

British Left Handed Golfers' Association

www.leftiesgolf.org.uk

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From the 2006 Captain



It seems only a short time since I was invited to consider the position of Captain for 2006, especially when I was reminded at Astbury in October that it was Barry's last appearance "up front" – and what an act to follow! On behalf of everyone I would like to thank Barry for his hard work and commitment in making 2005 such an excellent golfing year for the Left Handers .

For those members who do not know my background, my profession was lecturing in carpentry and joinery until I retired in 1991 from Halifax College, having lived in many parts of the UK over the years. It may be for this reason I am known for tinkering about with clubs, especially putters. I'm pictured above just starting one of my many creations!!

I have been involved with Brass Bands for over 50 years and now do mainly conducting with the Dobcross Youth Band. I am also a Vice President of the National Association of Brass Band Conductors. Just for a change I play in a dance band, which is great fun.

I took up the game of golf in my forties and was advised to model my swing on Barry Ingham's and have often wondered if this could have been a reason why I never joined the dizzy heights of a single handicapped golfer.

I play most of my golf at Elland G C (a very interesting 9 hole track) but my home town is Rotherham and therefore fitting I should hold my Captain's Day there this year.

I am certainly looking forward to my year and hope we have fine weather, good fellowship and good golf. Hope you can join me as often as you can.

Gerald Frost

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*And from our 2005 Captain*

The time is 5.00pm and it is dark outside. A weather forecaster has just predicted a snow fall; my football team has lost yet again; the new golf season is months away and it is all very depressing! However I cheer up considerably when reflecting upon the 2005 season and some wonderful golf days out with fellow lefties.

I picture Dunstable Downs in April; fast greens and gliders soaring all over the place. Then shortly afterwards, up to Scotland with the usual camaraderie, wonderful scenery and the hospitality of Dunskey Golf Club. May took us to Longcliffe GC on a windy day that proved difficult for many members including me - we will most probably return in 2007. June was an exceptional month with the National Championships at the Belfry and the experience of playing the Ryder Cup course before the World event in Dublin – I have never laughed so much on a golf course. Captain's Day in July was very hot but most enjoyable with 45 players. Another great occasion was President's Day at the Wrekin in its Centenary year. Congratulations to Doug Briscoe on another great day out. September took us to Pontefract with the final fixture at Astbury in October- a great season's golf and no rain! Congratulations go to Alan Haines and the Committee for planning and running such an interesting years golf for the Association.

As my year draws to a close I would like to say how much I've enjoyed the Captaincy. Thanks to all members and their guests who turned out and helped to make it such a memorable year for me.

Please support your 2006 Captain, Gerald Frost in a like manner.

It is only by turning out as often as possible that we can preserve the future of our wonderful and unique Association.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a great golfing season in 2006.

*Barry Packwood*

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2006-7 President – Francis C McCabe

I must thank the members for electing me as your President for the coming two years at the recent A G M. As most people will be aware the honour of being the current President should have gone to Barry Townsend but Barry decided that due to difficulties with his knees he would decline the position and proposed myself instead. I'm highly delighted to accept this honour and look forward to attending as many meetings as possible throughout the next two years, to meet as many friends old and new and enjoy our friendly banter and trust we have some good golfing days especially at Ashbourne on July 21st.



I enjoy all our meetings and must mention Alan and thank him in advance for all his hard work in setting the tone for the year at Portpatrick and I'm certainly looking forward to enjoying the company of our incoming Captain Gerald, in 2006 and Harold Adkin in 2007.

In conclusion I must pay tribute to our outgoing President Doug Briscoe who carried out his duties with great dignity and was always his usual happy self. A difficult act to follow!

2006 has given me a further privilege. Not only am I President of BLHGA but also Captain of the Ulster Lefthanders! If you are interested in visiting Northern Ireland I would very much welcome you to my Captain's Day on 6th June at Spa Golf Club, County Down. If interested please advise.

Frank McCabe

French Left Handed Golfers Association

The French have realised what a great thing it is to have a Left Handed Golfers Association and held their first Championship last year at Chateau de Chevermy Golf Club in the Loire Valley. They intend to join WALG this year although may be unable to go to Taiwan.

Members will be interested to know that they are planning to hold their second Championship at Limere Golf Club, near Orleans on 13th and 14th July. If any member is interested in going please contact Alan Haines for further details.

