


WELLINGBOROUGH GOLF



Club Magazine

NOVEMBER 2020

A large group of approximately 15 people, including men and women of various ages, are posed together on a golf course. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. Some are wearing golf attire like polo shirts, caps, and gloves. One woman in the foreground is wearing a white sleeveless polo shirt, and another is wearing a blue and white striped polo shirt with a blue Under Armour cap. The background shows lush green trees and a clear sky.

Keep Smiling
We'll get through
this together

www.wellingboroughgolfclub.com

Club statement on new Coronavirus Lockdown

WELLINGBOROUGH Golf Club will close for one month from Thursday, November 5th, as we move in line with the Government's new England Lockdown Policy to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

We are currently working through our contingency plans, but unless there is a change in status for the golf industry, we will not re-open until Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020.

Please read carefully Wellingborough Golf Club's current position:

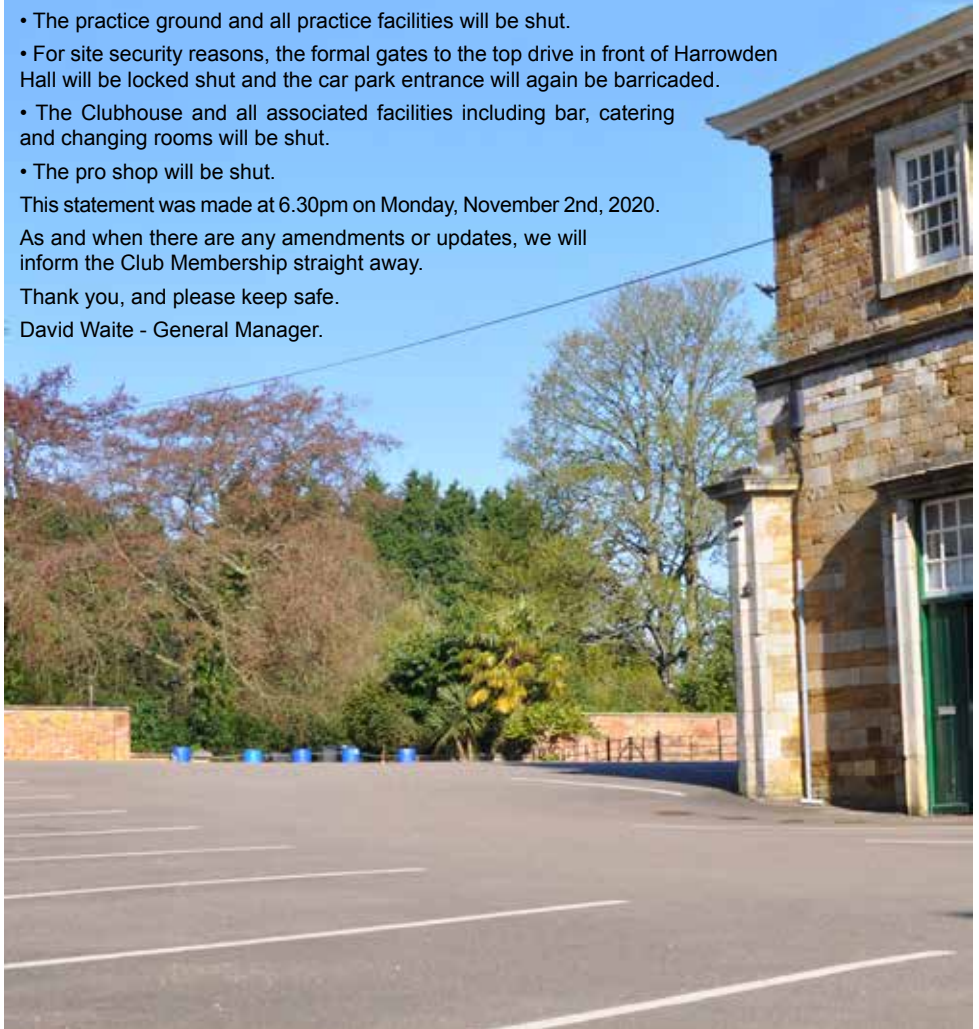
- All areas of Wellingborough Golf Club will be shut except for staff still at work, those living on the property, and those assisting with the ancillary running of the club by virtue of their position.
- Members and their families should not visit any area of the site for exercise since WGC is not an 'outdoor public place'. It is prohibited under the revised Government guidelines.
- The practice ground and all practice facilities will be shut.
- For site security reasons, the formal gates to the top drive in front of Harrowden Hall will be locked shut and the car park entrance will again be barricaded.
- The Clubhouse and all associated facilities including bar, catering and changing rooms will be shut.
- The pro shop will be shut.

