

WELLINGBOROUGH GOLF



Club Magazine

JANUARY 2018

125 Years & Counting Anniversary is just over the horizon

Good Evans:
Interview with our
European Tour star



Inside:

- New Club Captains
- Full review of 2017
- Journey back in time

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Let's hope Club's 125th year goes with a bang

I HOPE everyone had a great Christmas and are looking forward to a wonderful New Year.

It's our 125th celebration year in 2018, and we've done an awful lot of planning in the last 12 months.

We kept it quiet because we didn't really want to get in the way of the last Captain's year. But now let's bring it on, go and enjoy it.

The new directory was delivered at the AGM and is in the Clubhouse, so everyone knows the plans for 2018 and what we are looking to do.

We are holding a 'Celebration Week' in late June, and another highlight is an event to coincide with our incorporation on November 3rd.

With the lack of daylight, and since it is the closest Saturday to Bonfire Night, we are going to hold a fireworks display around 4.30pm as a finale. People can then go off and do their own private things in the evening.

I think its quite interesting and appropriate, with the association that Guy Fawkes has with Harrowden Hall - out with a bang, I suppose!

We also have the transition to the new course, which all comes to fruition in the spring.

We would like the members, and their guests, to be mindful and diligent out there.

The bunkers and soft surrounds need to be looked after, so we can all enjoy a wonderful course in the summer.

2018 Club Captain,
Martin Wall.



Tap-Ins

GERARD Bristow, Terry Wilson and Jim Boughton were the trio to beat in the Seniors Christmas Scramble as they shot the leading score of net 67.5. Hash Shah, Kevin Henman and Stephen Maycock finished in the runners-up spot.

PLENTY of tasty treats are expected on the Seaside Theme Night at Harrowden Hall on Saturday, January 13th. To avoid missing out, please book with Catering asap by calling 01933 677234, extension 3.

MEMBERS who received some spending money for Christmas might like to get a special Club tie to celebrate our 125th anniversary. At just £12, they can be purchased from behind the Bar.

NICK Palmer, Liz Palmer, John Gower, Janet Gower, Liz Waine and Graham Thompson won the December Mixed Team Event with 62 points.

A CHOICE of two or three courses will be available in the Fine Dining Evening as members and guests get the chance to eat and drink the best Wellingborough Golf Club can offer on Friday, January 19th. Please book with Catering.

MEGHAN MacLaren (pictured on cover) saw her hopes of winning the 2017 LET Rookie of the Year title come to an end in the final event of the season as she finished out of contention in the Omega Dubai Ladies Classic.

WELLINGBOROUGH golf course will be the home venue for the county men's first team in 2018 as they face Bedfordshire and Warwickshire in friendlies, before playing Leicestershire, Norfolk and Suffolk in the Anglian League.

THINK you're clever, do you? Why not prove it by taking part in the first Quiz Night of the new year on Friday, January 26th.

TO commemorate the Club's 125th anniversary, we are giving every member an antique bronze bag tag with embossed leather year strap. Members need to collect their bag tag from the Club Office.

WITH pages to fill in the Wellingborough Club Magazine, there are plenty of opportunities to advertise during the coming year. Please contact the Office to get your message across to the members and visitors in 2018.

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Back in the **big time** for 2018

WELLINGBOROUGH Golf Club will be represented on the 2018 Men's European Tour after club pro Ryan Evans secured his card by finishing eighth on the 2017 Challenge Tour Order of Merit. Wellingborough Golf Club Magazine chatted with Evans about his year, and looked ahead to the new season.

How do you reflect on the 2017 Challenge Tour?

I went to the US for winter practice, and worked hard hitting balls for nine days. I wasn't well in Kenya and almost pulled out. But everything came together in Turkey, when I played almost faultless golf. I only hit one bad shot, I holed almost everything I looked at and when that happens you are going to be there or thereabouts.

How did winning the Turkish Open feel?

