

THE STORY OF OUR NINETY YEARS SERVICE AS PROFESSIONALS AT MUNDESLEY GOLF CLUB.

AN INTRODUCTION.

This is the story of my family's history as Golf Professionals and our service in various ways to Mundesley Golf Club.

Our story began when my grand father, George Watts, was appointed Professional at the Golf Club in 1919. He had been Professional at Beccles Golf Club prior to his service in the Royal Artillery and he had been wounded in France during WW1. He came to Mundesley as Green Keeper Professional and when it was decided to extend the course to 18 holes in 1924, he did much of the work and was given £10 for the excellent way he had carried this out. On Bank Holiday Monday in 1924, he played an exhibition match to celebrate the opening of the new 18 hole course with two of the great professionals. These were Harry Vardon and J.H.Taylor. Richard Kelly of Eaton Golf Club also played in the match as he had been the first Professional at Mundesley in 1901 but left for Eaton in 1911. The result of this match is unknown. The other professional before my grandfather was Harry Jex 1911 to 14.)

In 1929 his son Paul Watts was appointed as Assistant Professional and he together his father served the club until 1940 when WW2 started. Paul's memories of his service as Assistant Professional and later as Professional are to form Part One of this story.

I am George Watts' grand son Terry Symmons and in Part Two I shall give you memories of my life at Mundesley Golf Club together with my grandfather's second spell of duty as Professional. My time as Professional, some history of this great Golf Club and its members over the years will also be covered My part of this story is mainly from my memory so I apologise for any errors and to anyone I have left out.

Memories of my life as Golf Assistant Pro at Mundesley Golf Club by Paul WATTS.

My father came to Mundesley in 1919 as the Green keeper Professional. We lived in a house owned by the Golf Club at 7, St Olafs which had been occupied by the army and was in a poor state of repair. I remember rats being in the attic and traps being set in straw to catch them.

Our whole family became involved in the life of the golf club including my mother who provided teas and helped to provide liquid refreshment during the summer season. As we children became old enough, we were also involved in various tasks in the clubhouse and on the course. Among my early recollections is the opening of the 18 hole course and the great Harry Vardon sitting in my father's shop. I recall being drawn to his knee and being told what a great iron player my father was. " There was never such a player with a 3 iron as George Watts," said Harry Vardon. I remember too Mr Bentall (founder of Bentalls of Kingston) sitting in the same chair at a later date telling me that he had paid half of the new professional's shop (the other half was paid by Mr Arnold Roy of Wroxham). In 1929 at the age of 14, I officially became assistant professional to my father. I spent the next 5 years learning to make golf clubs and playing with members and visitors. I was gradually brought on as a teacher and this continued until 1940 when I was called up for military service. I worked on the course and in the bar but the only person directly employed by the club was my father.

During the school holidays and at weekends I helped on the course and at 12 years of age was driving the tractor to relieve Harry Sexton for other duties. The grass on the course was cut with a single unit mower and pulled by a mule. The Club bought 3, Mill Stream which we moved into; it had grass at the front and allotments. Someone had the bright idea of bringing the mule down and tethering it so it could eat the grass. This came to an abrupt end when the mule got loose and set about eating the crops in the allotments!!

The mule was sold and a horse purchased which was more docile. Harry Sexton was the groom but later the horse was replaced by a tractor and Harry was taught to drive it. The mower was updated to a triple unit and this would have been about 1924 when the course was extended to 18 holes. There were two other ground staff, Billy Gee from Knaptan and Tom Bright from Trunch.

Mum did lunches and teas during the summer months and each day I would go to Hill Farm to collect milk straight from the cow. Looking back the hygiene was horrendous, milkmen hand milking into buckets and then straight into my jug. The rest of the milk was run over cooling pipes into the churn ready for delivery to houses twice a day.

The summer holiday time didn't vary much from year to year. In the first two weeks of August, The Grand Hotel was mainly taken over by families from London and the second two weeks from Birmingham. Mum and Dad together with the older children would play golf each morning and again in the afternoon, while nannies took the younger children to the beach. My Dad spent most of his days teaching the ladies who seemed to enjoy

his patience of which he seemed to have an endless abundance. I was called on to play most days, the rest of my time being taken up with repairing clubs.

The 1929 crash changed so many lives and austerity was the order of the day. It wasn't until the mid 1930's that the little luxuries began to creep into ordinary peoples lives and holidays as such began to be possible. Then as now, those who could afford it flocked to the seaside in this country. Hotels by the sea took advantage of this attraction to the new rich and end of the pier shows became the thing to see. The not so well off went to the guest houses or boarding houses or even supper, bed and breakfast according to what they had to offer. The householders would move into sheds in their back garden and let the house to the holidaymakers. The wife would clean and cook for them while the husband would carry on with his job, thus earning enough to see them through the winter.

The holiday makers mostly arrived by train and Saturdays were the change over days. Leavers could be seen struggling up the hill to the railway station in the morning when the cleaners would descend on the houses before the arrivals reversed the process in the afternoon. At Mundesley the station was at the top of a hill. Only one horse drawn cab which was owned and driven by the local miller was available and he made more money on a Saturday than he did for a full weeks work grinding flour.

During the 1930's Mundesley, in common with most other Golf Clubs became more dependant on holiday golfers as the local membership declined. I had to earn enough in three months to see me through the winter and like so many others we were dependant on the weather. The coming of steel shafts meant that I could make a club in an hour, so my winter occupation of making stock for the following year was not necessary.

