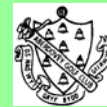




Aberdovey Abstracts



Volume 2 Issue 8

December 2011

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Captain's Chair

I can't exactly remember what I said on January 1st in thanking the members of Aberdovey golf club for the honour of being the last "Club Captain". (In fact I think that title is already out of date as I have had great fun this year working alongside Lynn Mamos) . I'm sure my nerves that day were in part due to the excellent party at the clubhouse the night before and the fact that I was attempting to "drive in" with the club made for my great-uncle in 1935 by the Pro at "Towyn on Sea" Golf Club.

Looking back at my notes, I know I mentioned my enthusiasm for matchplay golf and probably tried to encourage more members to take part in the knockout competitions and indeed club matches. Some might say that message fell on stony ground, however there were some great matches played at Aberdovey during the last year.

I was delighted to see new competitors in both the match-play competitions and club matches. In the last match of the season against Borth we actually had more players than the visiting team and I know next year's captain John Sidebotham is particularly keen to attract more members to play in club matches. Although the results were mixed, what was consistent throughout the year was the fun that all competitors had in representing the club. In particular I'd like to thank our most senior and junior players this year, Brian Dodwell and Tomos Jones for playing so regularly and with such enthusiasm.

The Midlands Tour started with optimism, with Jamie Simkiss in our team once again we looked forward to a better result! As usual we were lavishly entertained by Moseley and Edgbaston and, as usual, the generosity of their hospitality possibly had something to do with the outcome of these fixtures! Notwithstanding everyone had a great time and thanks again to Moseley and Edgbaston for looking after us so well.

The highlight of the match play golfing year was hosting the Welsh Amateur. Throughout the week all the matches were played in great spirit and especially the 36 hole final won on the last hole by Jason Shufflebotham to defeat his good friend Rhys Pugh. I was delighted that both accepted Honorary membership of Aberdovey Golf Club. Jason has already been back to play with his family and friends; Rhys went on to represent Wales in the Walker cup so once again Aberdovey golf club has a Walker cup player.

When I was watching the final and chatting with a journalist covering the event, I was surprised when he asked me the following question "The course is in great condition and beautifully presented, great golf is being played and Aberdovey is a great club, but why are more members not watching the event?". I couldn't think of a suitable answer and still can't!

All the hard work in preparation for this event has been well documented in the following pages and undoubtedly it's important for the reputation of Aberdovey golf club to hold such events. However I hope that when the Amateur returns in 2017 that there will be an enthusiastic following of club members watching some incredible golf. For example in the semi-final Rhys Pugh was 5 under par after 4 holes, watching that live is even more exciting than any championship on television. Hopefully it will be an inspiration to us all.

I also watched the final of the Dyfi cups in which Martin Page and John Proctor beat Andy and Chris Upson, a closely contested match played in appalling conditions, it was the summer meeting after all. In accepting the prize Martin Page recalled how much fun he had playing in the Dyfi cups since asked to partner the late Alan Bolton many years ago. And if anyone is in any doubt that matchplay is the best form of golf at Aberdovey, have a word with Andy or Chris Upson. Last year in the Dyfi cups I partnered John Barker hoping to establish a precedent that the captain and vice captain would play together. So John Sidebotham was really had no choice when I asked him to partner me. At times it would be good if the Captain and Vice Captain had more influence on club matters - that was certainly not true in the Dyfi Cups draw. We were beaten by the Upson's in the 1st round! I wish John and Mike Bouch better luck next year!

Captain's Day was blessed with great weather. The format was a Stableford Foursome, my second most favourite form of golf. There was also a team prize which went to Deiter Botchett, Paul Bloxidge, David Artie Williams and Hamish Mackay.

(Continued on page 2)

Captain's Chair - continued



A special thanks to Sarah, Lola and Coco for keeping everyone entertained at the 12th Tee.



The next day in the match versus the Ladies I was surprised and delighted to receive the winners cup from the Ladies' Captain, Lynn Mamos.



Whilst on my soapbox another great tradition of the club that seems to have slipped in recent years is that all competitors expected to turn up at the Prize giving to congratulate the winners and have a few drinks to celebrating their success. Certainly that was the case in

the old clubhouse, which ran out of space on Prize-giving nights. We have ample accommodation now and with the excellent catering provided by Gill and her team, I hope in the future prize-giving nights will again become a key fixture in everybody's diary. And if anyone needs further tempting to play club matches, we've had some great dinners after the games. Thanks Gareth and Bryan and their team behind the bar for keeping everyone so well watered.

On the subject of prizes I had great hopes this year that the lady captain would carry me to at least one victory. Lynn has tried her best on a number of occasions and I hope that my game will improve in time for the Christmas competition so we can go out on a high!

The final match of the year was on a glorious day in November when Aberdovey scored a victory over the Jeroboam Golfing Society. Graceful in defeat they presented the club with the Jeroboam which was duly consumed. The JGS are principally members of Muirfield and Prestwick and will be inviting an Aberdovey team back for a return match and the opportunity to enjoy their hospitality north of the border.



When I started playing golf at Aberdovey Jack was the Pro and I know that he would be very proud of everything Joe and Chris have achieved in following his footsteps. My best wishes to you both for a long and happy retirement.

Following the decision at the AGM the past Captain no longer serves on the committee so I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank our Club Chairman Roger Allen for the way he has managed to steer the club through some stormy waters. The economic climate will undoubtedly cause a few ripples of uncertainty, however I'm confident that Aberdovey Golf Club is in a great position to come sailing through.

On a personal note I have thoroughly enjoyed my year and wish John Sidebotham every success in 2012.

Robin Shuker

Captain Aberdovey Golf Club

Chairman's Report

Looking back to the last edition of Aberdovey Abstracts, I was wishing all of you a highly enjoyable and successful year on our historic golf course and we were introducing our new captains. Well that seems only like last week and here we now are at the end of another golfing season, another year has flown by and now we are all preparing for Christmas.

We have now completed updating our administrative requirements with the new edition of our Aberdovey Golf Club rules and bye-laws.

Our next main task will be introducing a complete new computer system. Our existing one is working at its maximum capacity and we will therefore be introducing not only new computers but a new server to link everything together. This will include the shop, which will become part of our operation from January 1st, and will require new computerised tills and bar code readers.

The highlight of our golfing year was the G UW Men's Welsh Amateur Championship held in July, returning to Aberdovey after a break of nearly 50 years.

The 36 hole final went to the last hole with the 8th seed Jason Shufflebotham from Prestatyn holing his chip to defeat the second seed Rhys Pugh from Vale of Glamorgan by a margin of two holes.

Everyone from the competitors to the G UW officials were extremely complimentary about both the condition of our course and the welcome they received from the clubhouse, professional and office staff and on behalf of all our members can I thank all our staff for their considerable help in making the Championships such a success.

We have been invited to host the Championship again in 2017.

I should add that Rhys went from Aberdovey to play in the Walker Cup winning 3 valuable points to help GB&I defeat the USA.

Our junior coaching has gone from strength to strength and while there will be a separate report in this edition of Abstracts, can I thank our Professional Joe and all those members who have given so willingly of their time to build up an impressive number of enthusiastic young golfers.