It was surprising, but wasn't surprising. I didn't expect to win the second event of the year. But when you see the highlights of the final round, there is no massive fist pump (pictured) - it wasn't until a few weeks later when it hit home.

Your results dropped off after then. Why?

I went out expecting to win again, but then, all of sudden, I started playing really badly. I finished 15th on a wide course in Portugal, but I hit a lot of bad shots and would have missed the cut if it hadn't been for my short game. But once I played on tighter courses, I couldn't get it round. I shot 84 in Scotland - on a 12-hour train journey home, I thought 'where has my game gone?'. It was a harsh and horrible feeling.

What turned it around?

My next event was in Sardinia. I'm glad it was there because it was quite open and I scraped the cut. I still finished one from last, but it was just a relief to make the cut.

How much difference did a new caddie make?

I was approached by Ryan Sander, who had just split with his player Joel Girschbach, who won earlier in the year in Switzerland. We worked together in France as a trial and we finished third, which came from nowhere. It was tight in places so I had to hit it well, which I did, I putted well, the short game was great and he was really good in getting me round. So we stayed together for the rest of the year.

Are you working with him again this season?

Yes, hopefully we will continue where we left off. We get on well, but I quite like the fact that we don't spend that much time together off the course - we both have different interests outside of golf.



...Interview continued on next page.

WGM: What do you take from playing on the 2016 European Tour?

Ryan Evans: I know what I have to do. Last time, I made a few swing changes ahead of the year in a bid to make myself really good and really solid, but I actually got worse. Everyone plays the game differently, no-one has the perfect golf swing, the perfect short game or the perfect putting stroke - it's all about scoring. I've worked hard on what I'm good at, and will play how I play this season.

How did you feel on Tour last time?

I was quite excited, but I was scared as well - I'd grown up watching this guys on TV, and suddenly I was in with them, asking the question 'should I be here?'. I was unsure of what I was getting in, and on occasions I wouldn't find out if I was playing in an event until the Monday beforehand, so I didn't have a solid schedule. I always play better when I have a run of four or five tournaments in a row. But, I couldn't seem to get into a flow.

Are you going to play in more events in 2018?

It's wrong to say I didn't have a good crack at it in 2016, because I had 21 events, but they were some of the smaller events, with a few exceptions. But now with a better category, I will get most of the Rolex Series, hopefully the British Masters because it would be great to play Wentworth and other good ones.

What positives do you draw on from 2016?

I had a good spell from the Scottish Open, when I got in very late but had a great draw (alongside Henrik Stenson and Martin Kaymer in round one and then Patrick Reed) and that spurred me on to play well in the Open, then to Thailand. I had a great result in the Czech, played well in Denmark, but by the end of the season I'd left myself too much to do. It would have been nice to get off to that hot start early and try to push on towards the end.

Wellingborough pro Ryan Evans:

"It's great to be back on the European Tour after a good year. I've earned the right to be there through the Challenge Tour. I just need to prove that I'm good enough to stay there.

"Wellingborough have been loyal to me, they have looked after me ever since I joined, and I am looking forward to representing the Club on the European Tour in 2018!"

What do you need to do to keep your card?

