

British Left Handed Golfers' Association

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From the 2008 Captain: John Carter



With rain lashing the windows as I write this, it's helpful to recall the warm, sunny fairways and greens of those courses familiar to us in the BLHGA. Recently, at Buckingham, the normal landing area off the first tee had flooded to a 100ft wide lake necessitating a 200yd drive to clear it – so a 4 iron then!

I was delighted and honoured to be appointed Captain in my 20th year with the BLHGA and look forward very much to meeting as many of you as possible in the months to come. In particular the World Championships in Queenstown, New Zealand promise to be an exciting and challenging experience for the 14 of us (plus partners) representing the BLHGA. Coincidentally, it was during a business trip (plus some golf!) to New Zealand in the late 80's that I first heard of an association of left handed golfers in the UK. On my return I sought you out and joined the Lefties.

I see that our first outing in the UK this year is at Stratford on Avon on the 17th April when I can regale you with tales of antipodean antics!

My first experience of Portpatrick last year was a very pleasant one and I look forward to a second visit in May, although I shall not make the mistake of slowly cruising along the sea front giving, perhaps, the wrong impression of my intentions!

Later in May (22nd), it will be my Captains Day at Buckingham and despite being “down south” for most of you, I hope many of you will join me.

Many thanks to Harold “H” Adkin, last year’s Captain, for an excellent year which I’m sure he enjoyed tremendously; he can now relax and savour the meals after matches without having to get up and make another blasted speech!

John Carter

Immediate Past Captain: Harold Adkin



They say I have a likeness to another member of the Left Handers. Having said that I have had a very successful trip to New Zealand where I won my flight. Whilst I was not dressed in my normal gear I must admit that I was the lowest handicapper by far in my flight so it’s the winning that counts. It just shows you the pressures of making all those long speeches had on my game.

Joking aside I had a great year as Captain of the Left Handers and thank everyone who has supported me during my year of office, especially my speech writer, Frank McCabe. The speeches were really well written-I just forgot to read them out!

Every event was well attended and my Captains Day at Longcliffe was really good. I had a lot of fun all the way.

I wish John every success in his year. If it’s half as good as mine he’ll have a great time. Please support him as much as you can.

Have a great golfing year

Harold Adkin

Our 2008 Vice Captain: Barry Ingham

(An abbreviation of his life story – so far)

I don't know when I first joined the Left Handers but I do know it was prior to 1973. In that year I played my first events with the Association. I came to golf after twelve years of cycle racing, football, cricket, (sex and rock 'n roll). As a left handed cricketer when I turned to golf I was unable to get hold of second hand clubs and played right handed for about 12 months. I then got hold of a set of Bob Charles clubs, reverted to left-handed, and saw my handicap rapidly come down. Prior to 1973 I was unable to get away from the bank where I held a junior position. Using my holidays (!) in 1973 I played in the 36 hole Championships at Hawkestone Park where I seem to remember there were over 100 competitors with both the first and tenth tees being used. Playing of a **handicap of 11**, I won at Hillside with a gross 81 and at Portpatrick with a gross 77. (I'm enjoying this – no sign of memory loss now!) At the time I was only interested in playing well – how the events were organised and who the Captain was interested me not at all. Clearly a lot of members were wealthy businessmen. I remember sitting at a table with 2 such individuals who were discussing the difficulty of landing a plane in a cross wind. I was having similar difficulties with the wind as I travelled to the events on my Honda 90 with my clubs on my back. Eventually I got down to single figures. The second stage of my membership saw my handicap go up again to the somewhat sad position I find myself today, only to match Gerald Frost on one of my rare good days. I have been fortunate to play over 1000 different courses in my golfing career and it was appropriate that I should enjoy my 1000th course at Alwoodley with the 4 ball being all left handed and winning 6+5 of course!

