

THE BRITISH Left Handed golfers' association

Founded 1959

www.leftiesgolf.org.uk

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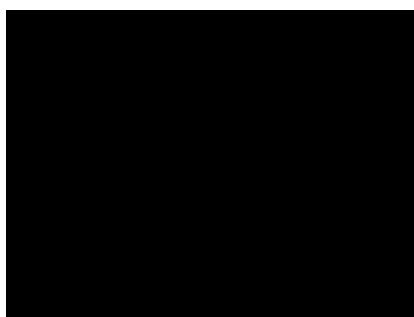
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February 2009

From the 2009 Captain: Barry Ingham



Having been elected for the forthcoming year I am well aware of the honour this is. I have had continuous membership for around 40 years. I know I don't look old enough! This would be an honour any year but in 2009 we celebrate the anniversary of our formation 50 years ago. The Committee have looked into ways to mark this special occasion and have decided to go to

Hillside Golf Club in Southport. It is a gem of a course and locals believe its better than its neighbour Royal Birkdale. Alan Haines has already sent out a letter advising of this. At the AGM it was agreed that I continue as Treasurer during my year of office as Captain. Alan and myself have worked closely together for many years and it is not sensible to make changes for what will only be for twelve months. With Alan having taken early retirement in January we feel we can cope without too much trouble. As a former bank manager I am amazed how modern banking requires such complicated procedures to change bank accounts and mandates. It's such a pity they seem unable to lend money to those with the ability to pay it back. I am delighted that David Abbey has been elected as Vice Captain and look forward to working with him. David is an excellent choice and a good supporter of the Association.

It remains to be seen how the downturn in the economy will affect attendance levels. I hope that those members who have been unable to participate in recent years make an effort to join us at some stage during this special year.

I intend to designate a charity for my year of office. Opposite my golf club, West Derby, is Zoë's Place. This is a baby hospital for seriously ill and terminally ill children from 0 to 5 years. Having lost their lottery funding they need to raise £650,000 from voluntary contributions to continue their work. I have set entrain

some ideas and I hope you will support this most worthy organisation. I have a notice on my desk "May the day come when Government finances Zoë's and we fund Polaris by voluntary contributions!"

Finally I pay tribute to our outgoing Captain, John Carter. All agreed at the AGM that he had done an excellent job during his year of office with both skill and humour. We are always in somebody else's golf club and John has been an excellent ambassador for us. With your help and support I hope to continue his success

Barry Ingham

2008 & 2009 President: Tony Broadhurst

Another season will soon be upon us and a busy year again with our 50 years celebration at Hillside, the Championship at Forest Of Arden and the World Championship in Sweden. I have had a good response for the Championship but there are still a few places left so if you have not entered and intend doing so, please send entry as soon as possible. Not forgetting Portpatrick! This year we will be playing Dunskey in a match so that should start the week off on a high. How did I have time to work?

The week after the Championship it is off to Sweden for the 19th World Championship. As you know the price for the Worlds for some reason is given in US Dollars and as the exchange rate is so poor this has made the cost higher. Malcolm Barker and myself have had a word with Leif in Sweden and we can pay in Krona, this has brought the cost down by approx 10%, the fee in Krona is 3,700 Krona. If you need further information and price contact me.

Alan Haines, Jack Ronaldson and myself have been to Scotland and have booked the dates for the Worlds in June 2012. I know it is a long way off but time moves on very quickly and we will need all the help we can get as the time gets closer. Our main concern at the moment is to try to get some sponsors in place, so if any one has any contacts and can help please let us know. It does not have to be financial help but if some one could sponsor Hats, Balls, Tee pegs - anything that we can give to the competitors.

On a personal note I look forward to seeing you all at Ashbourne for my Presidents Day on July 24th. If you came last year I am sure you will see a much-improved course. Our green staff have put a lot of work in through the winter, cleaning out the spinneys and ponds, (not so many places to lose your ball).

I wish you all a good golfing year and may all your putts drop.

Tony Broadhurst

Immediate Past Captain: John Carter



Writing this in early February it feels as if the warm Spring days are still an age away, in fact it will be some relief when the snow melts and golf courses are open again! This time last year we were making preparations to travel to NZ for the World Championships in Queenstown – a great way to begin my year as Captain of the BLHGA. Sixteen of us UK Lefties plus WAGS had a marvellous antipodean time and acquitted ourselves well (if not with honour). It was amusing to see the reaction of

the officials at Jack's Point who, knowing they were hosting a world left handed competition, wondered where Phil Mickelson, Mike Weir, et al were when all of us turned up!