There is no doubt that the condition of our course throughout 2011 has been of the highest order and, in composing this report in early November, it remains in wonderful condition. Congratulations and thanks to Meurig our Head Greenkeeper and all our green staff and to Keith Price and all the members of our greens committee.

The condition of our course has certainly helped us attract a record number of visitors to Aberdovey in 2011, many who have enjoyed the facilities on offer in our Dormy accommodation which has enjoyed a significant increase in bed occupancy.

Another major reason for these encouraging figures is the work done for the past few years by our marketing team under the leadership of Paul Bloxidge.

Paul and his team planned and built our marketing programme on a very limited budget from a standing start to become what is acknowledged to be what other clubs should be aiming at, Paul is now standing down and on behalf of Aberdovey Golf Club can I thank him for developing what is a vital part of our business plan.

As we approach the year end we also approach the end of an era as Aberdovey Golf Club will no longer have a member of the Davies family as our Professional.

Joe retires on December 31st after over 30 years of wonderful service, our future plans will be covered elsewhere in this edition, but I know all members past and present will have fond and happy memories of "Joe the Pro". On Saturday May 26th there will be a celebratory golf day to recognise Joe's contribution to our club which I am sure will be oversubscribed, details to follow in due course.

This also gives me the opportunity to thank Joe's wife Chris, although not a direct employee of the club, she has nevertheless been a wonderful stalwart in the Professionals shop looking after all our varied requirements.

On behalf of all our members can I wish both of them a very long and happy retirement.

Finally can I wish all members a very happy Christmas and a healthy and successful new year,

Roger Allen

Chairman of Management and General Committees.

History Of the Trophies Information Request!

I am attempting to put together a complete history of the Aberdovey Golf Club trophies. Despite fairly extensive research I cannot find details of some of them. I welcome any information you may have about the following trophies particularly when they were presented, by whom and for what reason.

Bill Hogg Trophy, Penhelig Trophy, Ward Cup, Tywyn Cups, Ladies' Clock Foursomes, Ladies' Crystal Stableford and the Ladies Foursomes Knock-Out.

I am also trying to locate the Hope Smeeton Medal, does anyone know its whereabouts, please?

Find me in the Club or email me at mikedunn944@btinternet.com.

Thank you in advance.

Mike Dunn.

Editor Aberdovey Abstracts.

Ladies Locker

I cannot believe that I am nearly at the end of a very enjoyable and busy year. What a great time I have had and much has happened since I last wrote in Abstracts.

May

The Ladies Am Am was well supported with a good representation from Clubs in the area and further afield. The winning team was Sally Wilkinson, Yvette Nunn (Edgbaston) and Pauline Perry (Kings Norton) and myself.

June

We had a fun Ladies outing to Builth Wells. As usual the coach was full and a great time was had by all. Thank you Lynn for organizing the day so well – even the weather! Congratulations to the winners - Olwen Bate, Pam Murfin, Gwen Stevens and Pauline Rogers.

Invitation Day, also in June, gave us the chance to entertain our guests and enjoy some good golf, food and a drop of wine too!

July

Many thanks to everyone, some 60 lady members, who took part in my Captain's Day. Thank you all for your cards, good wishes and kind words and to everyone who helped make it a special day. I must say I thoroughly enjoyed it and I believe every one else did too, despite the downpour that drenched all but the first few teams. A few drinks on the 12th, served by Bob Hall and Mike Bouch helped create a happy and relaxed atmosphere. A big thank you to Mike Dunn for taking all the photographs and creating a lovely photo collage of all the players to remind me of my special day. There was a great atmosphere in the bar afterwards and Gill, the catering and bar staff did us proud. The course was in great condition too - thanks to Meurig and his team. Congratulations to the winning team of Caroline Temple Cox, Alison Corbett and Trish Walter.



August

The week started well with the Club Championship being played over 36 holes on the Saturday. Well done to Lottie Turner who won the Championship's Reiben Gold Medal. This year's August week had variable weather conditions but we still had over 100 ladies playing in the competitions – despite the weather there was a great buzz around the clubhouse. Thanks to Val Franklin, Gareth and Ann who put a lot of effort into the week, working behind the scenes to make sure everything ran smoothly. The week finished with the prize giving and Annual meeting. Congratulations again to all the prize winners. They are all listed on the pages 6, 7 and 8.

September

The annual Open Greensomes was well supported, it was nice to see so many visiting teams in the prizes, the winners being Helen Palmer and Pat Mellard from Harbourne.

Aberdovey had the honour of hosting the Golf Union of Wales Ladies County Finals this year. The occasion was made even more special as the finalists were Mid Wales County versus Monmouthshire.

Congratulations to three Aberdovey ladies (Sara Rees Evans, Julie McAloon and Sally Wilkinson) who were selected to play in the Mid Wales team of seven players. It was the first time Mid Wales had ever reached the final and it was a great pleasure to see them being crowned County Champions. They beat Monmouthshire 7½ – 1½.



Well done to Pam Murfin and Win Sowter who, on 14th September, played in the Centenary Greensomes final at Padeswood and Buckley and came second with 39 points.



October

Our October prize giving took place before the Ladies Annual Dinner. Congratulations to the prize winners. They are all listed on the pages 8 and 9.

Shirley Henn was our guest speaker at the dinner and entertained us all brilliantly with her amusing poems. Thanks to Gill and her staff for giving us an excellent meal.

November/December

We are rounding off the year with the Christmas Cheer fun competitions and the 9 hole Bring and Win on 14th December.

Congratulations to Sheila Edwards who has been appointed President of Mid Wales County Golf Association. We wish her a happy and successful time in office.

During the year to date the Ladies have helped raise considerable funds for my charity - Wales Air Ambulance and also for the Ladies Section to fund our activities and

Ladies Locker

league match expenses. Various fund raising activities have been organised during the year, we held another coffee morning on 2nd December, raising £220.70.

Thank you everyone who has helped raise funds for these worthy causes.

Two ladies teams represented Aberdovey in the North Wales Challenge Shield League in 2011. The Division 2 team narrowly missed being promoted (by 1 point) and the Division 7 played well and finished mid table. Our team also played well in the Mid Wales Scratch League. I would like to thank all the ladies who played for the teams and travelled the many miles up to North Wales. Thanks to Sally Wilkinson and Elaine Price, the Match Secretaries, for all their hard work this year. A special thanks to Elaine who is passing over the responsibility for Division 7 to Dawn Campkin. Please support the teams again next year and look out for the fixture list.

I could not have got through my year so far without the

help, encouragement and support of all of you. Thank you. The whole AGC team, has been a great help to me during the year. Meurig and the greenstaff, Ann, Gareth, Gill and the catering and bar staff, Joe, Chris and Susie – thank you all very much. On behalf of the Ladies Section I wish Joe and Chris a long and happy retirement.

Lynn Dunn, the Ladies Committee and the Ladies Section have been brilliant throughout the year and have done everything they could to help and make my year run smoothly. Their support has been invaluable.