The local school boys all wanted to be caddies during the school holidays and there were at least 20 boys applying to be employed. My dad had to agree to them and it became my job to allot them to the players. A good useful boy could be employed by the same player for the two weeks of their stay. Caddy fees were 1/3d per round and usually the player gave a tip. 2 rounds per day, 7 days a week equals 21/- a week. Labourers pay at this time was 30/- a week so it was a worth while job for a boy. Most boys went ball hunting in the evenings and sold them to dad which added a little more to their income. Caddies were drawn mainly from Gimingham, Trunch and Knapton. Mundesley lads seemed to get summer jobs on the beach or in the shops as errand boys and made themselves useful with an eye to the future when school days were to be over.

A caddy from Knapton, ' No arms Wright ' was available all the year. He had an accident on the farm as a boy and lost his arms. He would arrive in the morning with his dinner bag slung round his shoulders and the other caddies made sure he was alright by feeding him. He was a dear chap, about 40 years old, and was well liked by the other caddies. Clemantine Plumbly was a cheeky chap from Gimingham and his grin made him a favourite with the ladies. ' Dropsy Gray ' came from Southrepps and was perhaps the

most efficient caddy who took his job very seriously. He was soon able to help his employer with local knowledge and was sought after by the more serious golfer.

I had another occupation of a voluntary nature having progressed from a Boy Scout to the more adult Rover Scouts. The vicar of Bacton wanted to start a Scout Troop in his village and he approached the District Commissioner who appealed to our Rover Scout Group for leaders. After much discussion I volunteered to take on the job if another could be found to help. John Hayden (later to become the longest holder of Chairman of The Norfolk County Council) agreed to join me, so we both became Assistant Scout Masters and set out to form a new Troop. We soon had about 18 boys interested and by various means set up a fund to buy uniforms. Each boy then paid 2 pence (old money) per week to pay for shirts and hats etc. Bacton Church had an old barn which we cleaned up for use as a winter headquarters and soon acquired the use of two sites, one in Witton Woods and one in North Walsham Woods for semi-permanent camping sites. We went on to build our ovens for cooking and the field cooking experience was to come in useful in later years when I was in North Africa and Italy. We also acquired a bell tent and a ridge tent together with a trailer to carry them.

One good thing to come out of the shortage of money in the 1930's was that young people had to 'cut their cloth' in accordance with their means and they soon realised they had to unite in order to enjoy life's pleasures. So they formed all sorts of clubs in order to 'bulk buy'. Tennis, athletics, bowls etc in the summer months with badminton, billiards, darts, debating, dancing and football in the winter. In the early part of the 1930's farm labourers, as they were known, had to live on 30 shillings a week (£1.50 in today's money) So a group of 30 people paying 3 pence each could hire a room for a whole evening. Every village had a club of some sort and would compete with each other on a home and away basis which was a good way to socialise. I must say that many of the local venues were held in village pub and was encouraged by the landlords. There would be a whist drive and dance somewhere in the area most Saturday evenings and the 'last dance' would have to be completed by midnight, as Sundays were very strictly observed. The national anthem was always the last piece of music from the band.

Every village had a football team and used to go to matches on their bikes. The referee had to be guaranteed safety for his bike or he would not turn up. I used to play for Mundesley reserves and Southrepps reserves until I was head hunted by Trunch Rovers with the promise of first team football as an incentive! The mainstays of the Trunch team were 3 brothers who were very good players and also devout Methodists. They were chapel preachers and so as a team we were known as 'The Bible Thumpers'. We didn't mind as we won more games than we lost. The football field was owned by a farmer as were most village clubs, so we had to clean up after the cows before the match could start.

Earlier I was telling you about Mundesley as a holiday resort and how people came back year on year. People spent money on holiday (and probably wished they hadn't when they got home) and they were the main source of income for my father and myself. By

the mid 1930's I was doing all the club making, making standard clubs in the winter for sale the following summer season, and making ' Specials ' for the visitors when they arrived. I could not keep making clubs through the winter, so I had to find another source of income. I bought a small printing press and taught myself to set type etc. Then I advertised for work and to my delight this took off and I was soon able to purchase a second larger press. This meant I had to look for larger premises so that I could get an even bigger press. I found just the place and was negotiating when war was declared, so it all came to a halt. The premises I was hoping to obtain was at the rail station. At Mundesley rail head Moy's had a coal yard. Coal came into the siding by rail and it was bagged up and delivered to the surrounding villages by horse and cart. Moy's then decided to deliver by motor lorry and the stable and tack room became redundant. I wanted the tack room for my new press as it would have been ideal for my purposes. It was lovely and clean with benches in all the right places. I had plans to clean out the stable and perhaps sub let it.

In 1935 or 1936 I qualified to play in a golf tournament at Wentworth (Virginia Water as it was then known) which was in an area that people flocked to on summer Sundays. Wentworth was to become more familiar for golf than Virginia Water was for recreation. The golf tournament was the most humiliating few days of my life. There are two championship courses, the West Course, which is the one used for TV today and the Burma Road Course with the tournament being based on one round on each course. Through a mix up I didn't have the opportunity to practise on the Burma Road Course which I was to play on my first day. I scored a 90 and was so disillusioned that I didn't do much better on the West Course the following day. Still I can boast about the time I played at Wentworth without giving the scores!!

It was about this time that steel shafted clubs were invented and suddenly there was no skill in club making and all my years at the bench were worthless. My father had been proved wrong and my time would have been better spent on the practise ground as hitting the ball was to prove more profitable than making the clubs. I felt so unsettled at the time as I did not want to be just a salesman, I wanted to produce something that people would be proud to possess.

In 2009 a friend brought me a golf club which he had found in a second hand shop and it had my father's name on it. " I thought you might be interested " he said. It was one of my standard models made in the winter of 1935, which I had produced for sale to visitors during the summer of 1936. It was therefore 73 years old and still as good as new !

