

# Senior Golfers' Society of Australia



## Tour of England 2023

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

To

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

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# AUSTRALIAN UK TOURING TEAM

## June 2023



Deb & Patrick Lockie



Vicki & John McDonald



Paula Parkinson-Smith  
& Robert Scott



Chris & David Dobbin



Bev & Ross Eddy



Annette King  
& John Barbour



Nina & Rick Fry



Tracey King & Milan  
Chetkovich



Viv & David Temple



Joy & Mike Hume



Bets & Harry Moore



Ron Macfarlane



## Australian Tour Captain Report

### Mike Hume – Indooroopilly Golf Club

I was very privileged to be selected as Tour Captain for the Seniors Golf Society of Australia UK Tour in 2023. This tour being my first overseas tour, I took the opportunity to familiarise myself with the Society's history and association with our UK counterparts. The Seniors Golfers' Society of Australia (SGSA) is a little different from the UK as far as we have a Society in each State operating under the umbrella of the Australian Society.

The first match with the UK Society dates back to 1939 when a team of Australians played a match against the Society of Great Britain at Stoke Poges – although the first full team (players travelling specially from Australia to the UK) was in 1967 and since then there have been a number of tours with the last tour in 2017. The 2023 touring team comprised of 12 members accompanied by 11 partners from Queensland (6), NSW (6), Victoria (6), SA (2) and WA (3).

The tour kicked off in Southport on Sunday 4, June 2023 albeit a few years late due to the unwelcome intervention of the "COVID ". Milan Chetkovich and Tracey King joined the rest of the Team on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> for our game at Royal Birkdale.

Our first official function was the informal arrival reception at the Waterfront Hotel. This was the first opportunity to meet in person our hosts Colin Maber the Tour Manager on behalf of the Seniors Golfers' Society and his charming wife Helen together with Chris Peet and Jonathan Seal.

They set about to detail our tour schedule over the next 21 days.

Colin took us through the tour and in his own words:

*"We have arranged a tour of England that includes many of England's finest golf courses which we are confident that you will enjoy. We will also give you the opportunity to visit some of the country's oldest and finest history and heritage. Our aim is to make this tour one that you will enjoy and never forget"*

Colin hoped and promised us a golf trip of a Lifetime – great Golf, visit some of the country's oldest and finest history and heritage and above all, have fun. How profound were these words and by the end of our tour everyone agreed this truly was a TRIP OF A LIFETIME.

#### The Golf:

The "smorgasbord" of 13 of England's finest golf courses was amazing and capping it off the weather perfect every day. The Golf competitions, were a mixture of four-ball, mixed Greensome (Canadian Foursomes), AMAM and foursomes which gave us lots of variety, and better understanding of how Club Golf is played in the UK.

- Week1 - Royal Lytham St Annes, Royal Birkdale, West Lancashire and Formby GC and Formby Ladies GC.
- Week 2 – Notts Golf Club at Hollinwell, Mooretown, Allwoodly, Woodhall Spa (Hotchkin Course) and Luffenham Heath



- Week 3 – Royal St Georges, Royal Cinque Ports, Rye and finally Woking.

All the courses offered us the experience of the very best of English golf. To pick any one course above another is not possible – we were all challenged on some of the best Links' golf in the world, bunkers of all shapes and sizes, the heather, the gorse, that purple stuff and great expansive greens - **Golf memories** that will last forever.

#### The Fun:

- Liverpool and the Beatles – we all knew the Lyrics
- Private Dinner – Jacobean Room – Weetwood Hall Hotel
- The George Hotel at Stamford – The Dinner – WOW – A great evening and to a person our favourite Team get together – fantastic hosts and a beautiful traditional English meal complete with Yorkshire Pudding.
- Cannot forget the few Days of the Faulty Towers Bus trips – some wonderful hilarious moments and thanks Viv for the best picture of the trip.
- Watching Ashes Test Cricket in Canterbury with the locals and the Publicans' great sense of humour.





## Australian Tour Captain Report

### Mike Hume – Indooroopilly Golf Club



#### The Country's oldest and finest history and heritage

- Chatsworth House in the Peak District
- Lincoln Cathedral Tour and Magna Carta – the highlight of climbing up the towers and taking in the breathtaking views – again perfect weather.
- International Bomber Command Centre – sobering moments to read the names of all those young men and ladies. We all are indebted to everyone and especially those and their families who all paid the ultimate sacrifice to allow us to enjoy the rich lives we live.
- Private Tour Burghley House – great to see the locals all out enjoying the “majesty and grandeur” of the vast garden and lawn areas, the Lineage of the Lords and the snapshots of the real Lord Andrew Lindsay portrayed in the great movie “Chariots of Fire” by Nigel Havers.
- Canterbury and its historic surrounds. A wonderful mixture of cobblestone streets and laneways, great cafes/restaurants and bars for all tastes

#### Special Thanks:

Trips do not just happen – Without the many hours of meticulous planning, copious emails, making changes on the run, these tours would not be possible. As such it would be remiss of me not to single out a number of people for their hard work to make our trip succeed.