Odds and Sods

- John Turner, our former Honorary Life President played off a handicap of 9 left-handed and 17 right handed.
- The Quaich Bowl played at West Byfleet (Surrey) since 1934 is the oldest known Left Handers Trophy. Sadly it has not been played for many many years and its whereabouts are unknown.
- Quote made (many years ago) by our illustrious Stan Quinn. "Golf may be the reason we're here, but it isn't necessarily the purpose. Our purpose is to have a good days golf, good food and good company. If you think you might be able to contribute to this, please join in." Could not have said it better myself!

Many Congratulations to last year's President Doug Briscoe

Doug wins English Golf Captains Tournament

THE revamped English Golf Captains Final took place at Ashford Manor Golf Club, close to Heathrow Airport, on the same weekend as Europe were securing an historic win on the other side of the Atlantic.

This year's final, open to members of the English Golf Union's Golf Captains Scheme, attracted over 270 entries with a score of -2 being required to gain one of the 81 places available at the final.

The final was played in blustery conditions and although the greens were in superb condition, few good scores were returned. Leading after day one was David Johnson (Lingdale) and John Evans (Brent Valley), both with 37 Stableford points, followed by Ed Winstone (Forest of Dean) and Graeme MacDonald, the Newark head greenkeeper, with 36.

Many locals were keeping an eye on David Soar, the Captain of Ashford Manor. Unfortunately, he failed to make use of his local knowledge and returned scores of 28 and 26 points to finish at the back of the field.

Day two brought early signs of a few sore heads from the

Ryder Cup thrills of the previous evening and a few uneasy opening tee shots. Gradually heads began to clear and a few finalists started to post good scores.

Best of those was Doug Briscoe from the Wrekin with 38 points

to add to his opening 31 to set the target on 69. As the day progressed the overnight leaders failed to pass Briscoe's score and only MacDonald, with 33 points to his opening 36, got near, losing on count-back over the last 18 holes.

Prizes were awarded to the top 10 places plus the best score and runner-up of each of the rounds. Briscoe collected the new trophy, kindly donated by Philip Parker, Chairman of the English Golf Union.

All finalists were guests of the English Golf Union and received free accommodation and food throughout the final.

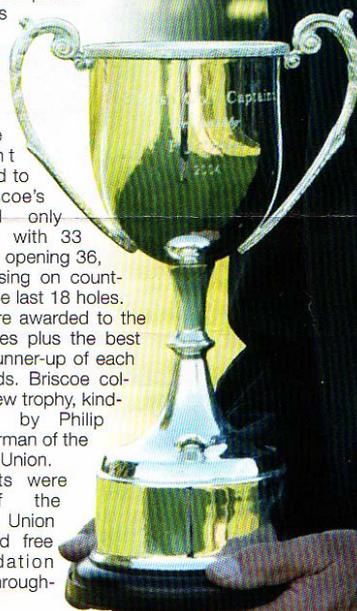


PHOTO: Tom Ward

And from Doug

It has certainly been a very busy 2 years as President, especially with my home Club, The Wrekin, celebrating its centenary in 2005. I hope everyone enjoyed my President's Day. It was great that we held it at the Wrekin in the centenary year. The memories will remain with me for many years to come.

I know Barry Townsend would have loved to take over from me but sadly current circumstances would not permit. I do know however that Frank will do an excellent job and offer him my best wishes for a successful 2 years.

Doug Briscoe

BLHGA – Past Captains

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>
1959	Joe Druce	Gerrards Cross
1960	Ted Hill	Greenford
1961	Harold Treglown	Banstead Downs
1962	Mervyn Jeans	Gerrards Cross
1963	Fred Reitz	North Wood
1964	Alistair McKay	West Herts
1965	Nick Nichols	Thorndon Park
1966	Bill Graylin	Orsett
1967	Colin Bailey	Ilford
1968	Alan Jupp	Notts
1969	Ron Saint	Maylands
1970	John Turner	Ilford
1971	John Beet	Long Ashton
1972	Edward Bracken	Tamworth
1973	John Humphries	Coventry Hearsal
1974	Wilson Henry	West Lancs
1975	Mike Geoghegan	Monmouthshire
1976	Jim Leacy	Swinton Park
1977	John Beet	Long Ashton
1978	Colin Bailey	Ilford
1979	Stan Quinn	Rotherham
1980	Dennis Dowsett	Helsby
1981	Alfred Genthorpe	Ilford
1982	Reg Nock	Woodford
1983	Tony Kirkland	Heaton Moor
1984	Tom Hayes	Edgbaston
1985 & 1989	Roger Wood	Cavendish
1986	Alan Haines	Rotherham
1987	Alan Tune	Stockport
1988	Frank Elgie	Bedale
1990	Roger Stansfield	Edgbaston
1991	Ken Smith	Bridgnorth
1992	Harry Hubert	Ashbourne
1993	John Baines	Bridgnorth
1994	Phil Sharman	Lee Hall
1995	Brian Vincent	Southport & Ainsdale
1996	Dennis Colcombe	Fixby
1997	Mike Elkington	Buckingham
1998	Chris Wright	York
1999	Doug Briscoe	Wrekin
2000	Barry Townsend	Enville
2001	Frank McCabe	Ashbourne
2002	Tony Broadhurst	Ashbourne
2003	Ron Walker	Willesley Park
2004	Neville Chandler	Gerrards Cross
2005	Barry Packwood	Robin Hood