Back to earlier days We Mundesley revellers would hire a big old Napier car (12 passengers) and boys and girls alike would pile into the vehicle for longer journeys, otherwise we would use our bikes. The hire of the vehicle was 3 pence per person, with the driver going free! We were very fortunate in Mundesley that we were taught ballroom by two very experienced instructors. We hired a room for 3 pence per person and the instructors gave their services free. One of our members had a very old gramophone and some scratchy records. We were able to show off when we attended

'foreign dances' we usually paired off with the same partner and many friendships and more, resulted from our dancing lessons.

Then came talk of a war with Germany. I got myself involved with the A.R.P. (Air Raid Precautions) and found myself in Anti- Gas Training. I was sent on a course fitting and testing Gas Masks which were then issued to everyone and after war had been declared it was an offence not to carry your gas mask with you at all times. You have probably seen photos of people with their little cardboard boxes over their shoulders on a piece of string.

I was chief fitter of gas masks in Mundesley and had to go to the homes of people who were unable to go to the fitting station. I remember with some embarrassment having to fit some old ladies in their beds and also having to take special containers to pregnant mothers and show them how to put their babies in a place of safety when the gas alarm sounded. We had a mobile gas chamber going round the villages so that people could test their masks for themselves, but most were scared to try it. It was only tear gas in the chamber and brought tears to the eyes if the masks were not properly fitted. I had to spend some time inside to persuade them that the gas being used was harmless and had to go home to change my clothes after each session.

In 1946 I returned to find that the club had lost 9 holes and part of the course was under the plough. For the next 6 years my wife and I looked after the clubhouse and I looked after the professional's shop and gave lessons and odd jobs on the course. These duties were unpaid but we did have the privilege of living in the Bungalow rent free, (this Bungalow was built for our family in the mid 1930's near the 1'st Tee.) In 1952 golf was in the doldrums and I had to seek other means of earning a living. Fortunately my father retired from the Haig club and spent the rest of his life giving more valuable service to his beloved club, without any pay, he died in June 1966 aged 81.

Part 2: Terry Symmons continues with the family history of service at Mundesley Golf Club and this covers the period from 1952 until 2008.

Chapter 1

The first memory I had of playing golf was at 6 years of age when my grandfather, George Watts, cut down a golf club for me before showing me how to swing and grip it properly. My first shot was not too popular however as I hit the ball through the snooker room window at the Haig Club where we were living as he was the Manager there. Soon after this I fell from my bike and broke my collar bone, so my golfing had to wait until 1952 when my grandfather took over from his son Paul Watts as Professional at Mundesley Golf Club. At this time we moved into the Golf Club bungalow. My mother and I were living with her parents as my father (an Army Captain) left us when I was 3 years old. She was a good golfer playing at that time off a handicap of nine and became Ladies' Secretary/Treasurer a position she held for thirty seven years. At the time of writing these memories three people are now doing the work she did on her own.

My grandfather was 66 years of age when he began his second spell as Professional but he received no wages. He lived in the Golf Club bungalow rent free receiving one ton of coal at Christmas which was much needed, as a coal fire was the only form of heating and ice would form on the inside of the windows on cold days during the winter. Lighting and cooking was by gas in the bungalow/clubhouse as there was no mains electricity at the Golf Club until 1959. One member, Fred Marling, who had been an electrician in the Royal Navy during WW2, wired up the clubhouse free of charge. He was a real character and would tell the tale of a sea battle during WW2, when he saw a shell fired from an enemy ship pass right through his vessel without exploding.

Money was in short supply at the Golf Club in the fifties and sixties. My grandfather had many duties, he was a good teacher and he served behind the bar as well as in the shop. My grandmother served light lunches and afternoon teas, so you could see it truly was a family affair. Every morning grandfather would walk round the course and swish the greens to remove worm casts and make sure everything was as it should be on the course. He also used to cut some of the greens which was very hard work as a 16 inch Ransom's push mower was used. The fairways were cut by the club secretary Percy Lambert using his own car, pulling triple Lloyds mowers and I was sometimes allowed to ride with him which I quite liked. There was one green keeper who I think was Harry Sexton but he and Percy Lambert both retired after a few years. The new secretary was Mrs Dobby Williams who had an unruly French poodle that ran loose all over the course. She was very posh and a WW2 ATS Officer who put every one in their place!! A new green keeper, Norman Payne from Gimingham was appointed. Pre WW2 he had been a gardener at Felbrigg Hall and with my grandfathers help he became a good green keeper. An ex Army Willis Jeep was purchased to pull the fairway mowers. This did not last long as it was very heavy on petrol and oil so it was traded in for a grey Ferguson tractor which was a lot better. It ran on petrol/paraffin but was a little temperamental as the spark plugs would oil up. An assistant green keeper Tom Burton-Pye, a retired farm worker from Gimingham was also appointed. He and Norman worked well together for several years keeping the course in good condition.

Chapter 2

The Financial position of the club in 1955/60 was still weak and members formed working parties to paint the clubhouse and work on the course. Cyril Gray was one of these members and I feel he deserves a special mention. He was a local builder and was responsible for taking the club forward in many ways. He would send some of his staff to do minor jobs on the clubhouse and would also loan his digger to make necessary modifications to the course. He once used the digger himself but succeeded in almost knocking down the old stables and he had to send his carpenter up to repair the damage. He helped create the present 7/16th holes which are named after my grandfather. On the playing side he was a very keen golfer arranging home/away matches with local clubs including Dereham, Swaffham, Gt. Yarmouth and Caister and Royal Cromer. I used to play in some of these matches. and as I was not old enough to drive Cyril would give me a lift. This could be a frightening experience as he was an erratic driver who would turn round to talk to the rear passengers when driving. Once when driving to Cromer we nearly had the postman and his bike on the car bonnet. The away match against Royal Cromer was always played on a Sunday morning in the winter. It was so cold during one of these matches that icicles hung from the clubhouse gutters. George Spurrell who was the Cromer captain broke one off and suggested it should be the match trophy. A good copy was produced and is still played for to this day. Cyril captained the club in 1955/56 and also 1965 and his wife Nicky was a keen supporter of the Ladies section. A cup called the Cyril Gray Cup was given to the club by him and is played for annually to this day. He sadly died in the late 1960s in an accident at home and his son Ian is a respected member of the Club.