I have great pleasure in wishing Lynn Dunn, Ladies' Captain 2012 and Sue Allen, Ladies' Vice Captain, a very happy and successful year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Lynn Mamos

Ladies' Captain

North Wales Challenge Shield Association League Division Two

Date	Opposition	Venue	Result
Monday 11th April	Rhuddlan	Home	W 3 - 2
Friday 6th May	Rhuddlan	Away	W 3 - 2
Monday 23rd May	Bull Bay	Home	W/O 5 - 0
Friday 27th May	Abergele	Home	W 4 1/2 - 1/2
Friday 3rd June	Bull Bay	Away	L 3 - 2
Monday 20th June	Padeswood & Buckley	Home	W 4 1/2 - 1/2
Monday 18th July	Abergele	Away	L 4 1/2 - 1/2
Friday 29th July	Padeswood & Buckley	Away	L 3 - 2

North Wales Challenge Shield Association League Division Seven

Date	Opposition	Venue	Result
Friday 8th April	Nefyn	Home	W 3 1/2 - 1 1/2
Monday 18th April	Porthmadog	Home	H 2 1/2 - 2 1/2
Friday 6th May	Nefyn	Away	L 1/2 - 4 1/2
Friday 27th May	Porthmadog	Away	W 3 - 2
Friday 3rd June	Llangollen	Home	W 3 1/2 - 1 1/2
Monday 13th June	Abersoch	Away	L 5 - 0
Monday 20th June	Llangollen	Away	L 4 - 1
Monday 27th June	Abersoch	Home	W 3 - 2
Monday 18th July	Pwllheli	Home	H 2 1/2 - 2 1/2
Monday 25th July	Pwllheli	Away	L 5 - 0

Mid Wales Challenge County Golf Association Scratch League

Date	Opposition	Venue	Result
Sunday 10th July	Builth Wells	Away	L 1/2 - 2 1/2
Thursday 14th July	Borth	Home	W 2 1/2 - 1 1/2
Saturday 30th July	Welshpool	Away	L 2 1/2 - 1 1/2
Saturday 27th August	Cradoc	Home	L 2 - 1

Ladies' Results 2011

Rieben Gold Medal - Best Gross over 36 Holes

Winner	Lottie Turner	79 & 80 = 159
Runner Up	Ann Booth	79 & 85 = 164



St. Leger Carter Salver - Best Nett Over 36 Holes

Winner	Janet Price	75 & 72 = 147
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Jean Thorne Trophy - Best Gross Over 18 Holes - Silver Division

Silver Division	Winner	Lynn Mamos	84
	Runner Up	Liz MacDonald	91



Brodie Medal - Best Gross over 18 holes - Bronze Division

Bronze Division	Winner	Caroline Temple Cox	99
	Runner Up	Liz Bruton	100



Talgarth Cup - Best Nett over 18 holes

Winner	Amanda Pioli	89 - 19 = 70	On the back 9 from
Runner Up	Lynn Mamos	84 - 14 = 70	
Third	Pat Broadbent	91 - 19 = 72	



Charity Stableford - Raised £263 for Air Ambulance

Winner & Granny's Prize	Gwen Stevens	36 points
Second	Lottie Turner	35 points
Third	Nicki Thelwall Jones	34 points
Granny's Prize	Liz Jones	35 points

Crystal Stableford

Winner	Zilla Montgomery	43 points
Second	Caroline Temple Cox	39 points
Third	Mary Upson	36 points
On the last 9 from	Liz Bruton	36 points



Ladies' Results 2011 - continued

Hope Smeeton Spoons

Winner	Caroline Temple Cox	93 - 20 = 73
Runner Up	Sheila Edwards	92 - 19 = 73
Third	Chris Davies	102 - 27 = 75



Hope Smeeton Medal

Winner	Liz Bruton	97
Runner Up	Chris Davies	102

Jean Kitchin Memorial Trophy

Silver Division	Winner	Lottie Turner	86
	Runner Up	Sally Wilkinson	90



Mixed Foursomes

Winners	David & Jenny French	40 points	
Runners Up	Sally Wilkinson & Graham Thelwall Jones	39 points	On the back 9 from
Third	Aneurin & Sheila Edwards	39 points	On the back 9 from
Fourth	Mike & Freida Stokes	39 points	On the back 9 from
Fifth	David & Madelyn Gower	39 points	

Ladies Clock Foursomes

Winners	Lottie & Sue Turner	33 points	On the back 9 from
Runners Up	Sue Allen & Jenny French	33 points	
Third	Olwen Bate & Bella Covill	32 points	



Cader Cups

Winners	Brian & Sue Inch
Runners Up	Chris & Mary Upson
Losing Semi Finalists	Robert & Georgina Hatt; David & Harriet Evans



Corbett Trophy

Winner	Sally Wilkinson	94 - 9 = 85	On the back 9 from
Runner up	Jose Price	112- 27 = 85	



Ladies' Results 2011 - continued

Tywyn Hospital Cup

Winner Ceris Rawlinson 98 - 27 = 71



Aberdovey Trophy

Winner Lynn Mamos 107

Runner up Sally Wilkinson 106

Third Chris Greatbach 104

Fourth Margaret Vince 104



Arthritis & Rheumatism Cup

Winner Jenny French 35 points



Jenny French Salver

Winner Lynn Dunn 72 points

Runner up Sally Wilkinson 68 points

Third Ann Cruikshank 64 points



Copper Division Summer Knockout

Winner Jean Cartwright

Runner Up Rita Sidebotham

Captain's Bowl

Winner Judith James

Runner Up Amanda Pioli



Ladies Foursomes Knockout

Winners Lynn Mamos & Sally Wilkinson

Runner Up Chris Lewis & Mabs Fisher



Mixed Foursomes Summer Knockout

Winners John & Rita Sidebotham

Runners Up Graham Thelwall Jones & Sally Wilkinson



Men's Results 2011

Club Championship - Wright Cup

Winner Jonathan Moxon-Brown



Cave Silver Medal Medal - Best Nett over 36 Holes

Winner	John Roach	68 + 69 = 137	
Runner Up	Mike Bouch	70 + 69 = 139	On back 9 from
Third	Ken Wise	71 + 69 = 139	



Tomlins Cup

Winner	Billy Simkiss	72 - 8 = 64	
Runner Up	Chris Upson	71 - 5 = 66	On back 9 from
Third	Tomos Jones	79 - 12 = 67	



Ward Cup

Winner	Ross Rooney	38 points	
Runner Up	Paul Vicars	38 points	On back 9 from
Third	Colin Errington	37 points	



Hogg Trophy

Winners	Paul Bloxidge & Dieter Botchett	41 points	
Runners Up	Adam Farrer & Tom Farrer	40 points	On back 9 from
Third	Mike Emens & Roger Wood	37 points	



Jubilee Cup

Winner	Con McAloon	73 - 4 = 69	
Runner Up	Lindsay Parry	73 - 3 = 70	On back 9 from
Third	Martin Nickson	88 - 18 = 70	



Penhelig Trophy

Winner	Mike Rogers	37 points	On back 9 from
Runner Up	John Gould	37 points	
Third	Roger Walker	36 points	



Men's Results 2011 - continued

Penhelig Trophy

Winner	Mike Rogers	37 points	On back 9 from
Runner Up	John Gould	37 points	
Third	Roger Walker	36 points	

Aberdovey Town Vase

Winner	Billy Simkiss	72 - 8 = 64	
Runner Up	Chris Upson	71 - 5 = 66	On back 9 from
Third	Tomos Jones	79 - 12 = 67	



Tywyn Cups

Winner	Adam Farrer & Tom Farrer	67
Runner Up	Anthony Foulds & Frank Munger	68
Third	David French & Martin Page	69

Sadler Cup

Winner	Chris Upson	66	Tomlins Cup
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Joyce Memorial Cup

Winner	Billy Simkiss	64	Tomlins Cup
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Dyfi Cups

Winners	Martin Page & John Proctor
Runners Up	Andy Upson & Chris Upson



Allcock Bowl

Winner	Andrew Steele
Runner Up	Paul Farrer



Joe Davies - A True Pro!