Annual General Meeting
Pontefract Golf Club
1st September 2005

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held at Rotherham Golf Club on 3rd September 2004, together with the Secretary's Report and Financial Statement were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Meeting started at 9.00pm.

Apologies: Stan Quinn, Barry Townsend, Roger Stansfield.

Matters Arising: None

Secretary's Report

Membership: A very steady year. I have received 22 enquiries for membership. There are about 20+ members who have not paid this year. Treasurer and Secretary meet each year and if a member has not paid for 2 consecutive years they are removed from lists. Our membership remains at about a figure of 187. Of this figure we have about 87 members attending events this year with a "hard core" of 15-20 members who play in 5 fixtures or more.

Website: Barry Ingham has done an excellent job regarding the History of the Association. Now he has all the detail it will be a lengthy, but worthwhile process of disseminating the facts from the fiction. Once this is in place we will have a comprehensive website. The majority of new member enquiries come from either the BLHGA or WALG website.

Meetings:

We have continued the theme of last year in regard to the number of events. The current number of fixtures appears about right and the numbers attending the majority of events is over the 30 mark. I am conscious we need to have a comprehensive geographical spread of fixtures and with us not visiting either Buckingham or Burghley Park there was a need to have a meeting in the south to attract our members in that area. We visited Dunstable Downs again and whilst we were looked after very well our numbers were disappointing. Our first trip to Longcliffe was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended but again numbers were low. Portpatrick continues to go from strength to strength with another excellent turn out.

Our Captain's Day at Robin Hood was an unqualified success with 40+ attending. The course was excellent as was the welcome in the clubhouse.

The President's Day at the Wrekin was very well attended and again everyone had a super day. Doug's course was in first class condition with the greens very difficult to read.

The Committee have given a commitment to keep costs to £50.00 per head and I am looking to keep at that figure next year. You will see from the accounts produced by our Treasurer that we make a "profit" at some events and "losses" at others. Provided they average out over the year and events do not consistently run at a loss there is no real need to review costings. At £50.00 it does represent excellent value. Every year

members advise its cheaper to play senior events - I do acknowledge that but often you do not play 27 holes and have lunch and an evening meal.

I am very hopeful we can return to some old favourites next year, yet introduce some new venues. I am pricing out Rotherham, Buckingham and Burghley Park and if costs are reasonable we will go there in 2006.

Club Championships:

The Championship at the Belfry was a new venture in as much as we held it over 2 days. It was better attended than many recent Championships. My special thanks go to Tony Broadhurst who spearheaded the organisation of the event. The Committee do need to assess what to do in 2006 and build upon the success at the Belfry.

Our congratulations go to Jonathan Tune (National Champion and winner of the Bob Charles) and Peter Read, Secretary of WALG (winner of the Malcolmson).

World Championships – Ireland 2005

Full details will appear in the next Newsletter, but congratulations go to Malcolm Barker - Super Seniors Champion.

Congratulations also to Frank McCabe and Roger Stansfield who won their flights. Thanks to the Captain, Treasurer and members of the Committee for their hard work this year.

Alan Haines

Secretary
31st July 2005

Treasurer's Report

I feel it is not necessary to report at any length on our finances. From the circulated accounts it is obvious that we have had a very good financial year. The year-end balance shows a considerable increase from this time last year. We are indebted to our Secretary Alan Haines for a record contribution from the Portpatrick golf break. Sales of merchandise; sweaters, shirts, ties etc. have fed through this year without additional purchases. Thanks to Frank McCabe for his sales efforts. Perhaps most satisfying of all is that the income from subscriptions show a considerable year on year increase. Recent recruits have completed standing orders from which we will benefit in 22006.