Golf is a game that lasts for life providing one is fortunate enough to remain in reasonable health. Our Association can be enjoyed by those who turn up expecting to play well and those of us who just turn up. It was satisfying to set off for home after a day's golf having won a prize. Now I would need sat-nav to find the prize table. Do I enjoy my golf with the left-handers any less? – Of course not, although it requires a thick skin to suffer the banter from those who wonder what people like me think we are doing.

Last year I was elected Vice Captain, with a view, subject to good behaviour, of following John Carter as Captain in 2009. The year is a significant one in that we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. It is also significant in that I hope to reach the age of 75. What more could anyone want than to be Captain of a wonderful association and no longer have to pay for a TV licence? All this under a benevolent Labour Government providing they still are the Government by then. Best of all, the prospect of telling Alan Haines what to do is enticing. "Captain to you Mr Secretary" and "Sir" to the others instead of "Scouse git". Most golf clubs seem to elect a Captain who, following his year of office, becomes Immediate Past Captain. The rationale being that the outgoing Captain lends his experience to the new Captain. I prefer our system and think it must be difficult to retain enthusiasm once a term in the top position is over.

I hope to assist John to have a successful and enjoyable year in office in any way that I can. The future at this stage can take care of itself.

Barry Ingham

2008 & 2009 President: Tony Broadhurst

It is a great honour to be president of the British Left Handed Association and Frank will be a difficult act to follow as he puts so much into everything he does, I would like to thank him for all his hard work and commitment over the last two years and I am sure it will continue.

This year is going to be an eventful year with 15 of us going to New Zealand for the World Championship in March, which will start the year off very well, a bit of early sunshine is hoped for. Malcolm Barker will be going to defend his Super Seniors Title, see if he can make it three in a row. He will have to play well as Frank joins the super seniors this time. I am looking forward to several flight winners from our ranks.

While we are in New Zealand I will be putting a bid to stage the World Championship in Scotland in 2012, I know 4 years seems a long time away but we will have a lot of organising to do so time will fly. Alan Haines, Jack Ronaldson and myself have been to Scotland and have decided to play the Championship around Carnoustie in June of 2012. If we get the go ahead from the World Committee all the work will start when we get back from N.Z.

As you can see from this year's program we will be visiting some of our usual venues plus some we have not visited for some time. My President's day again will be at Ashbourne and I look forward to seeing a lot of members there, the course is showing signs of improvement since we employed a new green keeper.

Entries are coming in for The Championship at Carden Park; we have limited number of 72 players and will be taking entries on first come basis so if you have not entered please do so as soon as possible.

May I wish you all a good golfing year and look forward to seeing you all at the meetings.

Tony Broadhurst

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## *Immediate Past President: Frank McCabe*

Time has just flown by and I have really enjoyed my two years as your President. As an Association we have had another very good year, with attendances up on previous years. It must have been the anticipation of trying to guess the delivery of our Captain's speeches! A great deal of hard work goes into our fixtures and they do not happen by accident. Looking back we had another great Championship at St Pierre and on your behalf would like to express my thanks to Tony Broadhurst for his excellent organisation. Portpatrick was again a huge success and would certainly recommend the fixture to any member. I must congratulate all the prizewinners for their good golf and sincerely hope to join them in the coming months! I must thank all members of our committee for their efforts throughout the year, and finally my thanks to all our members for their support throughout my 2 years in office.

## Frank McCabe

### *Wilson Henry*



Wilson died in October last year aged 81 after a long illness. He was our Captain in 1974 and was an Honorary Life Member of our Association. At a very well attended funeral service his remarkable record of voluntary service was praised. We can only feel grateful that in his busy life he somehow found time to lend his many talents to our Association. An accountant, he founded Wilson Henry & Co in Liverpool in 1958. This is a very well respected firm and the integrity of Wilson was a major factor. The British Left Handed Golfers Association were represented by Roger Wood (Captain in 1985 & 1989) and Barry Ingham (Treasurer). Wilson was a member of West Lancs Golf Club with a low handicap and he was always a joy to play with. In accordance with the family request we have made a donation to Great Ormond Street Children's Charity.

