

External Honours & Course Records

The Honours Boards adorning the walls of the clubhouse record the achievements of members in club competitions throughout the life of the club. But Stockport members have also achieved notable success in open competition away from the club which is recorded below.

Sidney Potter Captain 1921

Sidney Potter won the Ashton Trophy at St Annes Old Links in July 1920. The Stockport Committee refused to have the trophy displayed in the clubhouse because they feared for its security. However, following an appeal from members, they changed their mind. Some measure of the ability of Potter as a player can be imagined from the fact that in November 1920 Potter and Rex Crummack beat the Professionals, Abe Mitchell and George Duncan (the reigning Open Champion), in a 4-ball better-ball competition. Potter also won the 1922 Balfour Challenge Cup at Timperley, the 1927 Manchester and District Amateur Championship at Wilmslow and the 1927 Victors Trophy at Royal St David's. As mentioned on page 33 Potter teamed up with fellow Stockport member, Israel Sidebottom, to defeat Gene Sarazen 3 & 2 in the famous match against the American Ryder Cup team.



A REPLICA OF THE ASHTON TROPHY WON BY SIDNEY POTTER IN 1920 WHEN PLAYING OFF SCRATCH HE RECORDED ROUNDS OF 75 & 76

Israel Sidebottom

Israel Sidebottom, then a member of Disley, took part in the exhibition match that followed the opening of the pavilion at Davenport in July 1906. Although he played to a handicap of +7 he remained an amateur; it has been suggested that he won more in side bets than he ever could have won as a professional! He joined Stockport and his style was idiosyncratic, so much so that he attracted the attention of the Daily Mail cartoonist when he played in the 1926 English Amateur Championship. It seems that on addressing the ball he took an inordinate number of wiggles before starting his backswing. He was, however, a very quick player. It is said that he once played and won an 18-hole competition at Disley before cycling to Stockport to play in a 36-hole competition later in the day. He won that, too! He won the 1923 Cheshire Championship which was being held for the first time at Stockport, and he was runner up in 1921, 1926 and 1927. Sidebottom subsequently donated a trophy to

the Cheshire Union and that trophy, now known as the Sidebottom Trophy, is presented to the runner-up in the Cheshire Championship. Also in 1923, Sidebottom won the Midland Counties Golf Association Championship at Castle Bromwich and he teamed up with Sidney Potter to win the Cheshire County Foursomes Championship. 1926 was another bumper year for Sidebottom, winning that year's Manchester Championship and, with Mrs PV White, the GS Lancashire Trophy. He was also a beaten semi-finalist in the English Close Amateur Championship on 2 occasions and went on to be Captain at Disley G.C. in 1939 and serve on Committee for 38 years.



William Ashbrook Captain 1927

Another who carried the club's name proudly into important amateur competitions during the 1920s was William Ashbrook. In 1922 he won the Harlech Gold Medal for the best scratch scores at the Easter and Summer Meetings at Royal St David's. The following year he and Miss Wallwork won the GS Lancashire Trophy at the Manchester Golf Club. He had more success on Welsh soil in 1925 when he won the Aberdare Cup in the Welsh Open at Rhyl (which was then a full championship 18-hole course). With his wife he won the 1926 Open Mixed Foursomes at Royal St David's, and in the same year he was runner up in the Ashton Trophy at St Annes Old Links.

(ONE HUNDRED & FORTY SEVEN)

Rodney Gorton

Rodney Gorton has represented Cheshire over a 40-year period at colt, county and senior level. He is the winner of eight scratch gold medals at the club and in 1967 he broke the course record with a 65, which he equalled in 1970. In the previous year, 1969, he lost at the 37th hole in the final of the French Amateur Championship. Also that year he won the Reddish Vale Trophy with scores of 67 and 64, and that 64 remains the course record to this day. In 1970 he led the qualifiers for the Brabazon Trophy at Little Aston with a score of 69.

Elisabeth Wilson

The club Honours Boards show that Elisabeth Wilson has won the Ladies' Scratch Gold Medal no fewer than 21 times. She has played in the Cheshire Ladies Team over a 24-year timespan (1970-1994), being County Captain in 1991 and has played for Cheshire Ladies on a record number of occasions. In 1974 and 1984 she reached the national finals of the Daily Mail Foursomes with her mother, Marie Allison, as her partner. She was Cheshire Champion at Wilmslow in 1975 and runner up in 1971, 1979, 1980 and 1982. Partnered by Julia Hill, she won the 1984 Northern Foursomes. She also won the Manchester and District Challenge Cup in 1982 at North Manchester. Further success for Liz came when she won the Lloyd Jones Scratch Challenge Cup in 1973 at Hazel Grove, 1981 at Wilmslow, 1982 at North Manchester and 1990 at Stockport. She also won the Comboy Scratch Trophy at Sandiway in 1982.



ELISABETH WITH THE CHESHIRE CHAMPIONS' TROPHY IN 1975