This statement was made at 6.30pm on Monday, November 2nd, 2020.

As and when there are any amendments or updates, we will inform the Club Membership straight away.

Thank you, and please keep safe.

David Waite - General Manager.



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At least we managed to fit some golf in this year

AS Autumn seems to have set in, I should have been coming to the end of my year, and what a year it has been - unfortunately not for golfing reasons, including the latest Lockdown.

We managed to squeeze in most of the major board events, albeit condensed into a three-month window, while the social calendar has been decimated.

We did organise a Charity Day, in aid of Teena Marshall and Cancer Research, and a Captain's Charity Day - both of which went exceptionally well.

Raising £4K and £5K respectively, I would like to send a sincere thank you to all who attended and helped with these events, and for their generosity and kindness.

The Saturday morning junior coaching has been well attended. This is run by James Whittemore and our new professional Ryan Connolly, who is profiled in this Club Magazine.

At £20 for four weeks, it offers excellent value for our budding juniors. When the opportunity next arises, please get involved.

We also managed a couple of low key Captain's Exchange Days last month with 24 participants going to John O'Gaunt's Old Course, which is well worth another visit, and 32 attending Robin Hood.

The most notable performance was Darren Wilkins' score on Robin Hood's 400+ yard third hole - an eagle two for five points helped him to, shall we say, a comfortable victory!

Due to the tightening COVID-19 rules, the AGM has been postponed until things have settled a little bit, or until it has been figured out how to hold a virtual AGM.

At which stage I intend to stand for re-election as my Vice (Mr. Roy Pouncey) has kindly agreed to wait another year.

Hopefully I can pick up my year's events from when we started cancelling everything in the initial Lockdown in April. Fingers crossed, which seems to be the government's approach too.

Dave Hawkins
2020 Club Captain.



New handicap system - what does it mean for you?

ALL members, who have a registered email address with Wellingborough Golf Club, received an email on November 2nd, 2020 from England Golf about the new World Handicap System, which came into force on the same day. This explains more, but here is a recap of the October Magazine 'Guide to the WHS', and how it works. For more details, visit www.EnglandGolf.org or www.randa.org.

What is a Handicap Index?

- A portable measure of your playing ability that is consistent with all golfers around the world.
- It can be used to track your progress and to play in a casual or a competitive round with other golfers.
- All golfers are encouraged to establish and maintain a Handicap Index.

How do I get a Handicap Index?

By joining Wellingborough Golf Club, who can manage and maintain your handicap record. You can then play and submit scores from all individual formats of stroke play (competition and recreational). These are acceptable for handicap purposes, provided you:

- Ensure another person is present during round.
- Play to the Rules of Golf.
- Your score is attested.

Once scores from a total of 54 holes, made up of 9 or 18-hole scores, are submitted you will be allocated an initial Handicap Index.

Maximum Handicap Index

With a maximum Handicap Index of 54.0, the WHS is designed to be inclusive of all golfers, regardless of age, gender or ability.

Competition fixtures and Terms of the Competition will be set up by the Wellingborough Handicap or Competition Committee.

Your Handicap Index is the portable number you take with you from course to course.

Before Your Round

You need to convert your Handicap Index into a Course Handicap, which depends on the tees used and the course difficulty. This gives you the number of handicap strokes for your round.

Course Handicap = Handicap Index x Slope Rating.

The conversion process is easy, and can be done by using a look-up table (right) located near the first tee, your Club software or a mobile app.

Handicap = Course Handicap x Handicap Allowance.

For example, the recommended handicap allowance for individual Stroke Play events is 95%, which means a player could have a Course Handicap of 15 and a Playing Handicap of 14.

During Your Round

To find out the holes where you get your strokes, use the Stroke Indexes on the course scorecard.

For Stableford formats, a maximum score on a hole is a net double bogey.

If you did not play a hole for a valid reason, a score of net par will be recorded.

Valid reasons for not playing a hole include failing light or bad weather, player injury or illness, or a hole being declared out of play by the Committee for maintenance or reconstruction purposes.

An incomplete round will be acceptable for handicap purposes if you play at least 9 holes for a 9-hole score or 10 holes for an 18-hole score.

