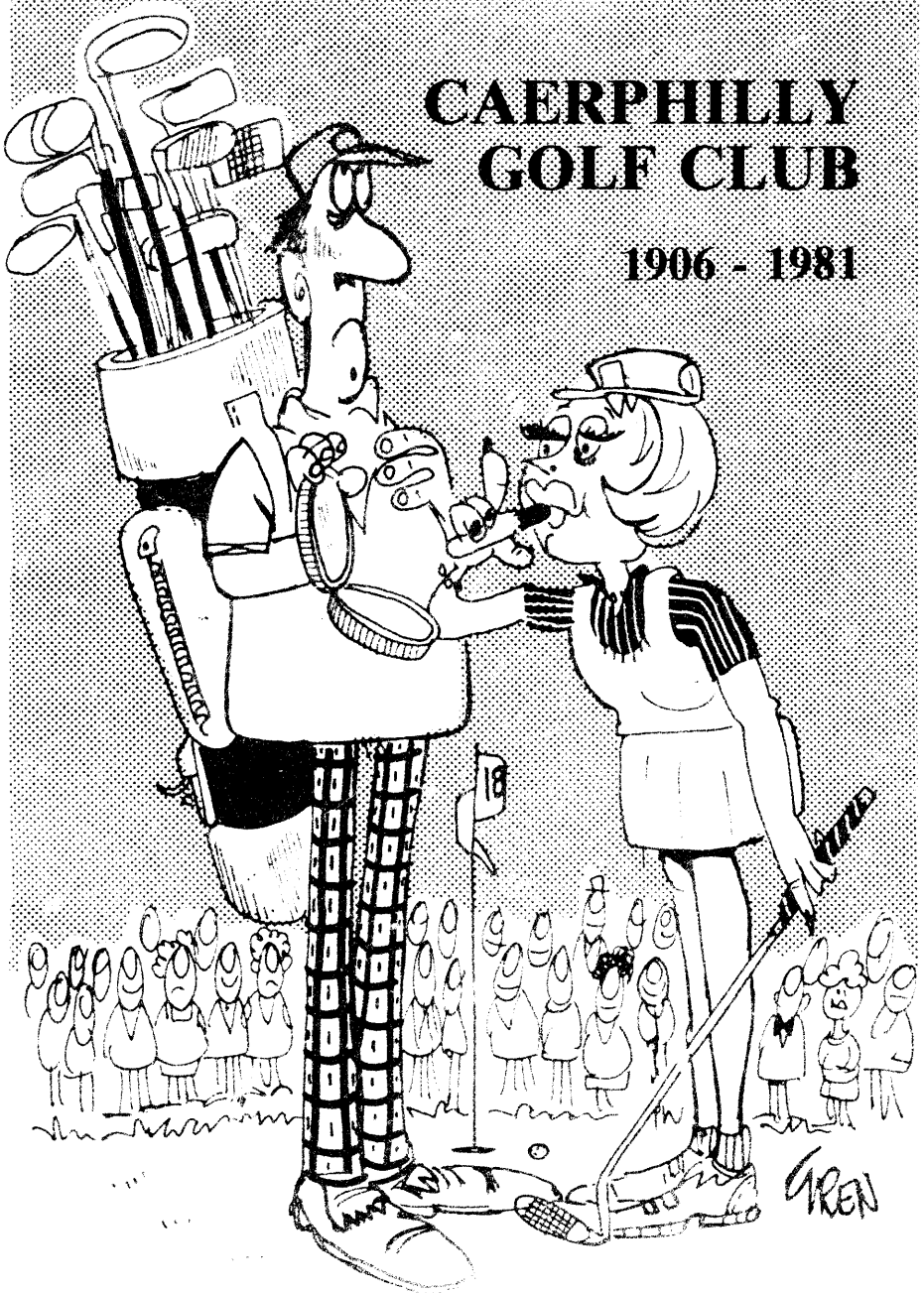


# CAERPHELLY GOLF CLUB

1906 - 1981



**ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION MATCH**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 9th 1981, 2.30 p.m. Programme £1.00**

## **FOREWORD**

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The first half of our 75th Anniversary year has provided a feast of enjoyment both on and off the course and I am confident that the remainder of the year will continue in the same vein.