I have just finished trawling through all John Turner's files with a view to producing a history of our Association. It puts today's situation into perspective. It was always assumed that we were a wealthy organisation. We were not. Even in the 1970's when Roger Wood was our Secretary it was necessary to obtain a £300.00 bank overdraft to purchase ties. It was not unusual for members to be approached for short-term loans to cover financial problems. It may not be fully appreciated that we have not always enjoyed Committee Meetings, elections and an AGM at which finances can be examined.

In short we are more democratic, more accountable and more financially secure than at any time in our history.

Barry Ingham

Treasurer
31st July 2005

Accounts as at 31st July 2005

Opening Balances

	<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>
At Bank	£3,751.54		
Secretary	£1,402.49		
Interest	£5.29	Treasurer	£180.00
Subscriptions	£1,737.50	Engraving	£20.00
Portpatrick	£500.00	Dunstable Downs	£156.55
Merchandise	£568.00	Longcliffe	£143.87
Rotherham	£32.47	Robin Hood	£0.04
Championships	£122.90	Postage	£173.16
Ingestre	£344.00	Stationery	£15.22
Burghley Park	£30.14	Telephone	£25.00
		Printing	£239.50
		Sub refund	£12.50
		WALG Fee	£77.47
		<u>Deposits</u>	
		Wrekin	£150.00
		Pontefract	£150.00
		Astbury	£150.00
		<u>Closing Balances</u>	
		At Bank	£5,727.51
		Secretary	£1,273.51
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>£8,494.33</u>		<u>£8,494.33</u>

Election of Officers

Captain: Gerald Frost: Proposed by Barry Ingham, seconded by Barry Packwood and carried.

President: Frank McCabe: Proposed by Doug Briscoe, seconded by Tony Broadhurst and carried. The Chairman, Ron Walker, congratulated Doug on an excellent 2 years and thanked him for all his efforts.

Vice Captain: Harold Adkin: Proposed by Frank McCabe, seconded by Ron Walker and carried.

Other officers: It was proposed by David Beecham that all other officers and committee members were re-elected. This was seconded by John Gatenby and carried.

Any Other Business

1. Barry Ingham read out a letter from John Turner's daughter expressing the family's gratitude to BLHGA. In the latter years of John's life he always enjoyed reading the newsletters and seeing how the Association he started, go from strength to strength. Barry commented that his visit to see John and his family several months before his death was a joy and that John's energy at 90+ was a revelation.
2. In order to keep costs to a minimum it was proposed by Ron Walker that members should forward their email addresses to the Secretary where they were happy for correspondence to be sent in this way. It was agreed that when the Secretary issued fixtures for 2006 he would include this in his letter.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

RESULTS

World Championships-Dublin

Those members who are fortunate enough to have attended a World Meeting of the Lefthanders will know it is a festival of fellowship, meeting old friends and new. It is difficult to manage with so many golfers having to be in different places at one time. Jerry Bradley and his team did an excellent job in organising the 2006 event, based at the Citywest complex just outside Dublin. The courses represented a good test of golf with perhaps the Citywest course being the easier.

Frank McCabe got a hole-in-one and even bought all the Brits a drink!

Despite the superb organisation things do go wrong. Comment was made that it could only happen in Ireland when the coach driver taking some 35 golfers to Naas Golf Club got lost and couldn't find his way (only 6 miles from the Hotel!). They eventually arrived an hour late when one of the passengers told him which way to go!! Another tale was that on one course (apologies I cannot remember which one) there was the "Captain's lake" on a par 3. Basically if you went in the lake it was 5 euros to the Captain's charity. A certain golfer from Finland by the name of Pentti Katainen sadly put his ball in the lake – just. He bent down to pick his ball out of the water and fell in! He was asked to pay 15 euros. When asked why he was told he had put 3 balls in the lake!!

Dublin was a memorable time and I'm sure those who went have many tales to tell.

You can view all the results by logging onto the WALG website (www.walg.org)

Special congratulations to:

- **Malcolm Barker** for becoming the WALG Super Seniors Champion.
- **Frank McCabe & Roger Stansfield** for winning their flights.