Joe the Pro', as he is affectionately known to all, is an Aberdovey man, born and bred. Schooled in the village, first in the Infants' School (Prospect Place) then the National School (Brynhyfryd) and later in Tywyn, Joe had part-time jobs peddling up and down the hills delivering bread from the family bakery business. Like many other youngsters, he left the village to seek fame and fortune elsewhere but golf was not his game then, soccer was. No mean player himself, he played for Cardiff City and even Wales Boys in the Home Internationals before moving to the London area where he played for Hayes Town in between another delivery job - this one more weighty..... ready-mixed concrete! It was during his time in the South east when he first met Chris, in the midst of the Swingin' Sixties. After a move back to Aberdovey where, with the Britannia Inn then owned by his brother in law, he worked for a number of years. Joe and Chris made home in 'Cefn', in Copperhill Street, which became the venue for many a good party after the then traditional Boxing Day golf matches.

With his Dad, Jack 'Dai', as the Club Professional since 1963 and his Mum, Edith, as the caterer, it was no surprise that Joe took up golf and back at Aberdovey he quickly established himself as one the very best amateurs in the Club. In the space of 6 years he won the Dyfi Cups 3 times with Gordon Green, the Cader Cups with Bella Covill (scarcely having met each other before their first match - but being so successful that none of their games got past the 12th hole!), the Cambrian Cup twice and was Club Champion in both 1981 and 1982; an enviable and impressive record. Notwithstanding this successful amateur background it was still a leap of faith for Joe to relinquish his day job working with Gareth Lloyd painting and decorating, to pursue a PGA Golf Professional qualification. However, this he did and, after qualifying, took over the mantle of Club Professional from his Dad in 1982 operating out of the small shop crammed with golfing goodies that, until just before the fire in 1995, used to be about where the Manager's Office now resides. Golf clubs in general, and Aberdovey in particular, are in the Davies DNA. 'Young Jon' as he is known (their son - albeit now some 40 years old!) has been a Golf Professional at Woburn for almost 20 years and is now one of the most senior, and sought after, teachers there. Daughter Kate has been involved for some years in golf marketing and consultancy and has provided us with loads of valuable advice and assistance to help Aberdovey to develop our website and marketing initiatives.

Chris joined Joe in running the shop full time in 1997. The range of merchandise carried (better than many other Clubs or clothes shops) and the sales made are in no small part due to Chris's sales techniques; how many times have people gone into the shop to buy a bag of tee pegs and walked out with a new set of waterproofs?!.....not for nothing was Chris the top sales person in the whole of Manweb before going full-time in the Shop.

Joe's experience in the Club Pro role, building upon that of Jack 'Dai' before him, allows him to be at the very centre of much of what happens in and around the Golf Club. The shop is the first 'port of call' for Members coming back to Aberdovey after a break of some weeks to catch up with what's new, and it is the natural 'meet and greet' point for visiting golfers. Joe knows, and is known by, countless people (but, like me, he cannot always remember their names!), but can list amongst his many good friends both Ian Woosnam and Peter Baker. It is through these links that the Club has enjoyed some great days such as the 1992 Centenary exhibition match and, some 10 years later, the fantastic fund raising Pro-Am starring Ian Botham, Max Boyce and others in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospital - a wonderful charity which Joe and Chris have continued to support to this day



A youthful Joe in 1992 with (R to L) Peter Baker, Bruce Macfarlane (Club Champion) and Ian Woosnam



Joe and his Dad, Jack 'Dai' Davies - 49 years as Golf Professionals at Aberdovey



Joe with Ian Botham. (We finally handed over £26,000)

Joe Davies - A True Pro - continued

Joe's many friends appreciate his 'tell it like you see it' manner. Importantly he has always held the Club's interests very close to his heart and is not afraid to voice his opinions strongly and openly; whilst not to everyone's taste, at least you always know where you stand. Other occasions when opinions are voiced strongly usually revolve around the Autumn and Six Nations rugby internationals, on view in the TV Lounge, when the parentage of the officiating referee might occasionally be called into question when decisions go against his beloved Wales who, incidentally, share the same colour jerseys as his favourite soccer team.....no, not Manchester United, but Liverpool FC.

No tribute to Joe's time at Aberdovey would be complete without mention being made of the Swindles and the Super Swindle. Whilst the former 'roll up and play on Tuesdays' format has regrettably died, the latter event - one of the best and most popular in the Club's calendar - has gone from strength to strength almost wholly through the sustained efforts of Joe and Chris in teasing out support or prizes from Members, suppliers and local businesses. If any Member has not witnessed the groaning prize table they might not believe the generous prizes assembled, down to 10th place in each of 3 categories as well as the 'Swindler of the Year' award. Maybe the Swindle Committee can be persuaded to continue this popular event?

One of the key abilities that any Club requires of its Pro is in his teaching. Here we have been fortunate in that, as an appointed and qualified Golf Union of Wales coach, Joe is a very perceptive teacher, finding and fixing faults in an uncomplicated but oh-so-effective manner. Members have told me that they prefer to travel to meet up with Joe from far away for a lesson rather than use their more local Club pro. The Mid Wales Juniors, and more recently the clutch of our own local youngsters embarking on the game, have all benefitted from Joe's friendly and effective coaching style that develops the golfer as well as the individual. They have indeed been very fortunate.

Joe's 30+ years of playing golf with, arranging overseas trips for, or dealing with Members, visiting golfers and suppliers have provided him with a veritable treasure trove of anecdotes and amusing stories. A visit to, or perhaps a coffee in, the Pro's Shop, or maybe over a supper at the



*J Davies PGA Pro.
One-to-one coaching.
Anytime, anywhere.
Dogs welcome*

Riverside near their new home in Cwrt, and the stories will start to unfold. These are all told with his characteristic sense of humour and often end in an uncontrollable fit of the giggles. There is no doubt that over the years our Members and very many visitors have enjoyed coming to the Pro's Shop at Aberdovey, finding it a memorable and entertaining place that exudes Joe's easy-going nature in the same way that the brass plate carries his name alongside the door.

So what of the future? Well maybe Joe will actually find the time to commit some of those anecdotal stories to paper and write a book. Or perhaps he will develop further his liking of clay pigeon shooting? Or, now that he has the time and the garden space in which to do it, grow green-fingers? Whatever, we can be sure that whilst you can take the man out of Aberdovey, you cannot take Aberdovey out of the man and we will enjoy seeing him around and playing at the Club he loves for years to come.