Although Wilson did not play golf in his latter years he always enjoyed reading about the Association in the various Newsletters and does feature in many aspects of our history, which Barry Ingham has almost concluded. His widow, Phyl, wrote to us following the funeral:

"May I say a big thank you to the members of the British Left Handed Golfers Association who came to Wilson's funeral. As you know Wilson loved the Association. Wilson and I enjoyed so many of the competitions and the social side, especially Portpatrick.

Wilson was a very big part of our lives and we are grateful for the wonderful years we had with him. Thank you for your generous donation in memory of Wilson. Your support and generosity is very much appreciated by the whole family.”

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Finance

Our accounts are finalised at the end of July and presented to the AGM not long afterwards. A written financial statement is given to members prior to the AGM together with accounts and I answer any resulting questions. The full minutes of the AGM appear later in this newsletter. Geography does result in members being unable to attend the AGM and I am always happy to answer any questions in respect of the accounts from those members unable to attend the AGM. A year-end of July has advantages and disadvantages. Disadvantages in that we still have events to come for which deposits have been paid and prizes purchased.

Twice a year Alan (Secretary) and I get together, firstly to reconcile the alleged membership with paying members and secondly to prepare the year-end accounts. The latter is necessary because Alan runs a float as in the main most of our money spent in advance, is on golf club deposits and prizes. We meet up between Wetherby and Liverpool, play a round of golf and complete our work. He wins 6 & 5 and this keeps him affable!

Long serving members will remember that when I took over we had no money. Indeed we owed money for items of clothing, paid for by members but not delivered and to a golf club. Our right-handed friends from Ashbourne were generous in providing financial support, as was our Life Member Tom Hayes. We now have £8000.00 in liquid funds. This is not my success. Rather it is down to the way in which the Association is run, the Committee and members. I just write the figures in the books.

We are not a profit-seeking organisation. So why do we need £8000.00? Golf is obviously getting more expensive and golf clubs more businesslike. To set up a year long fixture list Alan needs £2500.00 by way of deposits and he buys all prizes for each fixture. On January 26th each year around £1500.00 subscription income comes into our account by way of standing order payments. It is not always clear to which member this money applies. Joint and company accounts can confuse but over the years Alan and I have solved most of these problems.

The Committee have supported a decision to negate membership to any member who has not paid a subscription for at least 2 years. This has been handled with sensitivity. Sending newsletters to anyone who is no longer supportive is expensive. Postage costs alone are rising. Against rising costs we have kept a day's golf to £50 - £55 together with unaltered subscription. Some days we make a small profit others a loss. In rough terms subscription income covers the running of the Association. The increase in reserves is because of the substantial donations from Alan's Portpatrick venture and the very profitable visits to Ashbourne Golf Club. Such income streams are not guaranteed.

An average days lefties golf provides a possible 27 holes, lunch, dinner and prizes on good quality courses. Very few clubs will reduce the package price for those only playing 18 holes. Some years ago at the AGM I raised the possibility of just 18 holes of golf and dispensing with a formal evening dinner and prize presentation. This was firmly rejected. It's clear that members prefer the existing format. All golf societies are suffering from low turnouts. Senior Opens, Pay and Play, Two for One and petrol costs are all factors. The Committee is well aware of all the above but also what our members want and our turn out has not declined. At the top of our list are visits to courses of quality without ridiculous costs of the Wentworths, Birkdales etc.

At our AGM's, held after golf and before dinner and with distances to travel there is little time available. Members may be reluctant to ask questions for these reasons or be unable to attend that particular event. For this reason I felt it prudent to go into more detail. As I have said earlier I welcome any questions from members.