Firstly, to all the host Club Managers our sincere thanks for being such great hosts and your efforts co-ordinating

the golf matches and catering arrangements– **1<sup>st</sup> Class**. To have a full complement of players and members to join us each day was very much appreciated.

**Captain Jeremy Mumby** and **Secretary Chris Peet** our sincere thanks to you and your team for making our time in the UK so very special.

#### **Nina Fry – Tour Ladies Captain**

Nina's contribution to the trip was irreplaceable. On many occasions sitting on the bus I observed Nina making lots of notes to ensure every eventuality was covered and everyone had a great day. An excellent planner listener, communicator and quiet achiever.

#### **Ross Eddy – Tour Mens Captain**

Not an easy task getting the pairings and tee time schedules as equitable as possible. Ross made it happen always willing to accommodate wherever possible.

#### **David Dobbin and Robert Scott (Scottie) – Luggage**

Together these gentlemen worked hard to make sure everyone was on board the bus with all baggage accounted for. Sorry Ron should have had Scottie doing the counting from Day 1 !!!

#### **Milan Chetkovich – Tour Treasurer**

Many trips to the ATM's and lots help in finalising all the tour costs at the end of the tour.

#### **Pat Lockie – Photographer**

Not an easy job herding all the cats together appropriately dressed in the colours for the day. I know Pat would like to thank everyone for sending through their photo shots from each day.

#### **Paula Parkinson-Smith**

Paula was our only non-golfer on the tour. She was always around helping out, on the course, serving food – who can forget the “pork pies” at Luffenham Heath.

#### **Rick Fry – The “IT Man” – Photographer – Go To Man**

Without his IT skills the bus trip would have been very difficult. Always around to help everyone. A great team player and if anyone plans a trip like this have Rick in your Team. The Whats APP worked a treat for everyone.

#### **The Captains of the Day**

Great work done by all to ensure all the players were on the tee on time and covered off on all the very necessary protocols at each Golf Club representing our Society with great distinction.

#### **Australian Seniors Secretary Gary Lee**

Initially I had no idea of the meticulous planning and crafting required to put this trip together. Gary did a magnificent job co-ordinating with the UK team and making my job on tour very easy.

Finally, to **Colin and Helen Maber**, all I can say is WOW. The planning and attention to detail leaving nothing to chance and your selfless giving us of your time was greatly appreciated by all the Australian Team.



Mike Hume with the legendary UK Tour Manager Colin Maber at Southport



## Australian Ladies Captain Report

### Nina Fry– Indooroopilly Golf Club - Brisbane

A wonderful tour was experienced by all with eleven Ladies playing and one nonplaying lady who did lots of walking on the courses and became our official photographer. Our hosts at each venue, although very competitive, made us feel welcome and at home.

Starting the Tour at our base in Southport, we were baptized into some of the finest links courses in England and highly rated in the UK. Most found Royal Lytham & St. Anne's difficult with all those pot bunkers and the long grass. The fairways were hard after a long period without rain, so the ball had plenty of run. Next Royal Birkdale and West Lancashire were true coastal links courses which had more forgiving wider fairways, but the most memorable one in this area was playing at Formby Ladies Golf Club. It is most unusual that the Ladies have their own Golf Course, clubhouse and is run separately from the men's Club, with a traditional Friday joint dinner in the main clubhouse. This arrangement was widely accepted by all members. A Prosecco stop at the 11th in a small gazebo was a welcome ladies treat, that made us feel more relaxed playing the rest of the round. Being Friday we all dressed for a wonderful formal dinner post-match.

After four rounds, a visit to lovely Chatsworth House with vast gardens and artwork was a nice break from golf on the way to our next base at Chesterfield. The next game was at picturesque Hollinwell (Notts Golf Club) just outside Nottingham on the fringes of the legendary Sherwood Forest. We were introduced to the game of AmAm where 2 Stableford scores counted for each team of 4. Most found this course difficult with the narrow fairways and long

carry over "pink grass" and heather. A drink was a perfect finish to a hard day's golf outside the clubhouse.

The following day we played Moortown, an Alistair MacKenzie designed course. The ladies played again in an AmAm competition. We all played well but we were no match for the local ladies who knew the course well. The next transit for one night was in Leeds. There we played Alwoodley Golf Club amongst ourselves with 2 teams of 4, group A and B. Money was collected but due to there being a draw we donated the kitty to a lottery ticket. The very busy schedule continued with a transit the next day to Lincoln for two nights. This was a free day with organized tours of Lincoln Cathedral, Castle and Prison. A visit to the Bomber command Centre the next day before golf was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices of the young WW2 pilots from the commonwealth countries.