Happy retirement Joe and Chris!

An Ode to Golf

In my hand I hold a ball....
white and dimpled, rather small....
Oh , how bland it does appear....
this harmless looking little sphere....
By its size I could not guess....
the awesome strength it does possess....
But since I fell beneath it's 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 swear and yell and cry....
I hate myself and want to die....
It promises a thing called par....
If I can hit 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 like it chooses....
It hooks and slices, dribbles and dies....
and even disappears before my eyes....
Often it will take 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 a drink to ease my sorrow....
but the ball knows....
I'll be back tomorrow!!!!

From The Greenkeeper's Shed

Winter is upon us and as yet another golfing year draws to a close, I think we can look back with some pride on the continuing improvement both to the course and the playing conditions.

This summer, as you know, we hosted the Welsh Amateur Championships for the first time in 45 years and the Chairman of the golf Union of Wales, John Jermine, commented that "the course produced a wonderful final and champion and was set up perfectly to test the best players. The Greens staff produced firm greens that putted well throughout the week and the clubhouse arrangements were superb". High praise indeed and my grateful thanks to all of our staff and members who helped make this such a memorable week.

The autumn and winter maintenance programme is well under way. All the greens have been treated with "Rescue" which is designed to reduce the amount of meadow grass in their surface. The greens have been overseeded and the mild autumn weather resulted in very successful germination and growth. The removal of the white lines from around the greens, together with extra treatment of the "aprons" has enhanced the appearance of the course. In fact, there are fewer signs of excessive wear than with the "sheep tracks" which appear around the lines. We do not propose to reinstate the white-lining, unless, during the winter months, there are signs of excessive damaged around the greens, due to exceptionally inclement weather.

The condition of the fairways continues to improve as a result of verti-draining, overseeding and fertilising over the past few years. The use of divot bags and mats in the winter has helped considerably in this improvement. The recent STRI report recommended that the use of mats should continue again this winter, between 1st November 2011 and 29th February 2012. However, it has been decided that mats should be used between 1st December and the end of February.

We are aware that the use of mats is not popular with some club members but we hope that all members, having seen the improvement in the quality of grass on the fairways will be prepared to accept the use of mats for this reduced period of three months.

Some tees are not as level as they should be and will be levelled and returfed as part of the winter programme. Many of the Darwin tees are in poor condition and, subject to the approval of the CCW, we intend to enlarge them so that they can be maintained and irrigated more effectively.

The updated five-year management plan for the course has been completed and discussed in detail with the CCW and it is anticipated that this will be signed by all parties very shortly.

The club has been awarded a "Highly Commended" certificate in the Golf Environment Awards for 2011, and part of the citation reads "Aberdovey Golf Club is a site which never fails to impress and is a very special place in which to play golf. It must be stressed that without the presence of the golf course, it is likely that the dune system would have long since scrubbed over and become a much less diverse environment than it is today".

Finally, a word of thanks to our greenkeeping staff and our Head Greenkeeper Meurig Lumley, who have always worked extremely hard to present the course at its best. Also may I thank the Club Manager, Gareth Pritchard, and all members of the Greens Committee whose enthusiasm and positive contributions at committee meetings have made my first year as Chairman relatively easy!

Keith Price

Chairman, Greens Committee

Around The House

Following an excellent competition fortnight in August, it has been the usual busy late summer/early autumn at the Club, with the atmosphere being enhanced further by the Rugby World Cup.

Both the Men's and Ladies' Dinners were a success. Many thanks to Phil McGeevor and all those involved in both events.

December sees the Annual Dinner/Dance, already well subscribed (contact the office or see notice board for further details). The New Years Eve bash welcomes the appearance of Stuart Nelson and his band for what I am sure will be a fantastic evening's entertainment. All are welcome to join us.

This time of year sees plenty of work done on the Clubhouse. The changing rooms have been refurbished and much needed replacement and updating of furniture is in the pipeline.

Thanks are given to David Tomkinson and Rob Reen for helping with the picture update. It is important that a Club should proudly promote its history, and it is sad that so

many interesting photos and memorabilia have been hidden away. Hopefully this will continue over the coming months. In this regard, the long overdue updating of the honours boards has now been completed and will be done so on an annual basis.

I finish by gently reminding members that the 15% reduction via membership cards provides very competitive pricing in comparison to all local establishments; something that perhaps we don't promote enough. The Committee is very aware that whilst we are running a business, we must continue to provide excellent incentive for members to use the club.

Finally at this time of year my thanks go to all the staff at the Club, those we see at the front and those who work tirelessly elsewhere, for all their help in making our Club run so smoothly and making the Club such a wonderful place to visit.

Hamish Mackay

Chairman, House Committee

Senior Scribbles

Our good start to the season continued for a short while with wins at home to Newtown 5 – 4 and Porthmadog 6 – 4. Unfortunately our match away to Borth was not played as when we arrived there they were unable to field a team. We were however determined to play a competition of some kind so played a Stableford mixing in their players with ours and I am pleased to say we all had a very good time.

The remaining part of our season was very disappointing resultwise, we lost away at Newtown 5 – 2, Nefyn 6 – 3, and Dolgellau 5 – 2. We also lost at home to Dolgellau 6 – 1 (yes 6-1), Harlech 5-1/2 - 4 1/2 and Borth 5 – 2. We visited Nefyn twice as our first time the weather was so bad the match was abandoned. It did however improve a little later and some of us stayed and managed to play 18 without getting wet. The second time we visited the weather was glorious and we managed to persuade them to let us play the peninsular course, which was the first time for most of us, and the experience was absolutely fabulous.

Brian Dodwell who is a very keen supporter of Aberdovey Golf Club, particularly club matches, had previously mentioned to me that he would like to provide a trophy for us to play for against Nefyn and this was our first opportunity to bring it into play. Brian was our Captain for the Day and made a very nice presentation of the Dodwell Cup which was very well received by Nefyn members.

Unfortunately we had to leave it there but I am sure we will get the opportunity to bring it back.

Our end of season competition was not very well supported this year with only 18 players, of the 50 who have played in seniors matches this year, entering. We played our usual 4 club Greensomes and the winners were Brian Rees and Elfyn James.

It was our turn to go to Ireland this year to play seniors matches against Hermitage and Headfort and the level of hospitality was at their superb best. The matches were played in a first class spirit on excellent courses. Both clubs however insisted that we played Stableford matches and after a few holes we realised why. Their handicaps seem right out of line with ours as at Hermitage the winning pair on their side scored 43 points and at Headfort 48 points. I don't think that any pair from either of their teams scored less than 37 points. Needless to say we lost both matches and we are just lying in wait for the return matches when we will play 4 ball better ball.

Finally as I am now stepping down as Seniors Organiser I would like to say thank you very much for the support I have received from all of our members particularly the ones who have consistently turned out and those who have stepped in when I have been short. I have had the pleasure of being your organiser for 5 years, have thoroughly enjoyed it, and would not have missed it for the world. Please continue to give your support to Mike Dunn who is taking over and who has already arranged all of the fixtures for next year.