As well as the honour of being Captain of the BLHGA, one main benefit is being able to swan about doing very little whilst senior members of the Committee do all the work. In this regard I'd very much like particularly to thank Alan, Barry and Tony for their untiring efforts throughout the season. One other advantage, of course, is getting served first during our dinners – always hot food!

2009 promises to be a momentous year in our history and no better person could there be than Barry Ingham to lead us through our 50th year. It was only recently that I discovered what a sporting colossus Barry is – just try typing “Barry Ingham” into Google – he's the second entry. Congratulations Barry, have a great year.

John Carter

Introducing Our 2009 Vice-Captain: David Abbey



I was very happy to accept the Vice Captaincy in our 50th year of existence and look forward to working with Barry. I'm sure the experience will do me good! I joined the Association in 1990 and have thoroughly enjoyed the unique camaraderie members of the Association possess. My home Club is Bedale, where I was Captain in 1996. It's several years since BLHGA have visited Bedale and I can promise warm welcome in 2010. Bedale G C

handed members than any other golf club in England.

I am sure Barry and the Association will have a great year this year and will give Barry every assistance I can in ensuring its success.

David Abbey



BLHGA Website

Chris Birch has done a great job with our website: www.leftiesgolf.org.uk
All our forthcoming events are on the site and Chris will add those in the winners' circle as the season progresses. If you have not already logged on as a member, please inform the Secretary who will log you on the system and advise you of your password. We are wanting to build up the site, so if you have clubs for sale etc. please advise the Secretary who will be happy to arrange for them to be put on.

Annual General Meeting 2nd October 2008 **Astbury G C**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held at Ingestre Golf Club on 6th September 2007, together with the Secretary's Report and Financial Statement were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Apologies: Stan Quinn, Gerald Frost, Frank McCabe, Derek Wardhaugh, John Gatenby, Alan Haines

Matters Arising:

Members were reminded that with the ever increasing postal and stationery costs we should use emails wherever possible. Members should advise the Secretary of the email addresses where appropriate.

2007 – 8 Secretary's Report

Membership: As agreed I have written to all existing members who had not paid their subscriptions in 2006 and as expected had a mixed response of cheques coming in together with some resignations. The outcome is that we have a core of 154 members. The 12 new members this year do include several old members rejoining the Association, which is very pleasing to see. 65 members have played at least one fixture with 26 playing 4 fixtures or more.

Website: My sincere thanks go again to Chris Birch who has done a great job with our website. It's almost complete and is updated every time an event is played with the prizewinners. We just need to complete and put on the history of the Association, which Barry will be liaising with Chris on. I am certain it will improve our membership. Any member who still has not registered on the site should email me and I will give them their personal sign on.

Meetings:

John Carter has enjoyed a very good year with attendances being in line with 2007. Sadly I had to cancel Ross-on-Wye in September due to the condition of the course and the predicted weather forecast. I do hope that members were not too inconvenienced but I for one would not fancy driving hundreds of miles to play at least 9 holes on temporary greens with the rain pouring down! I have assured the golf club that we will return in 2009. The current number of fixtures appears about right and the numbers attending the majority of events is over the 35 mark. Both our Captain's Day and President's Day were highly successful. Next year is a major year with us celebrating our 50th birthday and your Committee will be meeting towards the end of the year to finalise arrangements. Barry Ingham our 2009 Captain elect has not yet decided where to hold his Captain's Day. What is important is to maintain our geographical spread to satisfy the needs of our members. The fixture list for 2009 will be issued earlier than normal as your Committee will need some commitment for certain events prior to them being booked.

British Championships:

The Championship at the Carden Park was again held over 2 days and was very successful both in terms of the quality of golf and numbers attending. I make no apology for repeating my thanks to Tony every year for all his hard work. These things are not easy to organise but as usual he did a splendid job. Next year is already booked for the Forest Of Arden.

World Championships

We had a very successful trip to New Zealand in 2008 and look forward to Sweden in June 2009.

World Championship Bid

We were successful in our bid to hold the World Championships in 2012 at Carnoustie. Work is already underway and our first report will be issued to members next year. The next few years will fly by.

Email

We now have about 55 members who I correspond with via email. If you wish to use this method rather than I write please email me at leftiegolfers@aol.com with your email address.