SLOPE RATING					
MEN		MEN		LADIES	
Handicap Index	Course Handicap	Handicap Index	Course Handicap	Handicap Index	Course Handicap
5.0	5	5.0	5	5.0	5
5.5	6	5.5	6	5.5	6
6.0	7	6.0	7	6.0	7
6.5	8	6.5	8	6.5	8
7.0	9	7.0	9	7.0	9
7.5	10	7.5	10	7.5	10
8.0	11	8.0	11	8.0	11
8.5	12	8.5	12	8.5	12
9.0	13	9.0	13	9.0	13
9.5	14	9.5	14	9.5	14
10.0	15	10.0	15	10.0	15
10.5	16	10.5	16	10.5	16
11.0	17	11.0	17	11.0	17
11.5	18	11.5	18	11.5	18
12.0	19	12.0	19	12.0	19
12.5	20	12.5	20	12.5	20
13.0	21	13.0	21	13.0	21
13.5	22	13.5	22	13.5	22
14.0	23	14.0	23	14.0	23
14.5	24	14.5	24	14.5	24
15.0	25	15.0	25	15.0	25
15.5	26	15.5	26	15.5	26
16.0	27	16.0	27	16.0	27
16.5	28	16.5	28	16.5	28
17.0	29	17.0	29	17.0	29
17.5	30	17.5	30	17.5	30
18.0	31	18.0	31	18.0	31
18.5	32	18.5	32	18.5	32
19.0	33	19.0	33	19.0	33
19.5	34	19.5	34	19.5	34
20.0	35	20.0	35	20.0	35
20.5	36	20.5	36	20.5	36
21.0	37	21.0	37	21.0	37
21.5	38	21.5	38	21.5	38
22.0	39	22.0	39	22.0	39
22.5	40	22.5	40	22.5	40
23.0	41	23.0	41	23.0	41
23.5	42	23.5	42	23.5	42
24.0	43	24.0	43	24.0	43
24.5	44	24.5	44	24.5	44
25.0	45	25.0	45	25.0	45
25.5	46	25.5	46	25.5	46
26.0	47	26.0	47	26.0	47
26.5	48	26.5	48	26.5	48
27.0	49	27.0	49	27.0	49
27.5	50	27.5	50	27.5	50
28.0	51	28.0	51	28.0	51
28.5	52	28.5	52	28.5	52
29.0	53	29.0	53	29.0	53
29.5	54	29.5	54	29.5	54

Active, popular and great fun - farewell to Bob and John

WELLINGBOROUGH Golf Club lost two popular members last month as Bob West (right) and John Saxby (inset) both passed away.

The Club commented: "Sadly Bob passed away on Sunday, October 4th after a long illness.

"Bob had been a member for over 20 years and was an active participant in the Seniors section.

"His funeral took place on Thursday, October 29th at Wellingborough Crematorium.

"John Saxby passed away towards the end of the month after a long illness.

"He was a long time member, Captain and President of the Club who loved golf and the social life afterwards.

"Always ready for one extra drink, he was very popular with all sections of the Club and had a great sense of fun. He will be sadly missed."



Tap-Ins

LES Hillman beat Kevin Meagher by one point to lift the 2020 Seniors Lonsdale. With the last two competitions taking place in October, a score of 35 from Hillman in the penultimate event proved decisive as he finished on 218 points.

THANK you to those ladies members who returned their trophies to the office so they can be engraved - the others need to come back asap.

OUR greenstaff started work on changing the sand in the bunkers at the bottom end of the course. The priority will be holes three, four and five, and possibly the sixth, with the sand in the rest of the bunkers being changed in Spring 2021.

CLUB member Ida Huggins and partner Greg Thomas (Northampton) had to settle for third place in the NGL Mixed Fourball Betterball event at Priors Hall GC. The pair carded 39 points but missed out on countback.

Gill Snelson picked up the gross prize in the 65 and over age category in the Midland Veteran Ladies Team Championship with a 36-hole score of 171 at Thorpeness GC.

RYAN Evans saw his season on the European Challenge Tour come to a premature conclusion as he was forced to pull out of the last two events with illness. The Club wishes him a quick recovery.

FORTY two points was the winning score in the Family Foursomes competition as Michael Coles and Matthew Coles edged one in front of William Butler and Wendy Butler.

STEVEN Munns carded nothing worse than a bogey in the Courage Cup as he grabbed the first prize by a single point from John Carter (38).