One more request. Please play in club matches next year if you can. You are all needed.

John Sidebotham
(Seniors Scribbler)

Fixture List - 2012 Season

Date	Day	Club	Venue	Time	Players	Result
April 17th	Tuesday	Nefyn	Aberdyfi	12:30	18	
April 25th	Wednesday	Porthmadog	Porthmadog	12:00	20	
May 1st	Tuesday	Royal St. David's	Harlech	10:00	20	
May 16th	Wednesday	St. Giles' Newtown	Aberdyfi	13:00	18	
May 24th	Thursday	Borth & Ynyslas	Borth	12:00	14	
June 8th	Friday	Porthmadog	Aberdyfi	12:30	20	
June 14th	Thursday	Aberystwyth	Aberystwyth	12:30	16	
June 27th	Wednesday	St. Giles' Newtown	Newtown	12:30	18	
July 3rd	Tuesday	Dolgellau	Aberdyfi	12:30	16	
July 10th	Tuesday	Royal St. David's	Aberdyfi	12:30	20	
July 17th	Tuesday	Aberystwyth	Aberdyfi	12:00	16	
August 2nd	Thursday	Borth & Ynyslas	Aberdyfi	12:30	14	
September 4th	Tuesday	Nefyn	Nefyn	11:37	18	
September 12th	Wednesday	Dolgellau	Dolgellau	11:00	16	
September 19th	Wednesday	Hermitage	Aberdyfi	12:10	20	
September 25th	Tuesday	End of Season Competition	Aberdyfi	12:10		

Ruck's Ramblings

A Good Walk Soiled

They say couples who wish to remain on good terms should avoid golf, but my best friend and I treasure the hours we share on the links. We are perfectly matched golfing partners, for I am a loser and she is a retriever.

Ours was not an arranged marriage, but it had occurred to me that a dog might save me half a dozen shots a round. Naturally I kept quiet about this when the dog question came up at lunch. "How about a retriever?" I said. "Lovely family pets. Awfully good with children."

Poppy knows how to conduct herself on the course. She sits behind the ball in the traditional fourth slip position, respects the sanctity of tee and green, and resists the urge to excavate bunkers. She doesn't chase livestock or set off in pursuit of the ball before you hit it, and when you send one out of bounds Poppy doesn't say 'oh, bad luck' with palpable insincerity, or cough and study her fingernails in silence. She just gives her tail a tentative wag and looks as if to say: shall we move on now, or do you intend to lose another?

A canine golfing paragon, in fact, with but one blot on her escutcheon: golf balls are of no interest to her. I have tried decorating them with painted whiskers and a tail, and I have experimented with topical applications of Pedigree Chum gravy. Nothing works. It's not that she can't find them. She won't even look.

Never mind. While some chaps use the dog as an excuse to nip down to the local, Poppy drags me out for hours of happy hitting. "I don't think she has had a walk today," I'll say, around five. There is nothing furtive about this. I am not one of those sad golfers who sneaks his clubs out of the house when no one is looking and burns his green fee receipts. That used to be me, but Poppy is my passport for golf without guilt.

But where to play? Had I known how difficult it is to find a friendly club with a good course where dogs are welcome, I would have taken a closer interest in the house hunting process. Too late, I now know that famous old clubs with long waiting lists allow dogs, because they always have. Sunningdale, Huntercombe and other delightful playgrounds spring warmly to mind. At these civilised havens, hounds and their golfers enjoy their shared recreation in quiet harmony. It goes without saying that all parties know how to behave. Those that don't are soon seen off. Brancaster has water bowls beside the tee.

"I like a golf club that allows dogs," a non-dog-owning friend told me the other day. "It makes the place more human, if that makes sense." It certainly does. It signifies an openness of mind not always typical of golf clubs; an awareness that golf is a country pursuit, and that to separate a man and his dog on a country walk is a cruel thing. It is doubly hard on the dog, because not only is he deprived of the outdoor fun and his master's company; he almost certainly won't get a proper walk all day. A dog is a civilising influence on a man, and what is a golf club, if not a collection of men?

There are practical benefits too, and if you don't believe me ask the members of Saunton or East Devon. Saunton Secretary Goodban's Rikki dug 24,000 balls out of those

mountainous sandhills in an illustrious golfing career, but Budleigh Salterton's Hannah outscored her with a claimed tally of 38,000. Both owners spent the proceeds – more than £10,000 in Hannah's case – on furniture for course and clubhouse. (I hope some of the money went on furniture for dogs). How many of the ball hunters who prowl the long grass beside our railway line at dusk give anything back to the club?

The retrieving skills of a Swinley Secretary's dog, Ben, did not stop at finding the ball. Ben also knew where to stand, ears pricked, to show you the line on a blind shot, and your body language, address, grip and backswing gave him all the information he needed to set off in search of your lost ball before you hit it. There was a school of thought that this crossed the line between caddying and gamesmanship.

New clubs and brassy facilities reliant on society golf days and corporate memberships exclude dogs, as a rule. There are noble exceptions, such as Stoke Park, the James Wyatt-designed stately pile near Slough where they filmed the golf game in Goldfinger and the dirty weekend in Bridget Jones's Diary. Before a recent visit I nearly saved myself a phone call, so certain was I that Poppy would be denied access. But the sight of my familiar eve-of-golf spike cleaning and pencil sharpening routine raised her hopes, so I agreed to call Stoke Park, just in case.

"We welcome dogs as long as they are kept under control," said the assistant professional. "We have about three members who bring dogs. They don't bother anyone, and we see no reason to stop them." Well said, Stoke Park.

The number of dog-friendly courses is in decline, because it only takes one muddy paw print on the Ladies Captain's trouser leg to set the wheels of protest in motion. And once a club bans dogs, it is hardly going to change the rules back again to readmit them.

I know: no one wants their good walk soiled. And yes, Poppy goes to the loo from time to time. Is this such a terrible crime? We carry plastic bags for embarrassing moments.

For the travelling dog, the trick is to find a club with a dog-owning Secretary. I knew I was in with a chance when the Secretary at Minehead replied "what sort of dog?" in a warm tone. "She's a flat-coat," I said.

"Lovely," said the secretary, "Used to have one myself. I look forward to meeting you both."

Or better still, a dog-owning owner. A friend of mine belongs to a club whose owner/manager/barman also finds time to play and runs his two dogs the while. These friendly little chaps not unreasonably regard the course as their playground and zoom about at high speed playing their own games, chasing squirrels and sticking their noses in rabbit holes. Golf and its balls hold no fascination for them but if they spot a squirrel or some other enemy on the far side of the green ... well, they'll take the direct route, as happened on the 18th recently, while the game ahead of us was putting out.

(Continued on page 17)

Junior's Section

juniors@aberdoveygolf.co.uk.

I would like to say a big thank you to the markers for the Darlington Cup; Simon Thelwall Jones, Martin Nicsson, Ovy Rodgers and Kyle Gittins; Col Lee marshal Graham Vaggers; Chris, Joe and Susie in the Pro's Shop for their assistance; all the adults who played in Col Lee for us; thanks to Will Evans for running the putting competition during the Col Lee; Gareth, Gill, Bryan and the rest of the bar and catering staff; the groundstaff for making the course look so wonderful, Roger Allen for refereeing the Gold Cup

Finally, but no means least, John Griffiths for his assistance marking the Col Lee cards as usual. Thanks to Joe for the donation of the chocolate for the juniors for the Col Lee.