Next stop was the highly rated Woodhall Spa Golf Club (Hotchkin Course), followed by the Luffenham Heath Golf Club. This pretty course set in Rutland Landscape hosted a Pims break after nine holes. What a treat! We then had a welcome two day break over the weekend with a tour of the Burghley House on Saturday and a free day in Canterbury on Sunday. Burghley House is one of the grandest surviving houses of the sixteenth century. Canterbury village had a lovely atmosphere, not to mention the headquarters of the Church of England with the World heritage Cathedral.

Our base in Canterbury served three days of fabulous golf at the famous trio of Kent links courses, Royal St



Georges, Royal Cinque Ports and Rye Golf Club (Deal). The format for all three days was foursomes with each player hitting off the tee on alternate holes. This led to fast rounds so we could enjoy the fabulous lunches and dinners at some of the most prestigious club houses. Rye is notable for its lavish lunch which was challenging before a round of golf.

After Rye we had the late night transit to Guildford, our final base on the tour. The 13<sup>th</sup> game was at Woking Golf Club, the headquarters of the UK Seniors Society. This wonderfully scenic course is more traditional in that it is a heathland course surrounded by beautiful pine trees. The format was our more familiar 4BBB.

The tour was wrapped up with the formal dinner with speeches and presentations to the hosts, UK tour organizer Colin and Helen Maber and our tour Captain Mike Hume. The group said fond farewells that night and the following morning as we headed home via different routes and further touring for some. We made many friends both in the group and with local hosts along the way. This tour was considered a once in a lifetime opportunity!







**Monday 5th June 2023**  
**Royal Lytham & St Anne's**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**John Barbour -The Australian Golf Club Sydney**

A glorious early summer day in England saw us arrive at RLSA for golf on a course with a reputation of being one of the hardest on the Open Championship rota and boasting 178 bunkers. We were greeted enthusiastically by the Captain Michael Wilson, Lady Captain Michelle Hall and past Captain Howard Dempsey. After coffee and introductions, the matches began in 4BBB Matchplay format.

The course lived up to its reputation, with errant shots falling into bunkers or the rough. That said, as one famous British golf journalist wrote, "RLSA is a beast of a course, but a fair beast." How did our matches go?

Your scribe doesn't know as no record was kept, but it is suspected that the locals won more matches than the tourists.

Hospitality in the clubhouse followed golf, and what a magnificent meal was presented. Welcome speeches were made by the Lady Captain and the

Club Captain, and John Barbour responded on behalf of the touring party as the Day Captain. He also presented the Club with a book featuring stunning photography of many Australian golf courses, suitably inscribed with a template as a memento of our visit to RLSA.

Royal Lytham hosted the Australian Seniors magnificently, both on a truly Championship golf course and in a Clubhouse steeped in golfing history. We were honoured to "Walk the path of Legends".



John Barbour & Howard Dempsey







**Wednesday 7th June 2023**  
**Royal Birkdale Golf Club**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**Ross Eddy – Royal Melbourne Golf Club**

After a “rest” day when some of us sampled the delights of Liverpool, and reacquainted ourselves with Beatlemania, it was off to Birkdale. Today we welcomed Milan and Tracey who joined us following their family commitment in Como.

It was an early start, but thanks to David Dobbins initiative the hotel was persuaded to provide breakfast in time for our 7 am departure. And thanks to cooperative bus driver Tom, the ladies were collected an hour later.

The clubhouse is a magnificent art deco building, with walls adorned with photos of Open winners and other notable players. Royal Birkdale, of course, is a highly rated Open course where Peter Thomson won his first (1954) and last (1965) Opens, and Ian Baker-Finch also won in 1991. The members are very proud of their role in Open golf.

The weather was fine with a brisk breeze, and after a coffee the men set out on 4-ball matches. Our ladies played in groups with one local member, the best 2 scores to count. It is an outstanding layout, undulating with large dunes, many doglegs and clever bunkering, albeit less penalty than Lytham.

Although a couple of our group had played it previously, it was very helpful to have guidance from our opponents.

The course was quite dry and lies were often tight, apparently similar to Open conditions.

By the time we reached halfway (and the sausage rolls were excellent!), the sun was shining, and we completed our rounds in very pleasant conditions. We adjourned to the balcony with a drink in the sun, until all groups had finished, and then it was into the dining room for a first-class lunch. Birkdale Captain Andrew Maxwell welcomed us, and Day Captain Ross responded and presented the book *Golf Down Under in Australia* to Andrew.

Local organiser Jonathan Seal then announced that our team had defeated the home team five matches to one, and he also presented ball markers to the best ladies’ teams.

We were not surprised to learn that Royal Birkdale is usually ranked the no. 1 course in England. They are hoping to be awarded the 2026 Open. Throughout the day our hosts and the staff were welcoming and friendly, an unforgettable experience. We thank them and wish them well.