In the late 1950s my grandfather began giving free evening golf classes in the clubhouse. This proved popular and many of his pupils, including Derek and Vivienne Rush became very good members of the club and good golfers. They have become two of our longest serving members who have given great service and support to the club. Derek was Captain in 1974, President 1998 to 2001 and County President in 1991/2. Vivienne was ladies captain in 1976 and 1993 and for many years was secretary of the Norfolk Golfers Alliance. Other pupils who joined were Charlie Gray who later became Captain in 1973 and President from 1988 to 1990, Ray Wayte who was to become Captain in 1975 and his wife Pearl who was Captain of the Ladies in 1983. Roger Pardon, Captain in 1976 and Albert Potter were two others from this group who I remember the most. Albert became Treasurer in the early 60's and he helped to settle with the outstanding Debenture Holders at a little cost. Altogether an impressive list of achievements by this group of members.

Guy Riches became President in 1959 and held this office for 24 years. He was much respected and was a good businessman. He sponsored President's competitions for both men and ladies and the prize vouchers for these he presented at the Annual Prize Giving Evening. He always give me his cheque for the vouchers at this event, which I much appreciated.

Chapter 3

In about 1960 my grandfather taught a farming couple, John and Audrey Durrell, to play golf and they became keen club members. Their daughter Margaret was a good golfer and later became a county player. Audrey was Ladies Captain in 1963/64 and John was Captain in 1962/64 and 1967/68. He helped the club a great deal particularly with the course where he used his equipment to install the first watering system. This was fed direct from the mains and used ordinary garden sprinklers with a tap on every green. They and the hoses needed to be moved 4 times to cover most greens. Later a pump with a timer was installed so that the greens could be watered at night and I used to pull the hoses to various greens most evenings with my car as only 2 greens could be watered at one time. I often finished in darkness! If the rough grass got too long John would get his son to bring their hay cutter and they would bale the hay before taking it back to their farm.

About this time another couple Brigadier Selby-Lowndes D.S.O. and his wife Helena, were taught by my grandfather. She was Ladies Captain in 1965/66 and first sponsored the annual Selby-Lowndes junior competition which is now sponsored by Derek and Vivienne Rush. She gave vouchers as prizes for the winning juniors and every year I had to go to their house to collect my cheque for these vouchers. The Brigadier's hunting trophies were all displayed on the walls and there was also a tiger rug on the lounge floor. They were an eccentric couple who always insisted I had a very large whisky, making me slightly merry when I left. The juniors playing in the competition always had a slap up meal of roast lamb when they finished playing but the grown up helpers had to eat first. Helena, a Countess, was a lot of fun and she always had her two little dogs with her when playing golf. In winter and summer she always wore short wellies on the course carrying a small bag with only half a dozen clubs. The Brigadier, who was captain in 1960/61, used to give me lifts in his mini van to away matches. It was very frightening to ride with him as he always drove as fast as possible and I think he still thought he was on his polo pony in India!! He was a keen and talented landscape painter who would sit behind the 4th green painting the view towards Trunch church. The Selby-Lowndes were friendly with another couple, Francis and Inez Raikes, who were very interesting people and would tell stories of their experiences when managing a cattle ranch in Argentina. Every Tuesday for several years they would play a foursome and afterwards would bring a hamper containing their lunch, as there were no lunches served on that day.

My mother Dulcie was appointed stewardess in 1962 and served until she retired in 1972. She cleaned the club house early every morning, served in the bar and provided light lunches 6 days a week. I don't know how she did all this but she managed cheerfully. The Lady members produced food for social events and this worked well. Doug Woolsey (who owned Kiln Cliffs caravan site) would run his own bar on these occasions and a good time was had by all. As drink driving was not as strict as it is today, a lot of people would drive home slowly and use the back roads.

Chapter 4

I did not start playing golf seriously until I was 13 years old when my grandfather gave me some lessons and I started going round the course with my mother. She was then working at Burtons bakery during the week so we played at the weekends. I was allowed to join the club as a junior member and my first handicap was 23. As I lived at the Golf Club I was able to spend many hours practicing and after a couple of years my handicap came down to 12. I was invited to take part in the men's competitions and over the next few years I won quite a few trophies and eventually reduced my handicap to 4.

I was chosen to play for the club in the Myhill Trophy, which was and still is, an important annual County knock out matchplay foursomes competition. The club's team was drawn at random to play against other clubs in Norfolk and if we were lucky enough to get some home draws we felt we had a good chance to beat any of them. In 1962 we got to the final against Gt.Yarmouth and Caister and beat them to win the Trophy for the first time. Our team was Derek Rush & Bill Pallett, T.E.T Stratford and John Dawes. Myself & Arthur Pearman and Tom Stevens & Basil Johnson. I will give you some details of these team members as they were all interesting characters.