Congratulations to all those Juniors who prizes during the summer meeting.

It's great to see so many Juniors coming into the Club via the Junior Coaching system headed by our Professional Joe Davies and his team of helpers in particular Paul Bloxidge.

The Junior Captain for 2012 will be Sam Round and the Junior Vice Captain will be Kyle Gittins.

Val Franklin

Junior's Organiser

Juniors Section Summer Meeting Results

Golfer of the Year - Kyle Gittins

Piper Bowl
Sarah Round



Peter Saunder's Trust Trophy
Tomos Jones

Junior Open (Nett)

Winner	Sion Anthony Jones	Aberystwyth	77 - 12 = 65	
Runner up	Bethan Round	Enville	78 - 9 = 69	
Third	Gareth Whalley	Aberystwyth	79 - 9 = 70	On the back nine from
Fourth	Harriet Evans	Aberdovey	103 - 33 = 70	On the back nine from
	Daniel Van Helden			

Daily Telegraph (best Gross)

Boys	Sion Anthony Jones	Aberystwyth	77
Girls	Bethan Round	Enville	78

Junior Club Championship

Best Gross over 36 Holes

Winner	Kyle Gittins	164
Runner up	Harry Eckersley	172

Best Nett over 36 Holes

Winner	Jake Turnbull	127
Runner up	Kyle Gittins	135

Medal Winners Final 2010

Yellow Tees

Winner **Kyle Gittins** **80 - 17 = 63**

Red Tees

Winner **Lewis Sayes** **57-35=22**

Juniors Section Summer Meeting Results - continued

Parry's Trophy & Darlington Cup

Parry's Trophy - Best Gross over 9 Holes

Tom Thelwall Jones



Darlington Cup - Best Nett over 9 holes

Winner James Nickson 66 - 29 = 37

Runner up Rosie Broadbent 67 - 18 = 39



Colonel Lee Cup - Junior/Adult Foursomes

10 Years & Over Tomos Jones & Com McAloon 15 points

Under 6 Years Isaac & Sam Round 13 points

7 to 9 Years Jacob Round & Martin Holden 14 points

Overall Tom & Nicki Thelwall Jones 24points



Seely Cup & Martin Salver

Martin Salver

Best Gross over 18 Holes

Winner Louis Worth



Seeley Cup

Best Nett over 18 holes

Winner Daniel Pearce 82 - 15 = 676

Runner up Tomos Jones 80 - 12 = 68



Gold Cup

Winner Kyle Gittins

Runner Up Bo McGrail

Ruck's Ramblings - continued

"Some of the members do get a bit upset," Tim said, with the relaxed smile of a man to whom life has dealt a three no trump opening hand, and who has played it well. "But if they don't like it, they can play somewhere else."

I am struck by an absence of dogs in the early photos of our club. Looking at the history book, the only mention I find is of Fred Clay, a great pre-War benefactor who always brought his two "beautifully trained dogs, to which even the committee could not take exception."

As for Darwin, I fancy dogs were not high on his golfing agenda, but there was a family hound, and when the Darwins played a family game at Aberdovey the faithful spaniel came too. "A great many golf balls were lost in the rushes at the last hole, and Johnny made a bustling pretence of finding them, and never found one."

At least he pretended to help. Poppy just sits beside the bag, patiently waiting for me to declare the bloody ball lost and her the worst bloody retriever that ever was born.



Adam Ruck

Manager's Musings

A Welcome to Andy Humphreys

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that Aberdovey Golf Club has secured the services of Andy



Humphreys as our PGA teaching Professional.

Andy, on graduating from the PGA, was head assistant professional at Llanymynech Golf Club until 2008, from where in 2009 he took on the role as PGA professional at 6 Golf clubs in Montgomeryshire introducing over 1500 beginners + 2000 juniors to the game from 2009-2011. In 2010 his achievements were rewarded by being voted Welsh PGA Professional of the year. A true honour as Wales was the host venue for the Ryder Cup 2010.



In 2011 Andy founded the Mid Wales Golf Academy and worked with Local Authorities to promote the game in local schools with links to the clubs promoting memberships, culminating in Andy being a finalist in the Sport Wales Coach of the Year.

Being very excited about joining us at Aberdovey, Andy is very keen to promote himself as teaching Professional and will be offering a wide range teaching opportunities to the members, and is looking forward to developing a new structured coaching scheme for the club to attract new members and juniors.

Ideas include-

- ◆ Beat the Pro competitions to meet the members.
- ◆ Unlimited lesson offer.
- ◆ Golf clinic days.
- ◆ 3D putting biomechanics days.
- ◆ Video analysis + using Golf simulators.
- ◆ Buy 1 get one free on first lesson for members.
- ◆ Introduce demo days & custom fitting for members.

Development & coaching of the juniors. This will include:

- ◆ Developing a strong junior team to represent the club.
- ◆ Arranging matches with the local counties.
- ◆ Identifying and developing elite golfers & applying the necessary networks for them to meet their full potential.

As a professional Andy continues plays golf at the highest level, this year finishing 6th in the Welsh PGA Championships and in the top 10 of the Welsh Order of Merit. We hope that he maintains his success rate in 2012 as he will be carrying the colours of Aberdovey Golf Club when he plays in tournaments.

I am sure that you will all join with me in welcoming Andy in this exciting new venture and wishing him every success.

Gareth Pritchard

Manager Aberdovey Golf Club

The Welsh Amateur Championship

July 2011

The welcome return of the Championship after forty five years was greeted with a benign week of light winds and no rain, unusual for us but which allowed the competitors to display their skills to the full. Tuesday saw the semi-finals and Final of the Victory Foursomes, two excellent matches in the morning saw Aberystwyth overcome a strong challenge from Wenvoe Castle and Royal St David's defeat Neath. Local interest was provided by the referees, Phil Harris in one semi-final and Keith Price in the Final. There were a number of us watching who perhaps felt the ghostly presence of a tall lightly built gentleman sheltering from the breeze just below the seat on the 12th. The afternoon Final saw Royal St David's overcome a spirited challenge from Aberystwyth. (Interestingly we played Club matches against both clubs later in the year and presented pictures to them , one of which was accepted by the father of one of the victorious Harlech pairing.)

The Championship itself began on Wednesday, Rhys Butler our Deputy Head Greenkeeper winning his 1st round match in the morning before bowing out to the fourth seed Richard Bentham, and Lindsay Parry who unfortunately lost his ball in heavy rough just to the right of the 18th green despite the best efforts of a large proportion of our members. Clive Roberts was of the opinion that Lindsay could probably have had a head start on his more or less full time amateur golfing opponent had he mentioned that he plays only occasionally, on Sunday mornings, if not too busy at work. Local involvement also came from Dr Val Franklin, the Starter , and Richie Williams, who, forty five years after mowing the greens during the last Championship held at Aberdovey, was recalled to rake the bunkers for the week to cover for the injured Adam and Rhys' absence while playing.