Captain's Day – Robin Hood Golf Club

This was our very first trip to Robin Hood and everyone had a great time. Our Captain, Barry Packwood, was very generous in giving every participant a golf ball and a course planner. For many players the ball did not last very long (!), but the planner was essential equipment for the day.

The weather was hot and many pins were at the front of the greens, which made it difficult to stop the ball on the fast, hard greens. The scorched fairways, whilst giving false feedback as to how long your drive was going, made it difficult to avoid your drive going into the rough. The 17th and 18th were extremely good which all added up to an excellent day out for us all. Many thanks Barry.

Morning	1 st Ian Burtoft & John Baker	21 points
	2 nd Chris Birch & Alan Saul	19 ""
Members	1 st Keith Edge	37 ""
	2 nd David Chamley	36 ""
	3 rd Mike May	34 ""
	4 th Frank McCabe	33 ""
Guests	1 st Alex Penny	36 ""
	2 nd Adrian Gray	34 ""
	3 rd Howard March	34 ""

President's Day - Wrekin Golf Club

Our President Doug Briscoe was delighted to welcome the Association to the Wrekin in its centenary year. The course was in first class condition with the greens as ever difficult to read for the majority of the players. The day was dry but windy later on. Those who have played the Wrekin will recall the final 4 holes are very tough. If you could score 8 points on those 4, you did really well. As always the Wrekin looked after us excellently and we all went home happy but very tired. Sincere thanks Mr Pres'.

Morning (11 holes)	1 st John Baines & Alan Clifford	25 points
	2 nd Frank McCabe & Peter Schoneville	24 ""
Members	1 st Frank McCabe	42 ""
	2 nd Barry Packwood	37 ""
	3 rd Tim Stannard	36 ""
	4 th Stan Quinn	36 ""
Guest	1 st Ken Davies	33 ""

Brian Vincent Trophy

This is awarded to the member with the best aggregate score for both Captain's Day and President's Day. With 75 points the winner was Frank McCabe.

Pontefract Golf Club

Our very first visit and we were very well looked after with the club eager to assist wherever they could. Members enjoyed a lovely warm day on a course in excellent condition. Pontefract is a good society course with not much rough but plenty of trees. They have some very good holes where driving is key. If I were being critical the only negative comment would be that some holes were a little too close together. Having said that it is a venue we will consider returning to.

Morning	1 st Alan Haines & Phil Vernon	21 points
	2 nd Doug Briscoe & Keith Edge	20 ""
Members	1 st Alan Haines	40 ""
	2 nd Alan Clifford	38 ""
	3 rd Keith Edge	38 ""
	4 th Phil Vernon	38 ""
Guests	1 st Steve Schofield	35 ""
	2 nd Joanne Furby	35 ""

Astbury Golf Club

Again our first trip to Astbury. So impressed we tried to go there again this year but could not agree dates. This is a very attractive golf course with many large trees. If you could hit a golf ball 165 yards you scored well as almost every par 3 measured this distance. Some very demanding drives were required, with our Treasurer going into his bag for a few “Pinnacle cross-outs” just in case he did not make the carry! The October day was very autumnal which made the greens a bit slow.

Morning	1 st Chris Birch & Alan Saul	23 points
	2 nd John Carter & Nigel Oldman	20 “”
Members	1 st Mike Baxter	40 “”
	2 nd Alan Clifford	39 “”
	3 rd Chris Birch	38 “”
Guests	1 st Matt Harrison	40 “”
	2 nd Carl Withnall	35 “”

17th World Left Handed Championships

The next meeting is being held in Tapei, Taiwan from 6th – 10th November 2006. The registration form and all details can be downloaded from the WALG website – www.walg.org

Scottish Championships

The Newtonmore Scottish Championship has now become a weekend of golf!! In addition to the Championship on the Sunday there is now the Badenoch Open, which is, one round at Kingussie and one at Newtonmore held on Saturday 10th June. The entry fee is £19 and entries must be received by 26th May. Please contact the Secretary at Newtonmore Golf Club.

Subscriptions are now due!!

Plea from the Treasurer-kindly send him your cheque for £12.50 if you do not pay by standing order/direct debit. Any member wanting to pay by Direct Debit should contact the Secretary.

Does the Secretary have your email address?

You will see from the notes of the AGM held at Pontefract Golf Club that we can save costs by correspondence from the Secretary being sent by email. If you are happy for this to be done and have not advised of your email address, please advise Alan as soon as possible.

Correspondence will include Newsletters, fixture lists and event attendance confirmations.

Committee Members 2006

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