It is my sincere wish, and I will do everything in my power to ensure, that at the end of the year we can all say that our 75th Anniversary was a happy and memorable experience. Today we look forward to an Exhibition of high quality Golf from Brian Huggett, Catherine Panton, Pamela Chugg and Don Jones and I do trust that they will enjoy playing as much as we will enjoy watching.

The organisation of today's Event and for that matter all our Anniversary Events demands a great deal of hard work.

My grateful thanks to all members of the Executive and Ladies Committees, all our Ground and Clubhouse staff and of course to you the members for your support.

Finally a special thank you to the Sponsors and Advertisers for supporting today's event so generously.

J. H. EVANS

CAPTAIN

AUGUST 1981

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## THE FIRST SEVENTY FIVE YEARS

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*“The only golf links in the Rhymney Valley are situated in Caerphilly. Only nine holes are available at present, but there is room for expansion to a full course. The first tee is within three minutes walk of the railway station and the little links are generally considered to be most sporting, with plenty of variety. A fine panorama of the surrounding country is obtainable from ‘‘Spion Kop’’. The membership is limited, and the players are rarely kept waiting. The ‘bogey’ is 76 and the length of the nine holes about 2,400 yards’’.*

This description of our club appeared in a Guide to Caerphilly published in 1913, when there was no other club in the Rhymney Valley and only a few in the Cardiff area and, consequently, many of the original members were from Cardiff, who were able to benefit from a frequent train service.

The annual membership fee was 2 guineas — men, half a guinea for ladies, and a visitor was charged 1/6d per day.

Now, when the club is celebrating its 75th Anniversary, it is interesting to reflect on our origin and our progress throughout the intervening years, and to recognise the immense contribution which the club has made not only to the game of golf, but to the general happiness of its members and visitors, and also to the neighbourhood of Caerphilly.

The circumstances of the Club’s formation owe something to chance, and almost everything else to the enthusiasm and the organising ability of one person who served as a Committee Member, Club Captain and eventually as President for thirty years. This person was Mr. Charles Stuart Goodfellow, a local solicitor and Clerk to the Magistrates.

In the year 1902, he was holidaying at Minehead and, after seeing several people playing golf on the sands, was tempted to try his hand at the game. Evidently pleased with the results, he conceived the idea of forming a Club in his home area and, on his return to Caerphilly, lost no time in gathering about him a number of friends to discuss the matter. His infectious enthusiasm was met with the reward it deserved, and the Club came into effective existence in 1905/06.

Mr. Fernie, who was then the professional at the Glamorganshire Golf Club, was commissioned to design and lay out nine holes on land leased from Pencapel Farm — 7 holes and from the historic Plas Watford — 2 holes.

The playing area remained substantially unchanged until 1963, when additional land became available and the present holes, Nos. 7, 8 and 17, were constructed, after advice had been taken from a prominent Golf Architect.

This very much changed the landscape of the course, because at the same time several hundreds of yards of hedgerows and ditches which, for all the past years, had closely defined the playing areas, and controlled the cattle and horses, were completely cleared.

Removed several years earlier were the concrete posts, with three wire rails, which had protected each green from the grazing sheep who, for sixty years, had given the course a special character, and also contributed to the excellent quality of the verdant pastures.

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It is interesting to appreciate that the activities of the golfers and the quite opposite demands of an active dairy farm existed happily side by side for so many years. More recent members may find it difficult to imagine that the present car park area, until the early fifties, accommodated a typical stone-built Welsh farmhouse, with appropriate outbuildings, including a well-used slaughterhouse, which was a familiar local landmark. The inevitable chickens, geese and ducks, in quantity, completed a most attractive scene.

Until about 1930, the course continued from the present No. 11 to the opposite field by means of a short 3 bogey over the stream and then returned from the top most corner of the field, with a 4 bogey played to the present 12th Green, the tee being sited a yard or so from the then notorious "hairpin bend" on Mountain Road. Those holes were discontinued because too many balls found their way into The Greenhill gardens, to the great inconvenience of all concerned. However, they are still remembered as great golf holes.