Derek I have already mentioned, so I will go on to the others. Bill Pallett was a corn merchant and his warehouse was apposite North Walsham station. He played off 6 handicap and was also a good cricketer playing for Mundesley which had a strong team. The boundary was short and when batting he could easily clear it and the ball would end up in Charley Payne's corn field! T.E.T.Stratford was a retired bank manager who was deaf and would hum tunes to himself. He was a bit unpopular at Sheringham and Royal Cromer Golf Clubs as he was addicted to fruit machines and would walk into their bars often winning the jackpot. He was a good golfer and played off 6 handicap. John Dawes was a steady player and he played off 9 handicap. He worked for a petroleum company in London and came home most weekends. He was club Captain in 1994 and became a long standing member with his sister Jean being a very popular member of the ladies section. Arthur Pearman was a steady player and we played together quite a lot over the years. He was a skilled Gardener having trained at Kew. Arthur played off a 12 handicap which he liked to preserve and he was some times accused of three putting on the last green to achieve this. I never knew if this was true or not. Tom Stevens was a ladies hairdresser in North Walsham who played off a 12 handicap and he sang to himself as he played golf. He played regularly with Brigadier Selby-Lowndes and would say how honoured he was as he was only a corporal in the RAF during WW2. Basil Johnson played off a 10 handicap and worked for Cyril Gray in his office. He was a tough character as he was a retired police constable.

When I left school Les Sharpe, who was handicap secretary at the club and Captain in 1966, got me a job at Hall Lane Garage as a trainee mechanic but this did not last long. Another club member Walter Parrott offered me a job and I trained as a mechanic at Delves Motors, North Walsham where I stayed for 6 years.

Chapter 5

Several younger members joined the club in the mid 1960s as golf was getting more popular and three of them who were about my age used to play with me regularly on Saturday afternoons. They were Digger Shaw, David Lake and David Briggs who were all good golfers and we enjoyed playing together. David Lake and David Briggs were carpenters at the same firm and they decided to set up in business together as David's Builders. They did quite a lot of work for the club at this time and improved the interior of the old clubhouse. A few years later Digger, who was a plumber, joined them when they won maintenance contracts at the newly opened Gas Site at Bacton.

In late June 1966, aged 81 years, my grandfather George Watts had a severe stroke and a few days later he sadly died in the Fletcher Hospital at Cromer. When I last saw him in hospital he said to me, "My boy, please look after your mother when I am gone." This I endeavoured to do but she always looked after me very well too. Grandfather's funeral was very well attended as he was well liked by everybody as he had done so much for the club. A considerable amount of money was donated in his memory and my family decided to purchase two cups known as the George Watts Trophies. One was for the Ladies, the other for the Men and both were to be played over 36 holes annually. My mother actually won the first Ladies event which was held in 1967. An oak bench was also purchased for the course with a plaque inscribed with my grandfather's name. The 7/16th holes which he designed are named after him.

I was still working at Delves Motors at this time and it was a great shock when my grandfather died. I helped my mother as much as I could to man the clubhouse until the club decided what to do. John Durrell who was Vice Captain of the club at the time asked me if I would take on the duties of Club Professional. Having been trained by my Grandfather I talked to my uncle Paul Watts and he advised me to take the job. As I had finished my training as a car mechanic I decided to accept. I had to give up my amateur status to join the Professional Golfers Association and to do this I had to be sponsored by two P.G.A. members. I approached Ernie Plummer of Royal Cromer Golf club and Bert Kelly of Eaton Golf Club who both kindly agreed to do this for me. I entered my 5 years registration period and the P.G.A. sent me a most comprehensive training manual to study. I finally qualified as a P.G.A. member in 1971. On the 1st July 1966 I had become the Mundesley Club Professional also working on the course and in the clubhouse. Most mornings during the week I would cut the fairways before breakfast whilst my mother cleaned the clubhouse. Each evening I had to remove valuable stock from the wooden built shop as I was unable to obtain insurance and take it to the bungalow. In the mornings the stock did the reverse journey and then I opened up for business. Mother and I did alternate evening bar work and this could mean long hours during the summer as we did not close until 11pm. We were quite glad when the winter came as the hours were shorter and this gave us a break.

My first pupil was Mrs Mitchell who was married to the Vicar of Kirby Beadon so I had to watch my language! She was a lovely lady becoming a fairly good golfer, often playing with my mother as they became good friends.

Chapter 6

Three brothers joined the club in the late 1960's and they were Richard, David and John Harrison. They were good golfers and became some of my best customers. Richard was a bank manager in Norwich, David worked on fruit plantations in Brazil speaking fluent Portuguese and John worked in Nigeria for Barclays Bank. He was based in Lagos and later in Kano. He enjoyed playing golf in Nigeria and when he was home on leave I would give him playing lessons. He would partner me in the Thetford Pro-Am Tournaments and I enjoyed travelling to these events with him as he drove a new mk2 Jaguar.

Another well known club member, Jeff Duncan, joined in the 1960's. Jeff was a BT engineer who was captain in 1979, and President in 2002 - 2005. He played in two of our Myhill Trophy winning Teams and was County President in 2007/8. He and his wife Janet were until recently secretaries of the Norfolk Golfers Alliance with Jeff doing the starting. Janet has also been Ladies Secretary recently at the club. They always turn up to support all the club matches, home or away, and Jeff is an Honorary Life member of the club.

In 1961 Cyril Gray suggested that I should join the Norfolk Golfers Alliance and this I did. The Alliance was formed to give golfers, particularly Professionals, some competitions to play during the winter months. The professionals play four ball better balls with an amateur partner and there is an individual professional prize. My first time in The Alliance I played at Eaton Golf club but did not play well, in fact I never do at Eaton. I think it is because it has a lot of left hand dogleg holes and I tend to fade the ball to the right. I enjoyed playing in The Alliance over the years and have had several successful tournaments. For many years it's secretary was Miss Griffiths who was an ex Matron and most efficient. The starter, Fred, would always have some funny jokes for us on the first tee. I was lucky enough to have two holes in one playing in the Alliance, one at Royal Cromer and one at Mundesley. After buying everyone drinks I still ended up with a bit of cash as there was a good sweepstake to cover holes in one. One of my best wins was at Royal Norwich playing with David Briggs when we won the Alliance Foursomes Championship which was played over 36 holes. I was a playing member for 44 years and was pleased to be given honorary membership.