The days progressed with the Walker Cup Captain Nigel Edwards losing to the eventual winner, and Rhys Pugh, as imperturbable a seventeen year old who has ever graced these links, progressing to the Final. Several low scoring matches were witnessed, the betterball score of one match standing at six under par after five holes, and David Boote, the Welsh Boys Champion, exchanging birdie after birdie with his opponent in a spirited fightback from three down at the turn before going down 2 & 1.

The semi-finals saw Rhys Pugh defeat Richard Hooper and Jason Shufflebotham triumphant over Lee Jones, a greenkeeper at Conway, one of a minority of competitors not to be full time in the amateur ranks. Lee enjoyed the hospitality of our Clubhouse while waiting for his father to pick him up, remarking that he already felt part of the furniture here!

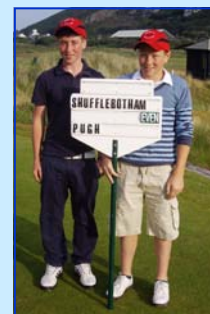
The weather held for the Final on Saturday, the morning round refereed by Don Morgan, Borth, and the afternoon round by our own Keith Price. Tomos Jones and Kyle Gittings took the scoreboards round both morning and

afternoon. Memorable shots in the morning included Jason Shufflebotham driving the 16th to go 2 up before losing his ball on the left of the 18th to go into lunch 1 up. The afternoon was a close tussle, with both Jason and Rhys having chances to take the lead in what was obviously a tense encounter. A fitting climax to the Final, recorded for posterity and visible on YouTube, saw Jason hole a lob wedge shot from the right of the 18th green to win 2 up.

After the presentation, the Welsh Team for the Home Internationals was announced and we were pleased that both finalists accepted Honorary Membership of Aberdovey. The general consensus from the Golf Union officials was that the players enjoyed the risk and reward nature of the course, singling out the second, eighth and sixteenth for special praise as holes where a decision had to be made. The extended course provided a fair challenge, with the changes in the direction of the light breezes during the week seeing clubbing differences on the eleventh from driver and rescue club into the wind to three wood and lob wedge on the following day.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all involved in making the week a success and we look forward to the return of the Championship in 2017.

David Tomkinson



Joe's Jottings

As I write my last snippet for the Aberdovey Abstracts, I only have 58 days left before I retire. To say I have mixed emotions would be an understatement but, by the same token, Chris and I are both looking forward to some time to ourselves.

My family have now had connections with the Pro Shop for nearly 50 years and it will be a very sad time for me because the connection will not be continued. But who knows what the future might hold...?

Over the period I have been Pro, I have got to know lots and lots of people from all over the world and remember some of the wonderful characters who have been associated with the club – people like Willie James (Willie the limp), Maxie Williams, Eifion Richards, and of course my father, Jack, who was also my best friend, I miss him dearly. These are just a few of the characters, the list is endless really, far too many to mention here. Thanks to you all, I have enjoyed your company.

Jack and Eifion were of course the two people who helped me most in the early days of the 'Super Swindle'. I valued their guidance and advice greatly. They certainly helped make the 'Super Swindle' the success it became. As this competition ceases with my retirement, I do hope the club can organise a similar autumn competition as it was the most popular event in the calendar. Perhaps it should be renamed the 'Autumn Fiddle'?!

Over the years I have obviously gathered many amusing stories, some of which I could not possibly put in to print. I also have very good memories of the old clubhouse and some of the really happy times we had there. The social side of the club seemed much happier then – perhaps nowadays everyone is trying too hard to be politically correct? Maybe letting our hair down occasionally would improve the atmosphere in the new clubhouse, who knows? Perhaps we should all give it a go sometime.

The golfing side of my time here has brought me into contact with many wonderful players, both amateur and professional. Aberdovey has produced some exceptional players over the years:

Dennis Hayler, Jamie Simkiss, John Cave, John Roach, Richie Williams, Peter Skerritt, Alun T Williams, Craig Williams, Bruce Macfarlane, Rhys Butler, Mike Raynard, Mark Lewis, Norman Lycett and George Stowe.

That is to mention just a few, there are lots more who played amateur golf for Wales or who played in the Welsh seniors – the list could go on and on.

I have also been lucky with the young lads that have worked for me as Assistant Professionals. My own son, Jon, who is also a very fine player, went on from being my Assistant to carving out a very successful career as a Professional at Woburn Golf Club, one of the most prestigious clubs in the country. Robert Jones, another fine golfer, who has gone on to make a successful career in Holland. Thanks to all the boys who worked for me, we had some great times.

There have also been some wonderful lady golfers at Aberdovey – I shall only mention a few as the list again is quite extensive:

Patience Lowe, Angharad Owen, Bella Covill, Sarah Rowlands, Janet Dyer, Sara Rees-Evans, Anne Booth, Lottie Turner

Also, of course, Sue Turner. Sue, we wish you a speedy recovery and all the best for the future. You have been an inspiration, not only for golf at Aberdovey, but for golf all over Wales and the UK – a real credit to this wonderful game of ours, well done.

Some of the highlights as regards to golf have been, and still are, my friendship with Woosie and Bakes (Ian Woosnam and Peter Baker). Woosie probably being one of the greatest golfers Wales and Europe has ever produced. The happy times we had playing 36 holes a day were really fantastic. The memories of those days will live with me forever, thank you both, they were fabulous times.

Aberdovey Golf Club can proudly boast that they have a Ryder Cup winning Captain and Vice Captain as members. I know Woosie and Peter are both proud of being made honorary members and they have a soft spot in their hearts for Aberdovey and its members. Hopefully we will see them both back at Aberdovey in the not too distant future.

It was great to have the Welsh Amateur Championship back at Aberdovey after such a long time – it was a terrific event. Bad luck to Rhys Butler and Lindsay Parry but you contributed to a wonderful week, well done. The course stood up to the week very well and the competitors thoroughly enjoyed it. The course has looked fantastic in the last couple of months – I cannot recall it ever looking so green in October and November. The greens staff have worked really hard, many thanks.

On 1st January 2012 it will be the last Captain's Drive-In I shall be involved with so hopefully you will all make the effort to be there and enjoy the fun...and maybe a few drinks as well!

Next year will see a change in the Pro's Shop where it will no longer be run by a Professional but by the club itself. I wish them all the best with their new venture and hope it will be a success but I do feel rather sad that a club of Aberdovey's standing in Welsh golf and in the golfing world will not have a full time Professional. This, as I have said many times before, is a wonderful golf club and course and in my humble opinion is deserving of a full time PGA Professional.

I have also got a couple of very special "thank yous" to make and they are to Chris and Susie in the shop. Susie, you have been fantastic and I wish you all the success in the future. Chris, what can I say, you have been absolutely terrific. Words cannot describe what a marvellous job you have done, not only for me, but for Aberdovey Golf Club. The shop will be a much sadder place without your presence. Thanks to you both once again.

To all the members and visitors who have put up with and supported me for the last 30 years, many thanks. I have been **proud** and **privileged** to have been Professional at such a wonderful club.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year – here's to good health and good golfing in 2012!

Many thanks,

Joe