The mountain road at this time being comparatively traffic free, was a favourite walk for the townsfolk especially at weekends and holidays, and golfers were often "favoured" with a gallery of spectators as they drove-off.

Going back in time to 1914, the membership had then reached the highly encouraging figure of 140 (today 700) and the formation of the Club was seen to be completely justified. Inevitably, the demand for clubhouse facilities became apparent, and this was met by renting a house on Mountain Road (Ty Mynydd), which was opened in September, 1913, and enjoyably occupied for the next few years.

This was the first venture in providing permanent facilities for the "19th" and the Annual Accounts for the year in question show that, out of a total expenditure of £288, an amount of £100 was spent on rent and furniture for the house.

World War I was a difficult period for the Club and about half the course was under the plough for food production. However, by dint of great efforts by the members, the Club flag was kept flying. One unforgettable occurrence during this period was when a member, an officer in the Royal Flying Corps, landed an aeroplane on No. 1 fairway — a daring and skilful feat!

The years of depression followed the War and the Club experienced difficult times, there was little expansion. An event of great significance, however, did take place at the beginning of the 30's, when agreement was reached with the ground landlords that, for the first time, golf could be played on Sundays and Good Friday and, in addition, alcoholic drinks could be served in the small pavilion. When considered against the social background of the time, this was really an eventful change.

The facilities at this time were meagre and the problems arising were only overcome with the co-operation and kindness of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis of Pencapel Farm, who allowed members to use the attractive facilities of the farmhouse for entertaining visiting teams, committee meetings, etc. Additionally, they showed great tolerance in balancing the conflicting interests of the golfers and the farm activities; never an easy task. No history of the club is complete without a tribute to the co-operation of the Pencapel household, which was fundamental to our continuance as a club.

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In the late 1930's there was a general economic improvement, and membership again started to increase. The first greenkeeper-professional was appointed — Mr. E. L. Phillips — and, with characteristic faith in the future, the club was transformed by the addition of sectional wooden buildings, providing about eight times more accommodation.

This was a bold venture, but very well rewarded, and the new facilities were extensively used for social events, and provided great happiness for members and visitors over the years, until they were replaced in 1972.

The outbreak of World War II, in September, 1939, presaged a series of difficulties, but these subsequently proved not to be of the magnitude experienced in the previous World War. All the major facilities remained available, and considerable hospitality was afforded to members of H.M. Forces stationed in the area, and also to the American Army contingent serving in the vicinity in 1943.

The end of the War saw the welcome return from active service of many members, and also a substantial influx of new members and, although minor improvements were made, the over-riding ambition of all was the ownership of our land. This ambition was finally achieved in the late fifties, when the freehold interests of both Pencapel Farm and the Plas Watford portion of land were purchased. Members, as ever, supported this venture in a practical manner and the finance was raised without difficulty. The Caerphilly Golf Club (Property) Co. Ltd., was formed and debentures in the Company were issued to the value of the purchase price of the land. The debentures were redeemed, in full, in a few years.

Whatever developments had taken place in the past, this was by far the most far-reaching. All doubts about the future vanished and, for the first time, planning could proceed in the atmosphere of complete security, and the results are now evident to all.

A magnificently appointed clubhouse was built in 1972, and is appreciated by members and visitors alike. The course has recently benefitted from considerable expenditure on landscaping, drainage, and provision of a water supply with sprinklers on every Green. An additional hole (6th) is today brought into play for the first time, illustrating the policy of continuous development.

The seventy five years to date represent a success story in every way, a story of the contributions made by successive generations of members, both ladies and men. They have not been without difficulties and frustrations, but never for one moment has the club faltered and, as a result, members today may be proud of the facilities and golf course which they enjoy.

The past, undoubtedly, will provide inspiration for the future, when any challenge will, assuredly, be successfully met with the characteristic spirit of Caerphilly Golf Club.

August 1981

*W. R. Matthews*

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*Our Thanks to Gren for the Cover Illustration.*

## THE PLAYERS

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### Brian Huggett

An illustrious career in professional golf has made Brian Huggett instantly recognisable both by name and appearance even to those not involved in the game.

Apart from being runner up in the British Open in 1965 (and 3rd in 1962) his Open titles include those of the Netherlands, Germany and Portugal.