Above Ross Eddy & Birkdale Club  
 Captain Andrew Maxwell





**Thursday 8th June 2023**  
**West Lancashire Golf Club**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**David Dobbin – Royal Sydney Golf Club**

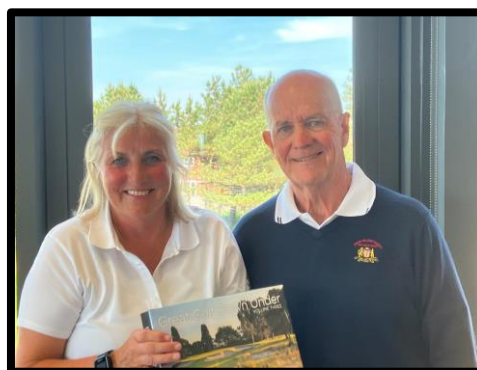
On a beautiful English summers' day, the Australian Seniors gathered at West Lancashire Golf Club for our third golf match on Tour. The Bar had been set high following our first two matches played at Royal Lytham and St Anne's and Royal Birkdale. However the warm welcome extended by Lady Captain Jackie Rooney and Club stalwart and Senior Trustee Ian Druckett exceeded any expectations.

From the welcome line as we alighted the bus to the atmosphere in the contemporary newly renovated clubhouse prior to play, the group and our newfound friends, the place was buzzing,

The game today was part of a much bigger celebration for WLGC, it is their 150th year as a Golf Course, one of the oldest in England. The Links course rated as one of the finest in the land quickly showed its teeth but accurate shot making, and strong putts were well rewarded.

The game was followed by a superb buffet lunch overlooking the 18th green. Looking further afield the water glistened on the Mersey as big ferries and tankers plied their trade.

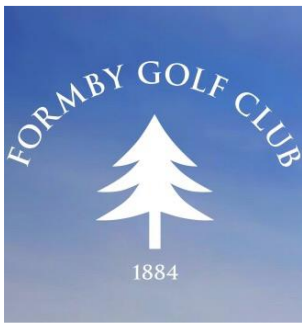
The final scores in the foursomes' format saw the Australians score a narrow victory over our generous hosts. A tired, but content bunch of Aussie golfers had enjoyed another wonderful day on the spectacular West Lancashire Links course. To all involved in hosting us so generously we are very grateful, to our Captain.



Above Captain of the Day David presenting to Club Captain Jacquie Rooney a copy of "Great Golf Downunder"







**Friday 9th June 2023**  
**Formby GC & Formby Ladies GC**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**Milan Chetkovich – Mount Lawley Golf Club - Perth**

Formby Golf Club is very special with two 18-hole courses' one for the men and a separate 18-hole course for Formby Ladies Golf Club.

The men played a 4BBB Match format against the team from Formby. The locals just managed to get over the line 3 and a half to 2 and a half. For the day I was partnered with our tour captain Mike Hume against two local younger members in David Hughes and Robert Anderson. After being two down at the halfway mark we managed due to some exceptional putting by Mike to win 2/1!!!!

Our ladies enjoyed a social game with members of the Formby Ladies Golf Club. All were very complimentary in regard to the reception and assistance given by the local lady members.

We were all treated that night to a fantastic dinner and wonderful reception.



Above Milan presenting Mens Club Captain Rodney Wilson with "Great Golf Downunder"







**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
**Notts Golf Club at Hollinwell**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**Rick Fry – Indooroopilly Golf Club - Brisbane**

After transiting from our initial base in Southport we set off to our next hotel in Chesterfield, the Casa Hotel. Next day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June we arrived for our 5<sup>th</sup> game at Hollinwell (Notts Golf Club). Again, the forecast was for a sunny and warm day with tops around 26 degrees. We were greeted by our host Colin Mabey and his wife Helen.

Hollinwell was formed in 1887 and moved to North Nottingham in 1901, when the twice Open Champion, Willie Park Junior, was invited to lay out a new 18-hole course. Today it is a 6626 metre par72 course, off the championship tees.

Most of us found the course challenging due to significant carry distances on some holes across the heather and the “pink grass” hid the balls when wayward off the fairway. However, this was made up by the sheer beauty of the rolling contours and the wonderful views from elevated tees.

The two best Stableford scores counted

on each hole. Clearly this format was great for bonding with the local members and many friendships were made not to mention the assistance given on ball spotting in the long grass..

In January 1954, a Lancaster bomber belonging to Rolls Royce, crashed near the 14th fairway. Lady golfers on the course at the time helped the slightly injured pilot and 3 technicians from the plane. As a thank you, Rolls Royce provided the club with a trophy for which the ladies now play.