AMANDA Rawson birdied the 18th hole to clinch a one-shot victory in the Ladies Needham Bowl as she held off the challenge of fellow Scratch team player Carol Gibbs, who carded a net 77.

WANT to improve your golf game over the winter months? Contact Club professional James Whittemore for lessons on 07791 798202 or email james.whittemore@wellingboroughgolfclub.com.

WITH pages to fill in the Wellingborough Club Magazine, there are plenty of opportunities to advertise during the year. Please contact the Club Office to get your message across to the members and visitors in 2021 and beyond.

Looking forward to joining forces with Seniors Captain

LADIES Captain Jenny Wilkinson said: "As the evenings drew in and the clocks changed we were so lucky to still be playing the game we all love in October.

"The course was looking beautiful at that moment, the leaves just changing colour, and with a blue sky the course it did look magnificent. Let's hope that is also the case when we return.

"I was initially going to say that we were lucky we didn't live in Wales where all golf courses were closed last month due to their Lockdown restrictions. But of course that all changed this month, with the England Lockdown.

"Before everything changed, I was looking ahead into November, when we had our Seniors/Ladies competitions, which took the format of Greensomes Pairs.

"I had been paired with Chris Dickens the Seniors Captain. I have never played with Chris so I am very much looking forward to that being played at some stage, I hope the weather will be kind to us.

"On resumption, the Tuesday Ladies competitions will be cut to 14 holes on alternate Tuesdays, omitting holes 5, 6, 13 and 14. Now with booked tee times, I am hoping this will work with the flow of play.

"The ladies section had started in October with our annual Pro Challenge competition, when I had the honour of playing with David Clifford.

"Although we were all square going up the 17th, his superior golf saw him win the match. I look forward to hopefully getting revenge next year.

"With the introduction of the World Handicap System on November 2nd, our playing handicaps will all be changing. It is obviously going to be a change for all of us, but I'm sure we will soon get used to it.

"Three of our long term bar staff Janet, Sharon and Zoe will be all leaving Wellingborough Golf Club by the end of 2020. We have started a collection for them; any donations would be greatly appreciated."



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Early date goes in Harrowden Hall diary for 2021

THE Burdwall Charity Golf Tournament has been re-arranged for next September after it was postponed this year due to the coronavirus outbreak.



The Wellingborough charity has successfully held 36 wonderful annual events at Harrowden Hall over a number of years, raising more than £40,000 for deserving local and national causes. Event organiser Alan Waller said: "In 2019, it was a tremendously enjoyable day of golf, fellowship and fund raising, with 52 golfers playing an 18-hole stableford in 13 teams.

"There was an individual putting competition, followed by an excellent buffet and a rousing prize-giving supported by then Wellingborough Golf Club Captain George Khaw.

"The event raised £2,200, which was split between the HFT - a national charity dedicated to the care and development of adults with learning disabilities, and charities supported by the Rotary Club of Wellingborough Hatton."

With the Burdwall Trophy, Open Team Cup, Rotary Club Team Cup, Timmy Waller Memorial Trophy and the Ladies Team Prize up for grabs, organisers are already planning for the 2021 event, which is scheduled for Friday, September 24th.

Darnell wins 2020 County Champions of Champions title

ELLIE Darnell added another title to her growing collection as she won the 2020 NGL Ladies Champion of Champions event at Overstone Park GC.

The two-handicapper, who qualified for the tournament by winning the Wellingborough Club Championships over 36 holes this summer, compiled a winning round of gross 76.

Despite trailing by one with four holes to play, Darnell (pictured) kept her composure on the closing stretch to finish four strokes ahead of the chasing pack.

Northampton's Alison Irvine grabbed the runners-up prize by one shot from home club member Baylie Pyke.

Fellow Wellingborough Club champion Jon Harris was also in good form over the back nine as he went on to claim a share of fourth position in the men's competition.

After going out in 40 strokes, Harris birdied the 12th and 18th and parred the remaining holes to finish level with home club champion Richard Dalton.

The Wellingborough Scratch handicapper's two-over-par 74 left him just three shots behind winner Mark Bazeley (Northampton).



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A photograph of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in shades of green and blue, illuminating a dark sky. In the foreground, a wooden boardwalk with railings leads towards a rocky cliffside.

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Get in touch

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Now, for tomorrow



Christmas Dinners remain on the schedule for late 2020

UNCERTAINTY is something everyone has needed to cope with over the past year, and it's no different now as COVID-19 remains at the forefront of our lives. Wellingborough Golf Club Magazine chatted with Front of House Manager Izzy Taylor about their efforts to look after the members by offering some social events last month, whilst still having to deal with a surprise visitor or two.