In April 1967 I was chosen to play for the Norfolk Professionals against the Norfolk Ladies in a match at Hunstanton Golf Club. In the singles I was drawn to play against Nan Rains who was great fun to play and was strikingly attractive with a lilting Scottish accent. We had a good match which I was lucky to win 2up. She was a 2 handicap, a good player, and won 2 Norfolk Ladies County championships over the next few years. I always enjoyed playing against the County Ladies and had a lot of fun in the matches. They were played in a good spirit and my regular foursome's partner was Robin Page of Royal Cromer.

I also played for the professionals against the Norfolk Men's County Team a few times and had some good matches but we only played these occasionally.

I always found the winters hard at the club as the weather, particularly in January and February, could be very cold. It would be very quiet especially if there was snow on the course. I used to overhaul the fairway mowers at this time which was cold dirty work and I continued to do this until Roger Plummer arrived as green keeper many years later. Also I used to paint and re letter the many tee boxes and markers which were in use then. To augment our coal supplies for the bungalow I would cut down dead pine trees in the woods, near the hospital and saw them into logs.

In the bad winter of 1963 the under ground water supply pipe to the clubhouse and the bungalow was frozen. It did not matter too much about the clubhouse as it was closed, but it made life difficult in the bungalow. The local fire brigade helped us by filling our bath with water twice a week and did this for several weeks.

When snow was on the course there were many local people sledging down sloping areas of the course but this could cause damage to the 6th green as it is at the bottom of a steep hill. During the week the green keepers and myself would erect a pig netting fence to stop them going over this green and at weekends I had to do this on my own. We had to stop this practise as some people would crash into the fence and injure themselves. After these problems special rope netting was pinned to the ground instead but was not as effective. The latest method we use is to sweep away the snow in front of the green which is just as good.

During the 1960's the club often hired a motorised machine to spike the greens from Royal Cromer Golf Club. On one March day I went to Cromer with our tractor and trailer to collect it and took our assistant green keeper Tom Burton-Pye along. He was riding on the trailer and on the return journey we were caught in a heavy snow storm. We had to shelter under the nearest hedge for a while. We were both covered in snow and frozen to the bone when we arrived back at the club. The snow set in and the machine could not be used for several weeks.

The old wooden shop was very cold during the winter but I managed to keep warm with an electric fan heater which were also used to heat the clubhouse. In the lounge of the clubhouse there was a coke stove and it was a custom for some men to get the poker red hot before dipping it in their beer on very cold days. This stove was replaced by a gas fire in later years. Life in the winter was much more comfortable when we moved into the new clubhouse, as it was brick built, well insulated and it has large gas space heaters. A new water main was laid to the bungalow and clubhouse which did not freeze up.

Chapter 7

In late 1968 the Bacton Terminal opened and this had a most beneficial effect on the Golf Club as several of the Americans involved in the building and running of this plant played golf. I particularly remember Benny Smith, a boisterous Texan, who was the Phillips Plant Superintendant and he liked to tell the story of how, when he started in the oil industry, he dug ditches around the plant before working his way up to top

management. He and his wife joined the club and were good members. He set up a short golf course in the gas plant grounds, between the buildings, for the operators and technicians who were mostly local residents. The ones I remember most are two brothers, Keith and Roger Shanahan, Tidd Smith, Steve Smith and Derek Lee. Some had golf lessons with me. With the exception of Derek Lee they are all members to this day and are keen golfers. Keith and Steve have both played for the club in the Myhill team and they are all popular members. Derek, for quite a few years, helped on the course, mostly cutting the rough grass.

The Americans formed the North Sea Petroleum Golf Association and they organised various events during the year. On the 4th of July they would hold a golf day at Mundesley and they always started early. Mother and I had to open the clubhouse at 7am and we had to make a lot of sandwiches which were always cheese with ham. We did not do much business in the bar as they brought crates of Budweiser beer and black plastic bags of ice. In the afternoon, after playing golf, they would all go to the gas plant and finish the day with a barbeque. We found the day hard work but I was pleased as they gave generous prize vouchers to the winning golfers to be spent in my shop. This event petered out after a few years as most of the Americans went on to the next project.

Roger Pardon also benefitted from the Bacton Gas Site as he won cleaning contracts there and his son Mike won a contract to mow the grass. I had known Roger since I was little as he ran a Taxi business next to the Bakery where my mother worked and he used to come in for a cup of tea. At the bakery I used to have the job of putting jam in the doughnuts and of course had to sample some of them which was the best part for me! Roger also had some farm land mostly on the east cliff at Mundesley and I used to help pick the potatoes. Roger was a remarkable man as he had been captured by the Japanese during WW2 and was forced to work on the infamous Burma railway. He did well to survive this ordeal but it did take a toll on his health. Despite all of this he was always kind and cheerful. He also bought the Manor Hotel and did well as many of the American oil workers stayed there. I played golf with him often in the Norfolk Golfers Alliance and he was good company. He held a Charity Day annually for many years raising funds for the Big C Appeal. Later his son Mike took this on for several years and much money was raised. Roger's wife Dawn was ladies captain in 1982 and played for many years but is now a social member). His son Mike was Captain in 2005 and a respected member until 2015. He often used his farm machinery to trim the hedges and cut the grass at the golf club. Roger's daughter Judith runs a café on the sea front at Mundesley; and she was a good golfer and played in the winning ladies teams in 1989 when they won the Gillieson Cup together with the Norfolk Ladies League.