One final bit of special pleading – comparatively few members pay by individual cheques and not standing orders. When a cheque for £12.50 arrives in the post I have to drive to the bank and struggle for a parking space, as I'm no longer allowed in the staff car park. Cheques received at meetings are no problem at all as I have to go to the bank in any event. Standing orders are available from either Alan or myself for anyone who has seen the light. My involvement in the BLHGA and other organisations prompted comment from a member of bank staff that they see more of me now than when I was their manager. I think it's called scouse wit.

Barry Ingham

Treasurer

2009-A Very Special Year

In 2009 we celebrate 50 years since our foundation and it is appropriate that one of our elder statesmen Barry Ingham will be our Captain (subject of course to approval at the AGM!) We want to commemorate this milestone and any suggestions from members will be very welcome. Those members attending Portpatrick in 2009 will be pleased to know we will be holding a match against club members on Wednesday afternoon.

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### ***2012-Another Very Special Year***

Members may be aware that we have placed a bid to hold the World Championships in Scotland in July. It is very pleasing to confirm that our bid has been successful!

Jack Ronaldson kindly approached the St Andrews Links Trust to see if we could play at St Andrews but they were not interested. I am very pleased to advise we are visiting Carnoustie instead, playing Carnoustie, Monifieth, Panmure and Montrose

and the headquarters will be in Dundee. As further details emerge you will be kept fully informed.

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Smile!

A father, son and grandson went to the golf course for a game of golf. Just as they reached the first tee, a beautiful young blonde woman approached them with her clubs and asked if she could join them, naturally they agreed.

Smiling the blonde thanked them and said: "Look guys I work in a topless bar as a dancer, so nothing shocks me anymore, if you want to smoke, have a beer, tell off colour stories, or do anything that you normally do on a round of golf, go ahead. But I enjoy playing golf, and consider myself pretty good at it, so don't try to coach me on how to play my shots"

The guys agree to relax, and invite her to play first; all eyes were focussed on her shapely bottom as she bent to place her ball on the tee. She then smashed a drive 280 yards down the fairway, the father said, "That was a great drive", the blonde put her driver away and replied "It was o.k. but I didn't get it right out the middle." When they got to her ball, she took out an 8 iron, and put it 3 feet from the pin, the son said, "that was a perfect shot."

The blonde replied, "It was o.k, but I should have got closer to the pin." She then holed the putt for a birdie.

She then proceeded to play the rest of the round to the same standard, holing out for par & birdie all the way round.

When she reached the 18th green, she was 3 under par, and had a very nasty 5 footer (called a Denis Wise!) - downhill right to left putt. She turned to the guys and said "I would like to thank you all for behaving so well on the way round, but I need this putt for a 69, and as I have never broken 70 before I would like your assistance in reading the putt, so if anyone can tell me how to make this putt, I will take them back to my apartment, cook them a nice dinner, have a nice bottle of wine, and show them a very good time the rest of the night."

The yuppie grandson jumped at the opportunity, and after studying the line, said, "It needs a firm strike, aim 4 inches outside the hole and you will make it."

The father then studied the line, and said, "No it needs a break of 6 inches outside the hole hit it softly, and it will run down into the hole."

The grey haired grandfather walked over and picked up the ball saying "Its a gimme sweetheart, your car or mine"

OLD AGE AND TREACHERY WILL OVERCOME SKILL AND YOUTHFUL VITALITY EVERYTIME.

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***Annual General Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007***  
***Ingestre Park GC***

*The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held at Ingestre Golf Club on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006, together with the Secretary's Report and Financial Statement were circulated to members prior to the meeting.*

**Apologies:** Stan Quinn

**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.*

**2006 – 7 Secretary's Report**

**Membership:** *A good year with 11 new members. 20 enquiries for membership were received throughout the year. 6 of these were in respect of people hearing about us via the Championships but sadly no new members emerged. As our Treasurer has mentioned in his financial report I have written to all non-payers and those who have not responded will be deleted from our list of members once Barry has received the annual subscriptions in January 2008. 72 members have played at least one fixture with 25 playing 4 fixtures or more.*