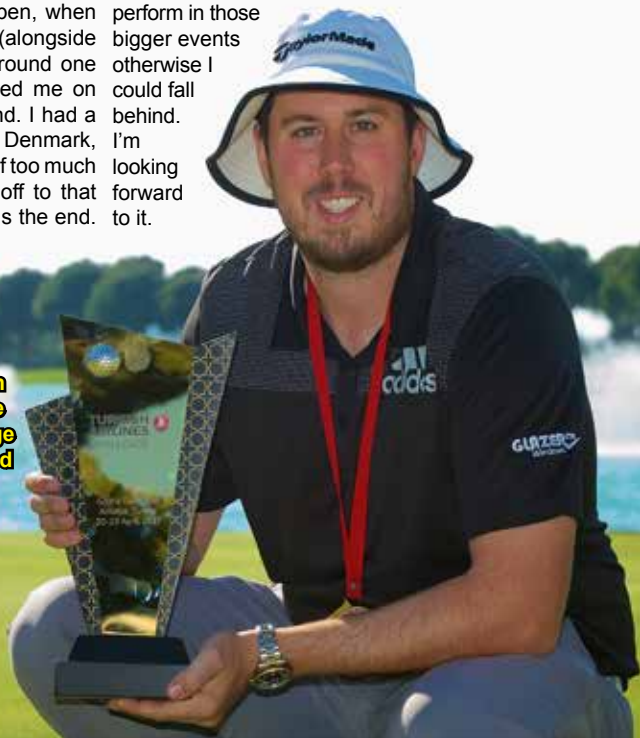
It's a Ryder Cup year, so players will be chasing Ryder Cup points - I'm hoping that doesn't backfire for me this year. There will be the occasional event I probably won't get into, like Dubai or Abu Dhabi, which I would love to play. The seventh person on the 2016 Challenge Tour Order of Merit played at Wentworth in 2017. I finished eighth, which was first reserve. But you never know with injuries.

What is your schedule?

I've entered everything, but if I get in some events I will not play others. For example, I played in Hong Kong and Australia, and I'm in the South Africa Open in January, but I probably won't get in Abu Dhabi, Dubai or Malaysia, so that's the rest of the month off. Then it's Perth, Oman, Qatar, South Africa again, India and the Philippines, which is almost six on the spin with one week off. Then around the Masters time I will get some time off, until it starts getting busy in May, with Wentworth (hopefully), Italy, Austria and then three Rolex Series events in France, Ireland and Scotland, which have the bigger prize funds.

How many events do you think you will play?

I think I will play around 27 competitions, but if I get into some of the bigger tournaments, I may have to sacrifice some events. To keep my card, I will need to get to £400,000, which sounds good, but it means I have to perform in those bigger events otherwise I could fall behind. I'm looking forward to it.



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January

ROGER Snelson and **Gill Snelson** lifted the **Kelly Bowls** after beating fellow husband and wife duo **David MacLaren** and **Mary MacLaren** by one point on **New Year's Day**.

February

ALAN Robinson enjoyed competing with a lighter bag in the **Seniors Three Clubs** and a **Putter** competition as he beat **Brian Summers** on **countback** with **38 points**.

March

CLUB professional Kyson Lloyd and **Priors Hall amateur Callum Farr** reached the last 16 of the prestigious **Sunningdale Foursomes**.

A couple of 12-handicappers compiled the joint-leading score of net 68 in the **March Medal** as **Chris Ludwig** edged out **Joshua Hawkins** on **countback**.

April

JAMES Brazier served notice of his potential in the **Junior April Medal** as he birdied the opening hole on his way to clinching the top prize with a net 67.

Ruth Bowe and **Pat Dawson** were successful in the **Ladies Australian Spoons** by two points from runners-up **Glenda Abbott** and **Pat White** and third-placed **Jenny Wilkinson** and **Liz Waine**.

David MacLaren beat the course by three holes to lift the **Miller Cup**. He nudged one ahead of in-form **Richard Munns**, who shot the best score in the opening **Friday Night Golf** competition a few weeks earlier.

May

COUNTBACK was needed in the **VE Cup** as **Martin Rose** grabbed the verdict from **Stephen West** and **Ian White** after all three posted the best round of net 68.

Both **Ellie Darnell** and **Carol Gibbs** had to settle for the runners-up prizes in the **Ladies County Championships** after they lost in their respective finals to **Claire Lindsay** and **Alison Irvine** (both **Northampton**) at **Northants County**.

Paul Leeson picked up the **Handley Cup** as his total of **40 points** kept him one ahead of **Paul Jackson**, **Dean Buckley** and **Tom Ray**.

Six points was the difference between first and second in the **Ladies Coronation Foursomes** as **Lorna Winfield** and **Geraldine Bunyan** finished clear of **Jenny Wilkinson** and **Carol Gibbs**.