Chapter 8

When I was appointed Mundesley Golf Club Professional in 1966 I was 22 years of age and the secretary at this time was Alan Holden. He was a retired Bank Manager from Manchester and had been an R.F.C. Pilot during WW1. Alan must have been lucky to survive as pilots only lasted unharmed for a few weeks. He was a very nice man and I got on well with him for several years until he retired. I was not so lucky with the next

secretary who I shall call ' F ' who was a retired Farmer. He did not like me and treated me as a dogsbody. I had to serve him coffee in his office at 9.30 every morning during the week and he made me wear a white coat when I worked in the Bar. I ignored this when he was not around and I also had to work on his car. He had his nemesis though, in the form of our club Treasurer, Grenville Delves who would inspect the club accounts once a week. He was an accountant of the old school and very fussy. Once they spent two days trying to find a 1p error in the accounts which gave ' F ' a hard time and this made me smile.

In September 1970 I won the Norfolk Professional Championship, at Great Yarmouth and Caister Golf Club, after an 18 hole playoff against Norman Arthur of Thetford Golf Club. He was not very amused by this as I was quite young at the time but I think he forgave me, as later he invited me to play in the David Button Pro-Am competitions held at Thetford. These were annual business Pro-Ams which I enjoyed playing in as the prize money was good and we had a first class meal after playing. I once won the individual prize and often did well in the Pro-Am team event.

Winning the above Championship gave my career quite a boost and it also gave the club some good publicity. I had great support from my caddy, Walter Reynolds, who had caddied for my grandfather when he was a boy. Walter was the engineer at the Mundesley Hospital which was next to the Golf club and he lived in a bungalow in the hospital grounds with his wife and daughter. He was a club member and liked to take part in social events. Walter liked to have a few drinks and would walk a little unsteadily home across the course to his bungalow, He was a good caddy, as he was quiet, which suited me well. He was a great help to me being my caddy and friend for many years.

In 1970 there was a meeting of the Norfolk Professionals which took place at Great Yarmouth and Caister Golf Club. At this meeting it was decided to form the Norfolk Professional Golfers Association, the first captain was Bert Kelly of Eaton Golf Club, and I was one of the founder members. Ernie Plummer retired from Royal Cromer Golf Club around this time and the new professional was Angus Mackenzie who came down from Fife in Scotland. He was very friendly and we played together in an exhibition match at Royal Cromer against Malcolm Leeder of Sheringham and John Carter of Hunstanton. This was to mark the occasion of Angus being appointed and we played well but just lost in front of a good crowd of spectators. Over the years Angus and I travelled to quite a few tournaments and matches together before he left in 1973 for Tasmania as he had obtained a good job at a Golf Club there. When I last heard some years ago. he was doing well.

Chapter 9

Golf was getting more popular in the 1970s which I think was due to Tony Jacklin winning the British Open Championship in 1969 and the U.S. Open. Also the B.B.C. coverage of Golf was much wider including programs like "A round with Allis" etc. Mundesley was getting much busier and membership was growing. During bank holidays and the summer holidays it was difficult to get on the course due to the number of visitors many of which came from Leicester, Nottingham and the Midlands.

Arthur King, who had a glazing business in Leicester, provided a cup to be played for in a match between the visitor's team and the club team. It was named the Invaders Trophy and the match was played for several years.

My mother decided to retire in April 1972 as we were finding it more difficult to keep up with the work in the clubhouse due to the increasing numbers of golfers. I had saved a little money and was able to get a mortgage enabling me to buy a small bungalow in North Walsham. The Golf Club Bungalow was the steward's accommodation and when we left it, it was carefully renovated, gas central heating was installed, double glazing was fitted and later the roof was under felted and retiled. Roger Pardon had a large part in getting the new stewards, as he knew a chef who worked during the summer at the Hotel Continental in Mundesley and who was looking for a job in the area. Bill Ball he was a top London chef and had worked at the Café Monaco. He and his wife Margaret decided to take the job and moved into the club bungalow when the renovations were completed. Margaret had been a barmaid and carried out the bar duties very well. Bill soon established a very good menu, his meals were first class and he soon attracted a lot of regular customers. When the club had big social events, their daughters would come down from London and help in the kitchen and with the waiting. I taught Bill and Margaret to play Golf over the next few years, (as the golf club allowed staff to play free), and they became part of the club. I was friendly with their daughter Shelagh and taught her to play golf but nothing came of this as she had her own life in London and did not come down to Mundesley very often.

In the early 1970s I taught a young couple, Alan and Madge Middleton, to play golf who were to become very good customers and club members. They were both captain of their sections of the club in 1980. Around this time (1975), the club was in a better financial position and it was decided to launch an appeal to members in order to raise some funds to build a new clubhouse. After sometime, approximately thirty four thousand pounds was raised so it was decided to go ahead. Alan designed the new clubhouse and was mostly in charge of the building operations. The new clubhouse was to be built on the site of my Pro shop and my old friend ' F ', who was still club secretary, procured an ancient caravan which I had to use as a shop. I had to take the club's Ferguson tractor to tow it to the club from North Walsham but one of the tyres was perished and it blew out at Paston meaning it had to be replaced. I refitted the interior of the caravan with peg board and had to take the most valuable stock home in my car at night as I could not get insurance cover. I managed in this way for 6 months until my new shop was ready.