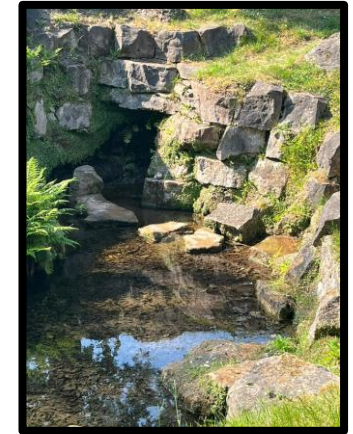
Just beyond the 8th tee lies the Holy Well from which the course derives its name and, which for centuries, provided refreshing spring water for the monks of Newstead Priory and now for golfers. All our players made a point of stopping for a cup of the cool and refreshing natural spring water.

The beautiful, elevated club house with magnificent views across the valleys was the venue for a pre-match light lunch and

later in the evening, Hollinwell members hosted drinks on the lawn to reflect on a wonderful and challenging day of golf.

First prize for the AMAM event was presented to David and Viv Temple who partnered with local members Jeremy Mumby and Jayne Cooper.

Below - Captain of the Day Rick Fry presenting Colin Mabey a copy of “Great Golf Downunder”





## AUSTRALIAN UK TOURING TEAM – Travel Fun and Games







**Monday 12th June 2023**  
**Moortown Golf Club**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**Patrick Lockie – Barwon Heads Vic**

A new driver Tina and bigger bus greeted us at the start of week 2 . A short drive to Leeds followed where another very fine day greeted us at Moortown Golf club. Steve O'Loughlin kindly hosted us .

Moortown GC was the first course Alistair McKenzie designed alone , and the par 3 tenth , known locally as Gibraltar , the first hole he designed. Many holes on the course were very reminiscent of those at McKensie's Australian courses, the shape of the bunkering particularly characteristic . Fairways were a lot more generous , another McKenzie feature and much welcomed especially after the day before .

The program said the women would be playing in the Moortown Open and fears of a stroke round loomed large. The "open " was though an invitational four person Stableford teams, event, with the two best scores on each hole counting , and with Chris and Betsy playing only 12 holes there were two teams entered .

The team of Deb, Viv , Vicki and Annette had the better score of the two groups but not quite enough to win the Open) .

The men had an 4BBB internal match , with each player contributing £5 to the pool. Scores were generally very good considering it was a course new to everyone . John Barbour and Robert Scott took home the money with 43 points , Scottie's putter on fire all day .

No sausage rolls , but very welcome wraps and cake were available at the half-way hut courtesy of their women's committee.

A delicious dinner for our group only followed in their dining room which was decorated with memorabilia from the 1929 Ryder Cup, that being the first Ryder Cup held in Europe.

Ailsa Jarvis , the clubs, president was unable to attend but did so the next day when the Club was thanked for allowing us use of the course . Ailsa is the first female president at Moortown.



Left - Pat Lockie presenting to Moortown President Alisa Jarvis copy of "Great Golf Downunder"





**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
**Alwoodley Golf Club**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**Mike Hume – Indooroopilly Golf Club - Brisbane**

The good weather continued to follow us as we made our way by coach to the Alwoodley Golf Club located in a very secluded spot just north of Leeds.

The format for the day was matches amongst ourselves. The guys choose to have a few pounds up for grabs and Rick Fry took great advantage of the conditions to clean up to take the “chocolates” for the day.

Founded in 1907 the course is a combination of heathland and moorland characteristics with firm and springy fairways lined with plenty of heather and gorse which provided glorious seasonal colour and punishment for wayward shots. We were all extremely grateful to have Steve O’Loughlin play a few holes with all of us and assist us to find our errant shots into the heather and gorse.

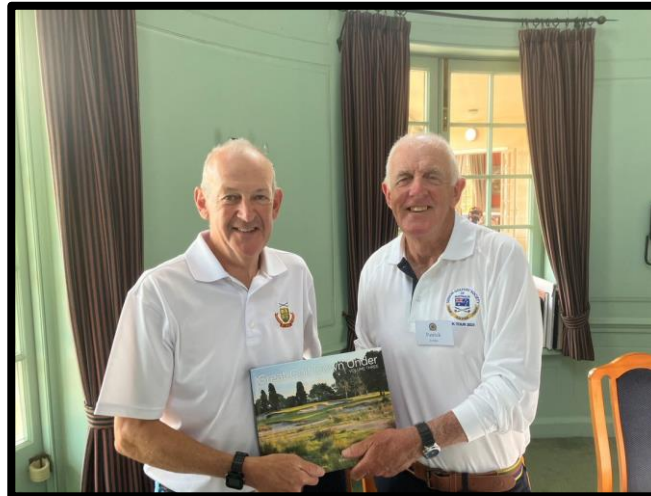
The course is very well regarded in Britain and is also considered as being of great historical significance in the world of golf course design. Alwoodley's world-renowned architects, Dr Alister MacKenzie and H S Colt, created the layout.

Among the many distinguishing features are the irregular shaped bunkers as well as large undulating greens making the club selection very important. You blast away to your own peril!!

Special thanks to Steve O’Loughlin in arranging to have the catering staff come in (usually their day off) to organise and provide a wonderful light lunch prior to our hit off and provide us with drinks post our game.