I would like to sincerely thank all members who rang and sent emails offering their well wishes after my illness in May. It was really appreciated

Thanks to the Captain, President, Treasurer and members of the Committee for their hard work this year.

I must apologise for my absence at this year's AGM. In the past it has always been held at our September meeting. However at a late stage during this year the Committee considered the number attending Ross-on-Wye would be low and moved it to Astbury. I will be in France on the 2nd October but will have a glass of wine or 3 reflecting on another good year for the lefthanders.

Alan Haines

Secretary
31st July 2008

2007 – 8 Treasurer's Report

As in recent years there has been little deviation in the make-up of our finances, I intend to keep this short. I will, of course, be responding to any questions raised at the AGM.

As can be seen from the circulated accounts we enjoy a fairly healthy financial position. Close on £10,000.00 in available cash. As usual, although not audited in the conventional sense, time and geography being a problem, Alan Haines has signed the final bank statement. A financial year-end of July poses the usual problem in that there are still fixtures to come for which deposits have been made and prizes purchased.

It is satisfying that income from subscriptions is slightly up on last year. This buttresses the loss that we make on most of our meetings. We are not a profit-seeking organisation and as such event losses are acceptable. In this regard I have to say that the efforts of Roger (The Enforcer) Stansfield in promoting vigorously the raffle are appreciated, as is the generosity of members and guests alike. Without this source of income event losses would be more substantial. The raffle profits are net of gratuities to staff. Over a full season raffle activity generates comfortably over £1000.00 and is an important source of income. Again this year we are reliant on a donation from Alan's Portpatrick caper and the usual financial benefit of our Ashbourne visit. Thanks are due in this regard to Alan, Tony and Frank. Tony is to be congratulated not only on his workload for the Championship but for bringing it in with a profit. This event is certainly not promoted with profit in mind.

Next year sees the 50th Anniversary of our formation and the Committee intend to mark this fact. As ideas are only at an early stage of consideration I feel it

inappropriate for me to elaborate. I have suggested we earmark a substantial sum for 2009 to be used on our 50th year celebration. At the time the accounts had not been finalised and no doubt this will be considered at committee level now that they are. Again we have to be aware that hosting the World Championships in 2012 may involve some initial expense. Indeed there is already an amount included in these accounts pertaining to a necessary visit by Alan and Tony to Carnoustie to set up arrangements. There will be a need for more visits up to 2012. In this regard I highlight that no general committee expenses have been incurred. Thanks are due to Ron and Karen Walker who generously host our meetings at their home and keep us fed and watered.

I will of course answer any questions from the floor at the AGM.

Barry Ingham

Treasurer

31st July 2008

<u>BLHGA</u>		<u>Final Accounts 31st July 2008</u>	
<u>Opening Balance</u>		<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Treasurer	£7,685.09		
Secretary	£ 886.82	£ 8,571.91	
Stock - raffle	£ 105.00		
Stock - prizes	£ 535.00		
Stock - balls	£ 268.75	£ 908.75	
<u>Subscriptions</u>		£ 1,712.50	
Bank interest		£ 8.61	
Merchandise		£ 282.50	
Portpatrick		£ 500.00	
Ashbourne		£ 353.50	
Championships		£ 13.19	
Cleckheaton		£ 184.25	
<u>Deposits paid 2007</u>			
Rotherham	£ 100.00		
Cleckheaton	£ 300.00		
Ingestre	£ 300.00	£ 700.00	

**Pre paid
deposits**

Astbury	£	175.00
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Buckingham	£	234.48
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Rotherham	£	82.50
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Ingestre	£	229.13
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Stratford	£	64.50	£	610.61
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Treasurer	£	100.00
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Donation	£	100.00
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Merchandise	£	302.38
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Gloves	£	91.00
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World Championship s	£	305.10
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Engraving	£	8.00
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Stationery	£	101.23
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Website	£	300.00
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Postage	£	178.67
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Printing	£	216.80
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Sub refund	£	12.50
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Engraving	£	17.32
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Telephone	£	25.00
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Stock - raffle	£	95.00
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Stock - prizes	£	567.50
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Stock - balls	£ 137.50	£ 800.00
<u>Closing Balance</u>		
	£ 6,198.8 2	
Treasurer		
	£ 3,692.7 8	£ 9,891.60
Secretary		
		£ <u>13,235.2</u> 1
<u>Totals</u>	<u>£13,235.21</u>	

Election of Officers

All the current officers re-elected on bloc - Proposed by David Taylor and seconded by Steve Bryan.