**Website:** *My sincere thanks go to Chris Birch who has done a great job with our website. It's virtually complete and will carry all our current fixtures, prizewinners and other BLHGA information. It will be fully interactive for all members. You will for example be able to put clubs for sale etc. We may have to limit certain members to 10 items at a time. (The Captain has asked me to mention that anyone wishing to buy a new driver should contact him first. He has many for sale-all have only been used once!) Barry Ingham has now finalised the history of the Association – a very difficult task separating facts from fiction/gossip and this will also feature on the website. Chris has attempted to ensure that whenever a search is made we will be on the first page. I am certain it will improve our membership and I will also ensure its one of the links on the World site [www.walg.org](http://www.walg.org)*

**Meetings:**

*The upward trend of attendances last year has continued in 2007 with the average now towards the 37 mark. In fact Ingestre will be the meeting with our lowest attendance of 34. This is in stark contrast to several years ago when I have had to cancel meetings due to poor attendance. The current number of fixtures appears about right and the numbers attending the majority of events is over the 35 mark. It is important to have a good geographical spread of fixtures and this year we will have visited both Buckingham and Cleckheaton. We have for example visited Ross on Wye and other venues towards the South West but numbers for such events have been disappointing. Next year Portpatrick and Rotherham have already been provisionally booked, as has the Championships and we will be visiting Buckingham to celebrate our 2008 Captain's Day with John Carter. We will also have our President's Day venue. This will leave us with about 6 fixtures to select. As I mentioned last year ease of travel has been an important ingredient with the golf clubs being very close to the motorways. Both our Captain's Day and President's Day were highly successful occasions as was our annual visit to Portpatrick. Buckingham is also popular as we have many members with a MK postcode. When you look at the accounts you will see that the "profit" made on some events minus the "loss" made on others roughly equates to the increase in our bank balances. Whilst we do have competition from "Open events" £50.00 per fixture still represents excellent value. We must ensure we play on quality courses and our number one intention is to have an excellent days golf with the unique leftie fellowship. We have not and will not go to a course just to make a profit. We are in a strong financial position and we should use this to improve our fixture list.*

**Championships:**

*The Championship at the St Pierre was again held over 2 days and was very successful both in terms of the quality of golf and numbers attending. My special thanks go to Tony Broadhurst for all his hard work with the Championship. These things are not easy to organise but as usual he did a splendid job. His efforts continued over the weekend and with the help of Frank McCabe assisting with the cards the whole event went very smoothly. Next year is already booked for Carden Park.*

*Our congratulations go to Matthew Parnham (National Champion and winner of the Bob Charles) and David Lenihan for winning the Malcolmson.*

### ***World Championships – New Zealand***

*2008 sees the Championship going to New Zealand in March. We have about a dozen members going and wish them every success*

### ***World Championship Bid***

*The committee are considering bidding to hold the World Championships in Scotland in either 2010 or 2011. Clearly work is still progressing and we had hoped to secure the Old Course and a further course run by the St Andrew's Trust. Sadly we have just learned that this request has been turned down by the Trust and alternatives are now under review.*

### ***Email***

*We now have about 50 members who I correspond with via email. If you wish to use this method rather than write please email me at [leftiegolfers@aol.com](mailto:leftiegolfers@aol.com) with your email address.*

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

*Alan Haines*

*Secretary  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2007*

### **2006 – 7 Treasurer's Report**

*I would like to write something original but we appear to have got into a very comfortable financial rut. It's a bit like Ground Hog day or more accurately Ground Hog year. To start at the beginning, subscriptions for 2007 slightly exceed that for 2006. This is very gratifying when most societies report falling numbers for a variety of reasons. Pay and play, two for one and seniors golf have impacted, not only on societies but also on golf clubs. This steady income means that we do not have to avoid venues where we can anticipate a net loss. Even without this factor we have had some major earners.*

*Alan Haines made his usual donation of £500 from Portpatrick. Given the value of this most enjoyable event to the participants this is quite remarkable and is in stark contrast to when the previous gentleman ran the trip.*