After drinks outside on the courtyard we headed off the Weetwood Hotel for our private team Dinner in the “Jacobean Room”. A great evening allowing us all to relax over a wonderful organised dinner.

Below - Pat Lockie presenting Club Captain Steve O’Loughlin a copy of “Great Golf Downunder”



The Girls taking advantage of the refreshments and Rick Fry collecting the cash from Team Captain Ross Eddy – well done Rick a great round







**Thursday 15th June 2023**  
**Woodhall Spa Golf Club (Hotchkin Course)**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**Ron McFarlane – Mandurah Golf Club - WA**

The day began with a short bus trip to the International Bomber Command Centre and a very moving hour spent with our guide Jean learning about the tragic loss of life of some 57000 very young men including almost 2000 Australian aircrew. The sad reality of war.

Woodhall Spa offers two magnificent heathland courses - the Hotchkin and the Bracken. The Hotchkin is currently rated 61<sup>st</sup> best golf course in the world and we were privileged to be playing this course which has recently been extensively refurbished by leading golf course architect Tom Doak.

On arrival we were greeted by our gracious host, Jeremy Mumby and the Woodhall Spa members and enjoyed pre-lunch sandwiches before venturing to do battle with the English team. The course certainly stood up to its fine reputation and our team did very well to secure a close fought victory on the day.

Following golf, the team enjoyed a wonderful dinner followed by a welcome from Jeremy to which our Captain of the day (Ron/Ross)

responded and presented the club with a copy of Great Golf Down Under.

As we prepared to leave the drama (saga) of the bus flat battery resulted in quick arrangements to ferry the team home with another bus and the very kind offer by Woodhall members to ferry as many people as possible in their own cars.

The oldest member was conveyed in the luxury to which he is accustomed in a Maserati driven of course by a beautiful blonde.



Above Captain of the Day Ron McFarlane presenting Jerry Mumby a copy of "Great Golf Downunder"





**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Luffenham Heath Golf Club**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**John McDonald – Brisbane Golf Club**

On Friday 16th June we left Lincoln and travelled to Luffenham Heath Golf Club (LH) which is considered one of the finest heathland courses in England. Local members said we were extremely fortunate as we enjoyed perfect blue skies and the course had never looked better.

On arrival we were greeted by Senior Golf Society member Ken Argus who planned the day to perfection. There were many local society members, including Colin Maber, Tour Manager and his wife Helen, who had travelled a considerable distance to ensure the battle was hard fought.

Both men and lady players thoroughly enjoyed the course which is widely considered to be both challenging and fair in equal measure. Good shots were duly rewarded, and poor ones nearly always severely punished. LH contained some of the most demanding rough we had encountered on tour so far.

It is no surprise LH is placed in the top 100 golf courses in England. In my view, a real highlight of the tour.

The friendship and hospitality shown on the day was nothing short of exceptional. At the halfway mark we were treated to a Pimm's and a slice of delicious pork pie which was "just what the doctor ordered".

On completion of the day's play, we retired to the bar to review the many missed opportunities on course and what could have been. Then afternoon tea arrived in the form of home-made

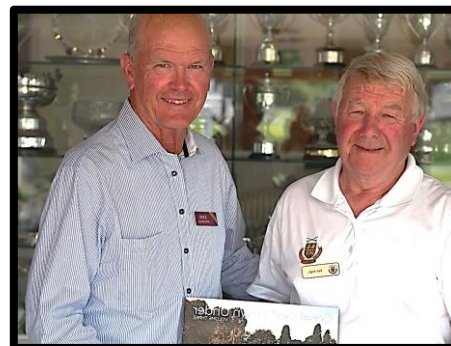
scones. Can it get any better than this? Formalities followed where a 5 to 1 victory by the Australian men's team was acknowledged. A booklet titled "Great Golf Down Under" was presented to Ken Argus to celebrate our visit which was very much appreciated.

We then proceeded onto Stamford. However, 200 metres into our journey the bus broke down. Upon disembarking, we quickly made friends with a local farmer who had come out to see what the commotion was all about. We were always confident the situation would be quickly rectified however photo evidence shows Vivien Temple keenly surveying the property for, I assume, alternate accommodation potential should it be required.

Matters were resolved within a reasonable time-frame, and we were soon settled into the unforgettable George Hotel in Stamford where a truly special and morale boosting night was had by all in the historic London Room.

What a great day.