Captain, Barry Ingham proposed by Ron Walker and seconded by Tony Broadhurst - A mercifully short acceptance speech from Barry.

Vice Captain - Dave Abbey proposed by Barry Packwood and seconded by Harold Adkin, with a short speech by Barry Packwood. - The Chairman commented that our first choice was in fact Val Abbey but she plays right handed.

50th anniversary

A talk on 50th anniversary next year by Barry Packwood, committee considered the Hillside package best. Barry will keep us all informed. This was proposed for next September.

Championships

Tony Broadhurst gave us an up date on the worlds 2012 and next years British Championships.

Chairman thanked John Carter for an excellent year, as Captain, commenting on our disappointment that he didn't end in a virtuoso performance on the piano a la Gerald. Thanked Tony for his year as President and the successful Championships once again. Thanks to Alan Haines and Barry Ingham and all committee members for their hard work.

AOB: John Parham asked for us to try again to hold a meeting in the southwest after this year's washout.

Obituary

Jean Frost, the wife of our former Captain Gerald Frost died recently. Whilst it is unusual to print an obituary about someone who was not a member, Jean was well known to many members. Apart from caddying for Gerald at some events she attended with Gerald at our last Committee meeting. The funeral service was a remarkable one with a brass band reflecting Gerald's long association with Dobcross Youth Brass Band. The funeral service was a true celebration of her very full life. It contained both applause and laughter. A very moving experience. Jean was a former Lady Captain of Elland Golf Club. The Association was represented by Barry

Ingham, Barry Packwood and Dennis Colcombe. Our sympathy goes out to Gerald on his very sad loss and sincerely hope in the fullness of time he will feel able to join us during the coming season.

Trophies

The number of trophies being returned by members for future use appears to be on the decline. If you are one of the more fortunate members to hold a trophy that has not been played for in the last 12 months kindly contact the Secretary who will arrange collection.

Sincere thanks

Ties

Frank McCabe advises the new Association ties have now been received. We are selling them at the cost price of £17.00 each. Contact Frank on 01132880411 to order your tie.

A Golfers' Poem

In My Hand I Hold A Ball,
White And Dimpled, Rather Small.
Oh, How Bland It Does Appear,
This Harmless Looking Little Sphere.
By It's Size I Could Not Guess,
The Awesome Strength It Does Possess.
But Since I Fell Beneath Its Spell,
I've Wandered Through The Fires Of Hell.
My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same,
Since I Chose To Play This Stupid Game.
It Rules My Mind For Hours On End,
A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend.
It Has Made Me Yell, Curse And Cry,
I Hate Myself And Want To Die.
It Promises A Thing Called Par,
If I Can Hit It Straight And Far.
To Master Such A Tiny Ball,
Should Not Be Very Hard At All.
But My Desires The Ball Refuses,
And Does Exactly As It Chooses.
It Hooks And Slices, Dribbles And Dies,
And Even Disappears Before My Eyes.
Often It Will Have A Whim,
To Hit A Tree Or! Take A Swim.
With Miles Of Grass On Which To Land,
It Finds A Tiny Patch Of Sand.
Then Has Me Offering Up My Soul,

If Only It Would Find The Hole.
It's Made Me Whimper Like A Pup,
And Swear That I Will Give It Up.
And Take To Drink To Ease My Sorrow,
But That Bloody Ball Knows ... I'll Be Back Tomorrow.

2009 Fixtures

Championships at the Forest of Arden

Tony Broadhurst has covered several matters in respect of this year's fixtures in his "Presidential comments". Arranging the Championships at the Forest of Arden is a very time-consuming job. If you do intend to go and have not yet contacted Tony, may I ask you to do so immediately? We have provisionally booked rooms etc. and can only hold onto these provisional bookings for the next few weeks – otherwise we will have to let them go.

Hillside

In the letter to members, when the fixture list was sent out, comment was made that we have to send a substantial deposit to Hillside when confirmation of final numbers are agreed. **A request was made for members playing at Hillside to forward to the Secretary a deposit of £25.00.** The minority of members playing at Hillside did send their deposits – the majority did not! If you have said you want to play but did not send a cheque, please do so **ASAP!**

Captain's Day

This as you know from the fixture list is being held at Rotherham and I do hope that as many members and guests as possible will support Barry. Earlier this year Barry contacted **PING** as they were also founded in 1959. One outcome is that they have confirmed they will send out their fitting team to one of our events specifically to focus on left-handers. We have selected Captain's Day at Rotherham as the day. As a goodwill gesture the Pro at Rotherham, Simon Thornhill, has also advised he will give a further discount (to be agreed) to that he already gives on Ping clubs, to any member ordering Ping golf clubs on the day.