*Like last year our visit to Ashbourne for the President's Day was both very enjoyable and profitable thanks to Frank's stewardship.*

*A newcomer this year was our first visit to Bromsgrove, which produced a healthy profit. I gather not everyone liked the course. I did, probably because unusually for me I got a couple of pars.*

*A few events produced small losses, which does not matter as long as members had a good day. Tony Broadhurst did his usual excellent job of organising our Championship at St Pierre. Whilst the committee would be happy if this showcase event produced a loss, it did not. The admin costs of running the year are minimal. Inevitably the Secretary incurs the major costs. Thanks are due to Ron and Karen Walker who make their home available for committee meetings. We even get bacon butties and coffee to add to the comfort. I hold a stock of bag tags and during the year we have bought more sweaters and shirts, which are held by Frank McCabe. Overall, in the balances held between the bank, secretary and stock we have seen an increase of around £750.00 from this time last year. You will note from the accounts that this equates to the difference in the events making a profit and those making a loss. This would endorse we've got things about right. Therefore I see no reason, despite rising costs to increase subscription levels. The raffles continue to be productive and out of proceeds we pay gratuities. These, plus the numbers attending and making prompt payment, make us welcome visitors. I thank those who run the events, often sacrificing some of their own golf, as they collect money and organise pairings. In particular I thank those who handle our finances on the few occasions I am unable to attend. Finally Alan and I have embarked on pruning the list of members on our books who have not paid a subscription for 2 years or more. This has been done with sensitivity a word not normally associated with our Secretary.(and I am typing it!). As a result we have received some payments, which will show in next years accounts. It will also reduce costs in respect of printing, telephone and postage. I will of course answer any questions from the floor at the AGM.*

*Barry Ingham*

*Treasurer  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2007*

**BLHGA Accounts as at 31st July 2007**

|                               | <u>Income</u>    | <u>Expenditure</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b><u>Opening Balance</u></b> |                  |                    |
| <b>Treasurer</b>              | <b>£6,020.17</b> |                    |
| <b>Secretary</b>              | <b>£2,064.64</b> | <b>£8,084.81</b>   |
| <b>Stock-balls</b>            |                  | <b>£646.00</b>     |

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Merchandise | £<br>531.35   |
| Interest    | £<br>5.67     |
| Subs        | £<br>1,670.00 |

**Deposits-prepaid**

|             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ingestre    | £<br>300.00 |             |
| Rotherham   | £<br>100.00 |             |
| Cleckheaton | £<br>300.00 | £<br>700.00 |

**General Expenses**

|                    |             |  |
|--------------------|-------------|--|
| Postage            | £<br>159.82 |  |
| Committee expenses | £<br>118.40 |  |
| Printing           | £<br>185.00 |  |
| Data base          | £<br>35.25  |  |
| Stationery         | £<br>22.50  |  |
| Telephones         | £<br>25.00  |  |
| Treasurer          | £<br>100.00 |  |
| Merchandise        | £<br>688.36 |  |

**Fixtures**

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Rotherham     | £<br>9.00   |             |
| Ingestre      | £<br>225.00 |             |
| Buckingham    | £<br>43.50  |             |
| Longcliffe    | £<br>53.90  |             |
| Burghley Park | £<br>133.24 | £<br>464.64 |

|               |   |        |            |
|---------------|---|--------|------------|
| Portpatrick   | £ | 500.00 |            |
| Ashbourne     | £ | 353.00 |            |
| Championships | £ | 18.55  |            |
| Bromsgrove    | £ | 170.25 | £ 1,041.80 |

#### Stock

|                |   |        |          |
|----------------|---|--------|----------|
| Stock - raffle | £ | 105.00 |          |
| Stock - prizes | £ | 535.00 |          |
| Stock - balls  | £ | 268.75 | £ 908.75 |

#### Closing balances

|           |                   |                    |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Treasurer | £7,685.09         |                    |
| Secretary | £ 886.82          | £ 8,571.91         |
|           | <u>£11,979.63</u> | <u>£ 11,979.63</u> |

#### Election of Officers

Captain: **John Carter:** Proposed by Harold Adkin, seconded by Ron Walker and carried.