Harris Chacksfield won the **May Bank Holiday Junior Stableford** by two points from **Junior Captain Sam Digby**.

June

ELLIE Darnell was crowned **County Girls Champion** for the first time after winning by four strokes at **Kettering**.

MARY MacLaren collected the **Ladies Gilbert Bowl** by one from **Diana Groves**, **Geraldine Bunyan** and **Glenda Abbott** thanks to a tally of **38 points**.

Forty one points was the leading score in the **Past Captains Trophy** as **Charlie Higgins** took the honours by two from **Richard Munns**.

Ian Marshall and **Roger Seamark** walked away with the gross and net prizes respectively in the **Seniors Medal Championships** after showing their consistency over **36 holes**.



July

TIM Coleman and Elliott West combined perfectly in the Family Foursomes event to triumph by two points.

Carol Gibbs was crowned Ladies Club Champion for the seventh time, with gross rounds of 79 and 83. Ida Huggins led the net scoring on 146.

Ryan Connolly birdied the first play-off hole to defeat Mark Davis in the Men's Club Championships after both men came in with the best 36-hole gross total of 148.

Andrew Bush clinched the Charles Griffiths Bowl, while Bob Lewis secured the Rabbits Cup.

Sue Butler was untouchable on Ladies Captain's Day as a magnificent total of 44 points earned all the plaudits.

Eleven gross pars were on the winning scorecard of Tom Ray in the Waples Plate junior event as he posted a tally of 40 points.

William Smith, Dereck Jewkes and Alan Perkins claimed the first, second and third prizes respectively on Captain's Day.

August

A SIGNED shirt from Ryder Cup players Lee Westwood and Matt Fitzpatrick was one of a selection of superb prizes in the Junior Open as almost 50 youngsters took part.

Eight strokes was the margin of victory for Tiger Adams in the Junior Club Championships after he posted a level par 72.

Steven Munns shot a round of net 66 to win the August Medal by two from high-handicappers William Smith and Stephen Roche.

The coveted Lee Dalton Trophy went to Mark Rashley and Adam Clifton with a score of net 66.

September

IAIN Campbell needed countback to get the better of Paul Sisman and Ian White in the Seniors Bogey competition after all three players beat the course by four holes.

Nick Clansey picked his team-mates well in the President's Cup as Kevin Henman, Loz Weekes and Neil Redding helped the Club Captain grab top spot with a total of 123 points.

Dominic Holden was a model of consistency over 36 holes in the George Cup as he grabbed the first prize.

October

WELLINGBOROUGH'S men won the Scratch League for the first time in 33 years after drawing 4-4 at defending champions Northants County. The team were unbeaten in their last six fixtures.

Yvonne Jolly and Jackie Banks needed to produce their very best to beat Amanda Rawson and Val Cooke on countback in the Ladies American Foursomes after both pairs came in with a fantastic score of 42 points.

November

THE prospect of becoming the new Seniors Captain for 2018 didn't affect the game of Graham Bayes as he won the Seniors AGM competition with 40 points. Richard Greenbank and David Birkett were next on 39.

December

AARON Tebbutt, Loz Weekes, Isaac Redding and Joe Giammalva were the team to beat in the Captain's Drive-In competition as they combined to shoot 87 points.





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**For more information,
please contact:**

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From Railway Carriage to Georgian Grandeur

WITH Wellingborough Golf Club celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2018, member David Wilson investigates all the significant changes that have occurred at the club over the last century and a quarter. In the first of 12 monthly articles, he looks at the golf courses over the years.

IN November 1893, a meeting was held which agreed to set up a golf club in Wellingborough.

Twenty nine men were there - a doctor, a dentist, schoolmasters, brewers, solicitors, a wine merchant and a clergyman.

Mrs. Thompson let them have three fields for golf at Nest Farm (now the Finedon Road Industrial Estate) for £2 a year.