Right Captain of the Day John McDonald  
 presenting a copy of "Great Golf Downunder"  
 to Club Captain Ken Argo





## AUSTRALIAN UK TOURING TEAM – Bus Travel not a problem!!!



Top Left – Viv seeking out assistance ***“anyone home.....a small problem”*** Bottom Right John McDonald– ***“don’t worry Viv all under control”*** - Centre Above The “Doyon” David Temple ***“Viv I told you not to worry ....well all get home”***



**AUSTRALIAN UK TOURING TEAM – Unforgettable R & R  
at The Georges Hotel Stamford Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023**







**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
**Royal St Georges' Golf Club**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**Harry Moore – Kooyonga Golf Club SA**

Royal St George's Golf Course at Sandwich is a famous course which dates from 1887 and is the first course to hold an Open Championship outside of Scotland. The course is part of the current Open Rota and has held 15 Opens with Greg Norman winning in 1993. The last Open to be held here was 2021 which was won by Colin Morikawa. The prize pool in 2021 was US \$11.5M compared to UK 100 pounds on offer in the late 1800's.

This is the course, renamed Royal St Marks in Ian Fleming's book Goldfinger where James Bond (007) defeats the villain Auric Goldfinger despite Goldfinger's bodyguard Odd Job dropping golf balls down his trouser leg. Incidentally, Ian Fleming was Captain Elect of the Club at the time of his death.

Unfortunately, due to a road closure which required a detour and then entering a "narrow dead-end road" in Sandwich we were late to arrive at the course. This meant that the Ladies had to be rushed out to the 10<sup>th</sup> tee in a van and the men had little time to meet our playing partners and get to the 1<sup>st</sup> tee. The golf program for the men was 18 holes in the morning from the 1<sup>st</sup> tee, foursomes' format versus the Home team, change into

jacket and tie for lunch, then back to golf attire for a further 9 holes in the afternoon. The ladies' format was 18 holes in the morning starting from the 10<sup>th</sup> with one local lady member for each group, join everyone for lunch, then return to Canterbury. No formal competition.

The course is located next to the seashore, and winds amongst sand dunes which are covered by thick grasses and heather. There is not a tree or shrub in sight. From the men's championship tees the carry over the rough is significant and quite often the fairway cannot be seen from the tee.

The course would be very confusing and difficult for a first-time player without the services of a caddie or advice from a member. Fortunately, the men were playing from the forward tees which made things a little easier. The ladies also played from their forward tees but even then, some of them found the carry to the fairways next to impossible.

Weather conditions were benign, with sunshine and a gentle breeze. These conditions remained throughout the day. There had been little if any rainfall in past weeks, so the course was dry with the ball

running, often into the many steep sided and strategically placed bunkers. A bogey or worse was the inevitable result.

Royal St George's is well known for the quality of the lunch menu, and we were treated to a magnificent meal. At the conclusion of the meal a presentation of the book "Great Golf Courses Down Under" was made by the Society to the Club.

After lunch we changed back into golf gear for the next 9 holes, also in foursomes' format. The men's morning match result was 4.5 to 1.5 in favour of Royal St. George's.

The course is difficult in good weather and would be a real challenge from the championship tees in strong winds and other adverse conditions. It has a large amount of land that can be used for parking, tents and the like. As a result, it is a favoured site for the Open.

It was a privilege to be able to play here and thanks to the organizers who made the necessary arrangements and to those members who gave up their time to play with us.

Captain of the Day Harry Moore presenting a copy of "Great Golf Downunder" to Charles Miller.





**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**  
**Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**Mike Hume – Indooroopilly Golf Club**

Yet another wonderful summers day to welcome the team at Royal Port Cinque Ports Golf Club. We were scheduled to play 9 holes prior to our match with the Home Club but we sensibly decided that an 18-hole foursomes in the afternoon was all the golf we required.

Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club was founded in 1892. Its name derives from Deal's membership of an ancient group of trading towns granted special privileges by the medieval English Monarchs, known as the Cinque Ports.

The course runs along the coast of Sandwich Bay, on the same stretch of coastline as Royal St Georges Golf Club and Prince's Golf Club, adjacent to the north.

In 1909 the Club was awarded the Open Championship and then joined the illustrious rota: St Andrews, Sandwich, Muirfield, Hoylake, Prestwick and early in 1915 it was decided no further Open Championships until the end of WW1. Deal had the honour of hosting the Open Championship in 1920.

Two more Opens were scheduled in 1938 and 1949 however both were relocated when abnormally high

tides inundated the course.

It is no longer on the rota but remains a final qualifying course for the Open most recently in 2017.

The bus trip from Canterbury to the course was not without its difficulties for our driver navigating his way through the very narrow streets. After a number of "U" turns we arrived in amble time to take in the wonderful vista Royal Cinque Ports offers all for their first visit.

The course is a wonderful example of Links Golf and as described by the late Peter Allis *"one of my favourite link courses. Straight out and straight back, the inward nine, especially if there is a wind against, is perhaps formidable as anything in British Golf"*

The course a par 71 with a course rating of 75 is a great challenge for all golfers and fortunately for us the we did not have to contend with high winds. This said we all agreed that this was very much a blessing. The end result in our match was a fitting tie with the locals.