Vice Captain: **Barry Ingham:** Proposed by Gerald Frost, seconded by Tony Broadhurst and carried.

President: **Tony Broadhurst:** Proposed by Frank McCabe, seconded by Tony Broadhurst and carried.

Other officers: It was proposed by Mike Elkington that all other officers and committee members were re-elected. This was seconded by Keith Edge and carried.

A vote of thanks was given by Ron Walker (Chairman) to Alan Haines (Secretary), and Barry Ingham (Treasurer) for their hard work during the year. Ron also thanked

*Tony Broadhurst for organising the successful Club Championships. Special thanks were given to Frank McCabe for an excellent 2 years as President.*

### **Any Other Business**

*John Parham suggested the Association should visit the other areas south of Birmingham and Alan confirmed that in the past support has not been particularly strong. However he would arrange a fixture hopefully at Ross-on Wye in 2008.*

***Meeting closed at 7.40pm***

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Dear Problem Page

I've never written to you before, but I really need your advice. I have suspected for some time now that my wife has been cheating on me. The usual signs..... phone rings but if I answer, the caller hangs up. My wife has been going out with the girls a lot recently although when I ask their names she always says, "Just some friends from work, you don't know them."

I always try to stay awake to look out for her coming home, but I usually fall asleep. Anyway, I have never approached the subject with my wife. I think deep down I just didn't want to know the truth, but last night she went out again and I decided to really check on her.

Around midnight, I decided to hide in the garage behind my golf clubs so I could get a good view of the whole street when she arrived home from a night out with "the girls".

It was at that moment, crouching behind my clubs, that I noticed that the graphite shaft on my driver appeared to have a hairline crack right by the club head. Is this something I can fix myself or should I take it back to the pro shop where I bought it?

2008 Swedish Open

This is being held from 29th June – 1st July at Fjallbacka Golf Club. It's 150 kilometres from Gothenburg and is the same venue where the World Championships are being held in 2009. Cost is 145 euros, which includes 3 rounds of golf, registration fee and prizes.

If interested please contact the Secretary for more details.

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### ***French Left Handed Championship***

I think this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the French have held a National Championship. It's being held on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September, with a practice round on 19<sup>th</sup>. Please visit their

website [www.afgg.fr](http://www.afgg.fr) for more details – the registration paper is in English! Costs look very attractive. If any more information required please contact the Secretary.

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Clubs for Sale

Ping Tour wedges. 54°, 56°, 58°, 60°
Regular steel shafts, all good condition - £25.00 each

Ping Crazy Putter Mid length – excellent condition £60.00

Calloway FT3 Driver. Regular shaft. 10° - very good condition £60.00

Set of Ping I3 irons. Regular steel shafts – very good condition £60.00

If interested please contact the Secretary who will advise of member's details

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***Note from Secretary***

Dear members

Please accept my apologies for delay in sending out the newsletter. It was just about ready to go in April as planned, but due to unforeseen circumstances has been delayed. I go into hospital shortly! If you wish to have an article in the newsletter please advise.

Chris Birch has done a great job on our website – please visit and have a look. The number of members using email is increasing steadily – if you have not advised me of your email address please do so – it does reduce our costs.

Best wishes for an excellent golfing year.

Greens and fairways

*Alan Haines*

Secretary

**Committee Members 2008**

**Captain**

***John Carter, The Croft, Buckingham Road, Brackley, Northants NN13 7EL***  
***Tel. 01280 703178***

**President**

***Tony Broadhurst, 2 Carnarvon Villas, Midway, Swadlincote DE11 7LW***  
***Tel. 01283 223636***

**Vice Captain & Treasurer**

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