Amongst Brian's tournament wins the most notable are the PGA Close Championship (1967) PGA Match Play (1968) Daks (1969 and 1971) Carrolls (1970) and Dunlop Masters (1970).

Third place in the 1963 Order of Merit led to Brian's first appearance in the Ryder Cup team and following five other doughty performances against the Americans he was honoured with the Captaincy of the team in 1977. Brian no doubt regrets not having been a member of a winning team but his contribution to the halved match at Royal Birkdale in 1969 will long be remembered.

His contribution to the game in general has certainly been recognised elsewhere as evidenced by the award of the M.B.E.

Brian's tournament appearances are now rare and perhaps his victory in the Welsh Professional Championship in 1978 prompted his recent decision to base his activities in his native Wales.

As a result Brian is now resident professional at St. Pierre Golf and Country Club and hopefully this means that we locally shall have many more opportunities of seeing this great exponent of the game in action.

### Don Jones

Don Jones, in contrast to his partner today is at the start of his career in the game.

Encouraged by success in winning both junior and senior championships at Creigiau Golf Club Don turned professional in 1976 becoming assistant to Jack Taylor at Llanishen.

As well as numerous successes in pro-am competitions Don has won the Welsh Assistants Stroke Play Championship, the "News of the World" Under 23 Championship (Wales and West) and the South Wales Alliance Assistants Championship.

In 1978 Don was appointed professional at our Club and last year "playing out of Caerphilly" he became the South Wales Alliance Champion.

Don is a fine golfer and works hard at his game, he can justifiably expect further victories and a long and successful professional career.

## **Catherine Panton**

**Catherine Panton is one of the top lady golfers playing the 21 tournament WPGA circuit. In 1980 she was seventh in the Hambro Life Order of Merit having topped the Order in the previous inaugural year.**

**Her consistency may be judged from the fact that out of 19 tournament starts last year she achieved six finishes in the first 6 and on no less than 14 occasions finished in the top 10!**

**Catherine's best performance during 1980 was to win the Elizabeth Ann Classic at Pannal by five shots, her 11-under par total of 289 being the best score produced in a ladies' 72-hole tournament during the year.**

**Daughter of professional John Panton, Catherine was Scottish Girls Champion at the age of 14 and gained senior international honours in 1972. Four years later she won the British Amateur title and turned professional in 1978.**

## **Pamela Chugg**

**Pamela will perhaps be better known to many as Pamela Light, for it was in her maiden name she enjoyed a distinguished amateur career. The past two years have been eventful ones for her as she turned professional in 1979 and was married a year later.**

**As Pamela Chugg she is now a regular player in WPGA tournaments having finished 25th in the Order of Merit in 1980. She can perhaps be excused for dropping in the Order from 1979 in view of other preoccupations last year!**

**Pamela was the first winner of the Welsh Ladies Open Stroke Play Championship when it was introduced in 1976 and followed this with victory in the Welsh Ladies Championship in 1978. She had previously won the 1975 South Western Ladies Championship.**

**Pamela represented Wales at both junior and senior levels from 1970 to 1978 playing in both the Home International series and the European Team Championships.**

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# THE COURSE

Hole	Par	Yards	Players				Hole	Par	Yards	Players			
			B.H.	D.J.	C.P.	P.C.				B.H.	D.J.	C.P.	P.C.
1	4	293	4	4	<del>6</del> 4	4	4	361	4	4	5	6	
2	4	275	2	4	4	11	4	327	3	4	3	4	
3	4	440	4	4	6 1/2	12	3	225	4	4	4	4	
4	3	197	2	3	3	13	4	293	4	3	3	4	
5	4	278	3	4	4	14	5	485	4	5	5 1/4	5	
6	3	125	3	3	3	15	5	518	<del>4</del> 5	5	5 1/4	5	
7	5	518	5	5	4	16	5	486	5	8	5	5	
8	5	486	4	4	4	17	5	492	5	4	5	5	
9	3	107	3	3	3	18	3	162	3	3	3	3	
OUT	35	2,719	32	34	37	IN	38	3,349	36	40	38	41	
							OUT	35	2,719	32	34	37	38
							Total	73	6,068	58	74	75	79

SSS 71

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