Upon arrival we joined our hosts for morning tee followed by a light lunch prior to hitting off. A number enjoyed

the driving range and practice area adjacent to the Clubhouse and a few walked out on the course to take advantage of the views across to France.

After our Golf matches, we enjoyed pre dinner drinks in the Clubhouse which was followed by a wonderful formal dinner in the magnificent Clubhouse. We were all intrigued to be informed by Captain Mark Fevery the correspondence the club received from the late Queen Mother as to the correct pronunciation of the "Cinque". It is very English and not the French pronunciation.

Special thanks to UK Manager of the Day Kerry Scott, Graham Lark and Captain Mark Fevery for their gracious hospitality. We all had a truly magnificent day we will always cherish.



Captain of the Day Mike Hume presenting "Great Golf Down Under" to Club Captain Mark Fevery





**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

**Rye Golf Club**

**Australian Captain of the Day – Robert Scott  
Scribe Rick Fry – Indooroopilly Golf Club**

We played our second last game at Rye, a private members' golf club in East Sussex.

Its two courses, the Old and Jubilee, are beautiful examples of traditional links, on the south coast of England. Harry. S. Colt, a young solicitor, was one of the founding members and the first Captain of the Club. By 1895 he had designed a full 18 holes which became the permanent course, and he switched careers to architecture several years later.

About the same time a temporary clubhouse was built which became permanent as it was modified over the years not ever achieving the grandeur of some clubhouses but still charming and intimate.

WW11 saw set back as a flying bomb destroyed the clubhouse and had to be faithfully rebuilt when hostilities ceased. Like many English courses there is a tournament tradition and Rye

has hosted since 1899 the President's Putter where approximately 200 Oxford and Cambridge graduates compete in a week-long individual, knock-out tournament.

Rye has a reputation for one of the finest winter courses in England due to its location by the sea far south. Very rarely is golf not played in winter. The Old course, which we played, consists of two nine-hole loops to the east and west of the Clubhouse. Although measuring only 6,500 yards off the 'blue' tees, it presents a most demanding par of 68s with only two pars fours under 435 yards especially in the prevailing cross wind.

Rye is famous for the challenge of its five short holes. The often-said words "the most difficult shots at Rye are the second shots to the par threes" are richly deserved. Our format for the day was "Foursomes" with alternate shots from the tee and down the fairway to speed up play. There

was supposed to be a shotgun start on allocated tees but our local hosts seemed relaxed to let each group finish their lunch and move out when ready.

Rye is proud of its Dining Room and traditional lunch is served from noon until two o'clock, 363 days a year. The tradition of carving and serving oneself, makes it more sociable, combined the most magnificent selection of hot and cold meats, salads and vegetables along with a generous helping of wine made it hard to move out on to the course for some.

The round with our generous hosts seemed to move quickly and we finished the day on the front patio of the clubhouse sharing the stories of the day in the setting sun. This was the perfect opportunity for our uniformed UK Seniors Group Photos before dispersing after our next game. Rye was yet another memorable treat!

Captain of the Day presenting Robert Scott  
"Great Golf Downunder to Rye Colin Phillips





## AUSTRALIAN UK TOURING TEAM – Travel Fun and Games & wonderful memories





**AUSTRALIAN UK TOURING – “It’s a White Day”**







**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023**  
**Woking Golf Club**  
**Australian Captain of the Day**  
**David Temple – Royal Melbourne Golf Club Victoria**

The Australian Seniors ventured to Woking for our final game and a match against the UK Seniors. Woking is a highly rated parkland course in Surrey and within close proximity to the other two “W’s” West Hill and Worplesdon.

The site of all three courses was originally intended for a massive cemetery to house the country’s dead but the novel idea in the late 19th century of cremation freed the land to make three fine golf courses.

Hard to imagine as it is, we had another beautiful day’s weather to complete the tour in a series of matches against our UK Seniors counterparts.

Fortified with some delicious sandwiches and a few Pimm’s to steady the nerves, we proceeded to give our hosts a display of excellent golf emerging victors by 5.5 matches to 0.5!!

Woking proved a delightful venue for our final game though their

famed greens were slower than normal - probably being protected against the sustained heat of the previous weeks.

We concluded our tour with a marvellous dinner at the Club which provided the opportunity for us to thank Colin and Helen Maber and Members of the Committee who were responsible for the first-class arrangements of the previous three weeks. All in all, a most fitting finale!



Left – Jeremy Mumby UK Captain Above Mike Hume UK Captain Jeremy & UK Secretary Chris Pett  
right – Ladies Captain Nina Fry and Helen Maber







# AUSTRALIAN UK TOURING TEAM

## 23 June 2023



**Captain of the Day David Temple herds the Team For A  
Final Farewell at Woking “ The Tour of a Lifetime ”**



**Thank-you to all  
the UK Team for  
making our Trip  
something we will  
never forget**

**.....  
See you all in  
Australia soon !!!**



A fitting farewell from the  
irrepressible Helen Maber