What social events were held at Wellingborough Golf Club in the last month?

We didn't have any Theme Nights, but we did organise a Grill Night, which was basically a Steak Night, but we had chicken and seafood as well - not everyone likes steak.

Was the Grill Night a success?

It was a huge success, with around 50 people spread over the two rooms.

Before the latest Lockdown was announced, was anything planned for Christmas?

Every year we do the Christmas Dinner Dance, which normally has around 150 people. Obviously that's not possible this year. But I was going to speak to Captains David and Jenny about organising a couple of nights with Christmas Dinner. It would have needed to be restaurant-style, with tables of six maximum, so the same as a Grill Night, except turkey instead of steak. We'll wait to see if that can happen.

Was anything planned on New Year's Eve?

No. We had to be closed by 10 o'clock. So, on New Year's Eve, it would have been pointless and just not worth it.

How important is it for members and guests to stick to the coronavirus rules?

We need to do this because of Environmental Health. And they have been here to check that we are complying with the law!

What happened with Environmental Health?

They arrived unannounced at 7.30pm on a Saturday. I was upstairs because we had a wedding, so Zoe greeted them with: 'Hello, welcome - do you mind taking a seat? and I'll come over to take your order shortly.' The lady said: 'We are Environmental Health Officers, but I can see you are doing table service, which is very good.' We had our normal customers in and they were doing everything fine, so I think the Environment Health Officers were impressed.



Did they speak to you?

Yes, they came upstairs to have a chat with Becky and myself. They told us we were doing a good job, and to keep up the good work, which was reassuring. But they could turn up again at any time. They were doing a number of COVID spot checks, and I believe Golf Clubs were one of their main targets.

What kind of message does this visit send out to members?

It's another reminder of how important it is to stick to the rules. And that will be the case when we return after this latest Lockdown.



Harrowden Hall Memories



WELLINGBOROUGH
GOLF CLUB



Results

Ladies Stroke Index Waltz (October 27th):

1 Carole Cornforth, Melanie Ross & Karen James (48 points), 2 Jenny Wilkinson, Lema Townsend & Liz Rees (47), 3 Miriam Johnson, Fran Woods & Sue Kellett (45).

Family Foursomes (October 25th):

1 Michael Coles & Matthew Coles (42 points), 2 William Butler & Wendy Butler (41), 3 William Smith & Dean Smith (37).

October Mid-week Stableford (October 22nd):

1 Roger Mudd (81 - 11 = net 70), 2 John Nicholas (85 - 13 = 72), 3 Kevin Larham (85 - 11 = 74).

Seniors Lonsdale 9 (October 21st):

1 Paul Janes (37 points), 2 Alun Rees (36), 3 Steve Bason (35).

Ladies October Medal (October 20th):

Division 1: 1 Fran Woods (88 - 13 = net 75), 2 Gill Snelson (84 - 8 = 76), 3 Carol Gibbs (84 - 6 = 78). Division 2: 1 Pat Briggs (102 - 21 = 81), 2 June Smith (105 - 24 = 81), 3 Ellen Steel (102 - 21 = 81).

Ladies October Nine-hole Stableford (October 20th):

Winner: Melanie Ross (14 points), runner-up: Carole Cornforth (13).

Courage Cup (October 18th):

1 Steven Munns (39 points), 2 John Carter (38), 3 Paul Saunders (36).

October Mid-week Stableford (October 15th):

1 Michael Smart (41 points), 2 Leslie Hornby (40), 3 Graeme Atkinson (40).

Ladies October Stableford (October 13th):

Division 1: 1 Lema Townsend (38 points), 2 Ellie Darnell (31), 3 Liz Rees (31). Division 2: 1 Maggie Etheridge (30), 2 Mary Phillips (29), 3 Jenny Wilkinson (29).

October Medal (October 10-11th):

Division 1: 1 Paul Saunders, pictured (73 - 6 = net 67), 2 Ed Keech (74 - 6 = 68), 3 Sam Waite (73 - 3 = 70). Division 2: 1 Alistair Auld (80 - 12 = 68), 2 Tom Blevins (85 - 14 = 71), 3 Andy Redding (84 - 13 = 71).

