONESTY BOX FOR THE COFFEE MACHINE DID NOT CONTAIN ENOUGH TO COVER THE COST OF THE DRINKS CONSUMED. A NOTICE WAS DISPLAYED TO REMIND MEMBERS OF THE CHARGES.



January 1996
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SKY TV CANCELLED FOLLOWING AN INCREASE IN MONTHLY RENTAL FROM £15 TO £50!

The Piano
UNUSUALLY, BUT BY NO MEANS UNIQUELY, THE CLUB PURCHASED A GRAND PIANO IN NOVEMBER 1917 FOR £25. IT WAS FINISHED IN BLACK AND WAS PLAYED BY MEMBERS AND GUESTS ALIKE. IN THE 1950s IT WAS COMPLETELY RESTORED INCLUDING THE STRIPPING AND POLISHING OF THE WOOD. THIS WAS ONE OF SEVERAL RENOVATIONS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY FRANK OXLEY. HOWEVER, IN 1993 THE PIANO WAS JUDGED TO BE BEYOND FURTHER RESTORATION. IT WAS SOLD AND REMOVED FROM THE CLUBHOUSE. MEMBERS WERE SO UPSET BY THIS DECISION THAT A GROUP COMBINED TO BUY A REPLACEMENT. IT ARRIVED IN 1995 AND, ONCE AGAIN, MUSIC CAN BE ENJOYED IN THE MEN'S LOUNGE.

September 1995, they were given a 'teach in' on the new style financial report introduced by the treasurer. They were also given an introduction to the management of budgets and the 5-year plan. One of their first acts was to deal with a matter raised at the recent AGM, a request for air conditioning in the clubhouse. With regret, they were unable to find the funds to install it. They also discovered that problems with poor water pressure in the men's locker room had not gone away, despite the new main. It was also noted that visiting parties were taking up to four weeks to settle their account after their visit. The Committee therefore decided that only 7 days would be allowed for full settlement. None the less, over £124,000 was held in the club bank account in October.

Vandals caused minor damage to the 12th green and stole two benches from the course. A member, who happened to be a community policeman, offered to patrol the course. His offer was accepted gratefully. It is not recorded whether he patrolled carrying his golf clubs!

Another member generously provided a set of steps to enable a full view of the 9th fairway from the teeing area.

While discussions continued with the water authority about poor pressure in the clubhouse, the authority restricted the use of water for the sprinkler system and banned the use of water for the hosing down of machinery. This was introduced because of a shortage of water. The authority replaced corroded piping and a valve in the mains supply, but there was no discernible improvement felt in the showers. It was time for discussions with the phase 1 architects. The club also decided to investigate the cost of drilling its own bore hole to secure future water supplies.

Visitors continued to be a valuable source of revenue for the club, and they clearly enjoyed their time at the club, for no fewer than 57 visiting parties were accepted for 1996. Some of these were quite substantial parties and the ladies sought clarification of the policy regarding the use of their lounge for dining on such occasions. It was explained that this room would only be used when the numbers in a visiting party exceeded 60 or when a smaller visiting group requested separate dining facilities.



26 August 1997
 THE REQUEST OF N J LILLEY TO HUNT RABBITS WITH HIS HARRIS HAWK WAS REFUSED.

Despite the apparently healthy state of the club's bank account, when the Committee met in December 1995 it was decided that phase 2 of the clubhouse redevelopment scheme should be set aside for the foreseeable future. There was concern over the remedial work still required after phase 1. In addition, a list of desired projects to refurbish existing assets and to better utilise the space freed up by phase 1 was to be prepared.

That winter's course maintenance programme included further bunker renovation. This time it was intended to work on the bunkers on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 11th holes. It was agreed that their existing profiles should be retained. Fusarium had once again appeared on a number of greens, but appropriate treatment was feasible during the winter.

Following the long-term postponement of phase 2, a list of fourteen possible projects was drawn up for discussion. After debate it was recommended that priority should be given to:

- converting the old showers and changing room into a new snooker room, at a cost of £4,500;

- refurbishing the club room following the removal of the snooker table;

- at the recommendation of the architects, an independent engineer should be appointed to investigate the continuing problems with the water supply to the men's showers.

It was also agreed that a fixed price of £8,875 should be accepted for the sinking of a bore hole, the contractor being responsible for consultation with the National Rivers Authority. This would provide up to 10,000 cubic metres of water at a greatly reduced cost. There was some concern from Miss Platt, sister of the farmer living beside the 4th fairway, who expressed concern that a bore hole might lower the water table and affect the water level in the moat at the farmhouse which was protected by a preservation order. The contractor and National Rivers Authority undertook to monitor the situation. As it happens, in April the water authority relaxed its ban on the irrigation of sports grounds. Consideration was given to the installation of a tee irrigation system at £20,000 but this was deferred for the time being. However it was agreed to replace all the tee markers, at a cost of £4,570. Open competitions

held during the year had contributed substantially to the development fund. Subscriptions would be raised by 2.6% and consideration was given to the possibility of members being able to pay their annual dues in instalments. Financial prudence was paying off. In 1996 the financial year ended with a surplus of £31,500 and, contrary to first projections, it had not been necessary to utilise the overdraft facility, with all members' loans repaid.