Annual subscriptions were a guinea (£1.05) for men and 10s 6d (52½p) for ladies, with an entrance fee of 10s 6d. Juniors were encouraged with reduced fees.

The rules were drawn up at The Hind Hotel and Old Tom Morris was appointed course architect.

The first 18-hole competition for men was played on March 29th, 1894 with an entrance fee of 6d (2½p) and the prize was a golf club. Ladies played nine holes in the afternoon and members' handicaps ranged from 13 to 50.

Old Tom was pleased to see hazards like railway tracks, whins, hedges, briars and a dry ditch in play.

The facilities at the Nest Lane course were minimal; first a 'hovel' at the farm, then an old railway carriage and finally, in 1910, a 'pavilion' costing £150.

By 1922, the nine-hole course had become congested so members voted by 37 to 20 to move to a new three-field site at the old Wellingborough waterworks.

Nine holes were made with the intention of buying more land, called 'Bumphrey', which lay between the roads from Wellingborough to Sywell and Wellingborough to Hardwick.



Wellingborough Golf Club Company was formed to manage the fundraising and to plan the facilities needed on the new site, which was opened on November 22nd, 1923.

Twenty five years later, WGC bought the land. This 'Old Course' site can still be imagined by referring to the names of the roads that now cover it - Gleneagles, Wentworth, Cotton, and Jacklin.

In 1968, thanks to unrelenting negotiations, the Club sold the Old Course and bought land at Harrowden which was to become, in 1975, our present home.

An additional deal enabled WGC to buy Harrowden Hall itself from its owner Mr. Macdonald Buchanan to use as the clubhouse.

The course was re-designed to bring the first tee and 18th green to the end of the main garden. Now Wellingborough had 18 holes, magnificent gardens, a swimming pool, cottages, a machinery yard and a course that would become one of the finest in the Midlands.





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Ode to my Golf Club....

by 2018 Ladies Captain, Mary MacLaren

**A Captain, Your Captain, Oh, what have I done
Have you really made me the chosen one!
It seems eons ago when that question was first asked
But now it's here I hope I'm up to the task**

**First Chef in his kitchen keeps us all fed and watered
He's even managed to employ my daughter!
No peppers, half portions, no butter for me
Odd requests for poor Izzie and that's just at tea**

**Don's gardens are a wonder for all to behold
I wish mine was even half as nice, truth be told
While Steve and his team work wonders every day
Thank goodness for the angels and thanks V&A!**

**So what does this mean for your Captain to be?
A huge thank you for this wonderful opportunity
I will try my very best, which I hope will be enough
But please come and chat if your life's in the rough!**

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January 2018 fixtures

Date	Start/End	Event (1st tee, unless stated)
Mon 1st	8:00-13:00	Kelly Bowls
Tue 2nd	10:00-12:45	Ladies 14-hole Competition
Wed 3rd	8:30-11:45	Seniors January Competition
Sun 7th	8:15-13:15	Men's Competition
Tue 9th	10:00-12:45	Ladies 14-hole Competition
Sun 14th	10:50-13:00	Mixed Competition
Tue 16th	10:00-12:45	Ladies 14-hole Competition
Thu 18th	From 8:00	Midweek Yellow Tee Stableford
Sun 21st	8:15-13:15	Men's Competition
Tue 23rd	10:00-13:00	Ladies 14-hole Competition
Sun 28th	10:50-13:00	Mixed Competition
Tue 30th	10:00-13:00	Ladies 14-hole Competition



Bar Hours

Monday	11:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday	11:00am - 10:00pm
Wednesday	11:00am - 11:00pm
Thursday*	11:00am - 10:00pm
Friday	11:00am - 7:00pm
Saturday	11:00am - 11:00pm
Sunday	11:00am - 6:30pm



Catering Hours

Monday	10:00am - 4:30pm
Tuesday	10:00am - 5:00pm
Wednesday	10:00am - 5:00pm
Thursday	10:00am - 5:00pm
Friday	10:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday	9:00am - 5:30pm
Sunday	Filled rolls available



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