Southpaw open

A charity tournament is being held on Friday 5th June at Canford Magna G C, Wimborne, Dorset. The Rotary Club of Bournemouth North is running this event. If interested contact stanwebb@btinternet.com

East of England Left Handed Golf Championship

This is being held on Thursday 3rd September. Please visit the club website: www.kenwickparkgolf.co.uk or ring the club on 01507 607161

Barry Ingham – a further message

There are a number of reasons why I am not having my Captain's Day at my home club of West Derby, Liverpool. One factor is that we anticipate that most members will come up to this part of the world to play Hillside. West Derby is over 100 years old and is well regarded on Merseyside.

During the winter months I run *a very well organised* small golfing society called the OLCS. This is named after a **One Legged Crow** that patrolled our 7th hole. Sadly now dead. The crow not us. It reflected our members – happy in a golfing environment but not wishing to travel very far. A number of famous “lefties” such as Alan Haines, Tony Broadhurst, Doug Briscoe, Brian Maggs and Gerald Frost have joined us and survived. Our winter fixtures finish on 26th March 2009 when we compete for the NSPCC Putter and the Helgi Holm Trophy. The OLCS raises money for the NSPCC and the Helgi Holm Trophy is named after an Icelandic golfing friend of mine and has been played for for the last 23 years. It is won by the person who finishes thirteenth and Alan Haines skilfully won this trophy a few years ago.

You are most probably wondering by now why I am telling you all this and this brings me eventually to the point! The day consists of full breakfast, 18 holes of golf and a two-course meal costing £26. This is a sincere invitation to any of our members who would like to join us on 26th March. I realise that only BLHGA members who live within striking distance of Liverpool might find this invitation attractive. For those living further away why not combine golf with an overnight stay thus providing an opportunity to visit our magnificent City. By 2009 we will no longer be the Capital of Culture so it's no longer essential to be cultured to visit us.

West Derby G C is a course worth playing. Additional attractions are the excitement of seeing if your car has had it's wheels removed (joke) and being insulted by our bar staff (also a joke-possibly). Whatever your golf standard you are assured of a laugh. Seriously you will be welcome to join us with a chance to play a decent course at a reasonable price and you will be away by teatime.

Joining us will, for me, make up for not holding my Captain's Day at Royal West Derby. Anyone interested please contact me at 0151 480 5972 when I can provide further details and directions

Barry Ingham

Can really recommend this to all members-great day out. Alan Haines.

Nothing to do with Golf, but I found it funny!

There is a factory in Northern Minnesota, which makes the Tickle Me Elmo toys. The toy laughs when you tickle it under the arms.

Well, Lena is hired at The Tickle Me Elmo factory and she reports for her first day promptly at 8:00 am.

The next day at 8:45 am there is a knock at the Personnel Manager's door. The Foreman throws open the door and begins to rant about the new employee.

He complains that she is incredibly slow and the whole line is backing up, putting the entire production line behind schedule

The Personnel Manager decides he should see this for himself, so the 2 men march down to the factory floor. When they get there the line is so backed up that there are Tickle Me Elmo's all over the factory floor and they're really beginning to pile up.

At the end of the line stands Lena surrounded by mountains of Tickle Me Elmo's. She has a roll of plush Red fabric and a huge bag of small marbles.

The 2 men watch in amazement as she cuts a little piece of fabric, wraps it around two marbles and begins to carefully sew the little package between Elmo's legs.

The Personnel Manager bursts into laughter. After several minutes of hysterics he pulls himself together and approaches Lena.

'I'm sorry,' he says to her, barely able to keep a straight face, 'but I think you misunderstood the instructions I gave you yesterday... '

'Your job is to give Elmo two test tickles.

And finally..... That man Again!!!

Please go on the Internet and type in (copy & paste):

<http://www.liverpooldailypost.co.uk/golf/golf-news/2009/01/13/why-left-handed-golfers-have-to-hand-it-to-barry-ingham-64375-22678004/2/>

Sadly it does not show the photograph, but it reports an article in the Liverpool Daily Post all about our Captain and his former activities (sporting of course!). When he told me that the last time he got his leg over was in his 40's, I must admit I did not think he was talking about cycling!

Committee Members 2009

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Alan Haines, BLHGA Secretary, February 2009