

GOLF

I played a little bit of golf during my time at Dartmouth when it was at Eaton Hall as there was a little 9 hole course. However a naval life followed by a very busy working life with Allied Leather and four children to enjoy meant that it was not until I left Allied Leather in 1985 that my thoughts turned to considering golf.

I went to the Haywards Heath Golf Club for lessons with Bernard Firkins and bought my first set of proper clubs from him.

I then played fairly regularly at Royal Ashdown Golf Club as a member of the New course, and sometimes on the Old course paying green fees.

Most games were with Edgar Leuchars or Dick Fairbarns and sometimes we would play at other courses such as Seaford.

In 1990 I joined the Royal Ashdown Golf Club as a full member and had more lessons from Martin Lansborough, the pro.

My game slowly improved until I was given a slightly unofficial handicap of 18.

The 'Tuesday Boys' was great fun. We all turned up for lunch and then played a round of foursomes. Francis Briggs ran the Tuesday Club and made sure we all played with a variety of people thus getting a variety of partners and making a lot of friends.

Ashdown is not an easy course having a lot of hills and heather, but no bunkers as it is part of Ashdown Forest and no holes may be dug!

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I also played on the fantastic course at Birch Grove, built by Larry Yung the Chinese man who bought the Birch Grove Estate. This is a private course and was hardly used.

The Lewis', Fairbarns, Leuchars, Veaseys and Waddingtons and Rebeka and I went on long weekend Golf Breaks to various venues such as Morehampton. These were good fun and we played sociable bridge in the evenings.

I also played on a variety of other courses including Hever with Michael Robinson, with Peter Pickett in the Medical Society days, Piltdown with Andrew Harding and so on.

Once a year at Ashdown a charity match was organised for teams of four and one year myself, Graham Lewes, David Waddington and Simon Arnold won the event with 45 points and I got the prize for the best score on the par 3 holes.

Sadly when my eyesight deteriorated in 2004 and I could not drive a car, or see where the ball was going, I stopped playing and resigned from the Club.