Not everything concerned with the phase 1 development was satisfactory, but by August 1996 the club room and snooker room were in use. Bar takings showed an immediate upturn. It was then decided that it was time to refurbish the mixed lounge, and a budget of £14,000 was agreed. There were also to be minor improvements to the overflow car park in an attempt to improve the appearance of the drive and car park areas.

It was in March 1997 that news was received from the Highways Agency concerning the Hazel Grove by-pass. After many years of uncertainty, the club learned that the High Lane/Disley by-pass had been cancelled and the A6 by-pass was to be reduced considerably in size. This moved the proposed roundabout away from the 1st green and 2nd tee to a site on the far side of the electric pylon. The course would, after all, remain intact and pretty well the same as it was when Herd and Barrie first laid it out. To end the uncertainty, the club suggested to the Highways Agency that they should buy what club land they now needed and pay for suitable landscaping to the remaining land on the club's border. The agency did not take up this proposal.

This good news was offset by a potential crisis. The club's drinks licence was due for renewal in May and it appeared that unless all members became equal voting members, the licence would not be renewed. The solution was remarkably simple. It was decided to change the type of licence the club had for the sale of alcohol; this could be done without the need to change the club's articles.

Once again in 1997 it was agreed that only a small increase in subscriptions (2.5%) would be necessary. Yet the business plans for running the club indicated just what a costly affair it is. That for running the house for 1997/8 was £171,000, which included the mixed lounge refurbishment and alterations to the spike bar. The greens were allocated a budget of £159,000. At the year end another surplus was recorded, this time of £36,000. In the clubhouse it was decided to relax dress rules in the mixed lounge after 7pm except on Saturdays and when formal club functions were taking place. The ladies were given permission to use the men's lounge on their open day. They were also given an extra half-hour of playing time on Ladies' Competition Days.

June 1997 brought an invitation from the Royal and Ancient to host a regional qualifying competition for the 1998 Open Championship. If it were successful it would continue for a further five years. The Committee immediately established an Open Qualifying Committee with powers to co-opt others as required. A new and significant phase in the long history of top class competitive golf at Stockport was about to begin.

AGM 5th Sept 2003
 THE TURNER FAMILY,
 FATHER HAROLD, MOTHER JEAN,
 SONS DAVID AND PAUL AND
 DAUGHTERS VICTORIA AND RUTH
 WERE ALL HIGH ACHIEVERS
 ON THE GOLF COURSE AND AT ONE
 STAGE THE COMBINED
 HANDICAPS OF ALL SIX
 TURNERS WAS 161

CONVERSATIONS WITH
 TENANT FARMER SUTTON
 OF YEW TREE FARM
 REMINIScing ABOUT THE
 WAR YEARS WITH SENIOR
 MEMBERS SAM CALLAGHAM
 AND BILL EVANS.

In 1933
 FARMER JACK SUTTON REMEMBERED FROM HIS BOYHOOD THE DAYS WHEN MEMBERS WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE CLUB FROM THE BULL'S HEAD IN HAZEL GROVE BY HORSE AND TRAP UNTIL AN ENTERPRISING TAXI DRIVER, TOM THATCHER, PROVIDED A SOMEWHAT QUICKER SERVICE. THE HORSE, CALLED BOB, WAS KEPT IN THE HOLLOW OPPOSITE THE HOUSE ALONGSIDE THE 1ST HOLE, AND IT WAS ALSO USED FOR CUTTING THE FAIRWAYS PULLING GANG MOWERS, WITH SUTTON IN CHARGE OF THE BEAST. EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, THE HORSE LOST THIS JOB WHEN IT WAS REPLACED BY A MORRIS OXFORD SALOON CAR FITTED WITH IRON WHEELS WITH SPIKES. SUTTON WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN PLOUGHING UP SOME 35-40 ACRES ON THE 1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH HOLES DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. IT SEEMS THAT MEMBERS WERE VERY UNHAPPY WHEN THE CULTIVATION EXTENDED TO THE FAIRWAYS. INITIALLY ONLY THE SEMI-ROUGH AND ROUGH WERE PLOUGHED UP, THERE WERE, OF COURSE, NO TREES ON THE COURSE AT THIS TIME. HE RECALLED THAT THE POND AT THE 5TH HOLE WAS THEN KNOWN AS THE LILY POND. SOON AFTER JACK SUTTON DIED, HIS SON, GEOFF, A POPULAR MEMBER OF THE CLUB FOR MANY YEARS, EMIGRATED WITH HIS FAMILY TO AUSTRALIA IN 2003.