Seniors Lonsdale 8 (October 7th):

1 Chris Dickens (39 points), 2 Gary Grimmitt (39), 3 Paul Woodley (38).

Ladies Needham Bowl (October 6th):

Division 1: 1 Amanda Rawson (83 - 7 = net 76), 2 Carol Gibbs (83 - 6 = 77), 3 Ellie Darnell (81 - 2 = 79). Division 2: 1 Gill Rivers (105 - 24 = 81), 2 Ellen Steel (102 - 21 = 81), 3 Sue Kellett (104 - 22 = 82).

Ladies Pro Challenge (September 29th):

1 Miriam Johnson (3 up), 2 Ellie Darnell, 3 Sue Kellett.

Ladies Winter League:

Winners: Japan - Pat Dawson, Yvonne Jolly, Sheena Markham, Ashleigh Critchley, Liz Waine, Sue Sharp & Gill Snelson (558 points), runners-up: Scotland - Diane Dickinson, Fran Woods, Sue Kellett, Sandra Boughton, Denise Roderick, Kirsty Critchley, Caroline Beaty & Sally McKeown (435). Individual winner: Ashleigh Critchley (120).



Club members go undercover for national golf magazine

TODAY'S Golfer Magazine wouldn't normally be the place to find out some of the inner thoughts of Wellingborough Golf Club members, but that has become more of a reality this year, and particularly in the latest edition.

With Meghan MacLaren once again offering her opinions on Ladies European Tour life in her regular column, the December publication also included Past Club Captain George Khaw and WGC Club Magazine Editor Steve Jackson as they reviewed one of the best courses in the region.

Unfortunately it wasn't Wellingborough they were talking about, although Khaw did state that being our Captain in 2019 was his proudest achievement in golf - instead they were casting their eyes on nearby Woburn.

The duo joined Charlie Albanese, who owns a junior golf clothing company called everyshotcounts, and his friend Chris Stanton, for 18 holes around the Marquess course for an 'Undercover' feature in the UK's best-selling golf magazine.

After a friendly round at a Golf Club, who have held a good relationship with ourselves for several years, the pair stopped short of suggesting it was the leading golf venue in the midlands, obviously!

But they were both complimentary about the set-up, as were their playing partners, and would like the opportunity to play there again, especially our former skipper, who combined with single-figure handicapper Stanton to lose a tight contest on the closing hole.



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Full Set with... Ryan Connolly

IN the latest of a series of Q&A features with various members of the Club personnel this year, Wellingborough Golf Club Magazine chatted with our former club champion and new trainee golf professional.

D

What is your full title?

Wellingborough Golf Club Trainee Professional.

R

Family status?

Son of Vanessa and Ashley Connolly, who is also a Wellingborough member.

3

What was your last golf handicap?

I think it was 0.7.

4

My perfect fourball would be?

Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Ben Hogan and myself. It would be great see all three play in their prime.

5

When did you start playing golf?

I was about 13 years old. It was through football because we had a father and son golf day, and I realised I enjoyed it, so started going more and more.

6

Where did you study in the US?

I did Sports Management at Wayland Baptist University in Texas.

7

Who is the best golfer you've ever played with or against?

I played against an Australian at college called James Evangelo Nitties - he was very good. He plays on the Australasia Tour, and is doing ok. But at college he was the best.

8

How did it feel to represent Wellingborough?

I was always proud to represent this club in the US.

9

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?

Buy a Trackman!

P

If you could go anywhere right now, where would it be?

I would love to go to Hawaii for the first time.

W

Of the places you have already been to, which did you enjoy the most?

The Philippines - that was great.

L

What is your favourite film?

Dodgeball. I can watch it non-stop, and laugh at the same bits every time.

S

What is your best moment on the golf course?

Probably my first hole-in-one. It was my second week in America, in front of the coach!

P

What is the funniest thing you have ever seen on a golf course?

There's normally something in every round that is funny. I remember playing a scratch team match against Lewis White at Northampton. I hadn't hit a decent shot all day, but had the honour on the 16th. I put it to four feet, and he then made a hole-in-one to beat me. I just had to laugh!





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The series is open to non-members of WGC, but they will be subject to pay a Members Guest Green Fee on top of the entry



Take on PGA Professional Ryan Connolly and Touring Professional Tiger Adams in WGC's Beat The Pro's Winter Series

2v2 Nett Strokeplay 4BBB Format (both scores to count on par 3's)

£20pp - Challengers receive 90% Handicap

£15pp - Challengers receive 75% Handicap

£10pp - Challengers receive 50% Handicap

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