Chapter 10

On the 26th May 1976 I played in an exhibition match with Sir Michael Bonallack's wife Angela who was a fine International golfer. She came to Mundesley to open the new clubhouse but her husband was unable to come as he had injured his back. We played a 9 hole match which I won 1up but Angela played very well and was great fun to play with. After the match there were great celebrations in the new clubhouse and she performed the opening ceremony. The new clubhouse was built by Grays of Paston and the foreman in charge was Mick Millard who I had known at school. He decided to take up golf so I gave him 6 lessons and he was one of the most natural golfers I have ever taught. He joined the club and within a couple of years had reduced his handicap to 6

winning several events on the way. He has become a friend of mine and we are similar as we do not like to get our wallets out too often!! Mick has played for the club in two Myhill Trophy winning Teams, forming a formidable foursomes partnership with Derek Rush and at the time of writing they still play together in club foursomes. Mick also plays with David Briggs in the Barnard Trophy Matches.

In 1974 Norman Payne our Head green keeper left the club to work at the Bacton Gas Site as they paid higher wages. He had been a good servant of the club but sadly died in a road accident a few years later when his motor bike collided with a bus. I was very sorry to hear this as I got on well with him and we used to watch Norwich City F.C. matches together. He had no children but left a widow Phyllis. The club appointed another green keeper when Norman left and I shall call him 'D'. He was an ex soldier and was not a green keeper who found the work hard so I ended up doing a lot of the work on the course myself. He left after a short time and got a job at Ross foods at Westwick. The club appointed a new green keeper, Roger Plummer from Royal Cromer. He was an excellent hard working green keeper and also a good golfer who played in two winning Myhill Trophy teams. Just before Roger took over it had been decided by the club to create 18 tees to give the course more variation and a digger had been brought in to move the soil around to do this. Roger inherited the job of finishing off this task and he had a new assistant trainee green keeper called Alan who was a good worker. At this time railway sleepers were used to form a sort of box around the outside of the new tees to get the soil to the correct levels but this practise seems to have died out now and the levels are pegged out as they always used to be. I helped a little with this work but did not have much time as I was getting busier with lessons and running the new shop. Roger and Alan worked very hard finishing the tees, creating a new 9th green with two tiers and extended the 4th green so it had two tiers. They got the course in very good condition and I was relieved of my green keeping duties when Roger was appointed.

'F' the secretary together with Grenville Delves, the Treasurer, retired about this time and Bruce Baxter was appointed Secretary. He was Captain in 1972, a popular member who was a good friend to me and I found him easy to work with. He was a hard working full time secretary who did every thing himself and three people now do the same work. The new Treasurer was Dick Wall, of Wall Engineering, who was not very hands on and would only inspect the club's accounts once a month, as Bruce was a good bookkeeper.

Chapter 11

From 1976 until 1990 I believe we had some of the best years at the club having a new clubhouse with very good staff on the course and in the clubhouse too. We nearly had a full membership and eventually would have a two year waiting list with plenty of visiting golfers. In 1973 I had my first ever holiday travelling to Scotland with David Briggs, David Lake and Digger Shaw to see the Ryder Cup at Muirfield. We stayed at a B&B in Durham on the way up and in a B&B at North Berwick during the match. It was the end of September and it was very cold at Muirfield with a biting wind blowing in off the North Sea but we had an enjoyable time and saw most of the best players of that time. The American team was very strong and they won 19 matches to 12. A few years later I had

another holiday with the same group travelling to Southport to see the 1976 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale. This again was a very enjoyable experience with Jonny Miller winning the tournament and a young Sevy Ballesteros came a close second.

In 1977 Tommy Johns, a keen golfer, became Captain at Mundesley and had joined the club in the early sixties with his wife Molly. Molly later became ladies captain in 1978 and also ladies secretary for several years. She still plays regularly today and is a very respected member of the club. Also joining at this time was her brother Len who was very well liked. Tommy wanted to play with me against the men on Sunday mornings in a Captain and Pro match with prizes going to the winners. That winter we played about 20 pairs and as it was successful it became a regular fixture over many years. I also played with him in the annual home and away team matches against the Captain and Pro of Royal Cromer and Sheringham Golf Clubs. I played in these matches for many years.

In September 1977 I tied for first place in the Norfolk Open Championship held at Gt Yarmouth and Caister Golf Club. I lost at the first hole in a sudden death play off against Malcolm Leeder from Sheringham but he birdied it by holing from 20 feet. Malcolm kindly shared the prize money with me. Soon after this I won the individual prize for the P.G.A. Seaview Trophy at Hunstanton Golf Club after beating Frank Hill, who was then the Pro at Gt.Yarmouth and Caister Golf Club, at the 2nd hole of a sudden death playoff. I also won the Pro-Am part of this event with Derek Rush as my partner and he was a great supporter of mine. He always gave me a lift to these events and played well which I greatly appreciated.

Robin Page was Captain of the Norfolk P.G.A. in 1977 and had been appointed Professional at Royal Cromer Golf Club after Angus Mackenzie left for Tasmania. He had been assistant to Chris Hanlon at Kings Lynn Golf Club. I got on well with Robin and he asked me to be his Vice Captain which I agreed to and so in 1978 I became Captain of the Norfolk P.G.A. One of my duties was to organise a Norfolk P.G.A. Pro-Am at Mundesley and it went very well. Bill and Margaret Ball provided an excellent meal and Roger had the course in fine condition. We had a good match versus the County Ladies at Weston Park Golf Club. My final duty was to present Alan (Tiger) Poulton (long time Pro at Gt.Yarmouth and Caister) with a cheque and honorary membership of the Norfolk P.G.A at his retirement event. He was a great character who claimed to have played his course in the dark! His language was worse than mine but was tolerated by all.

Chapter 12

In the late 1970's Mundesley Hospital had to install a water main to meet new fire regulations. The hospital did not have a mains water supply, as their water was taken from a well in the woods and pumped to a water tank at the top of the hill. The club was asked for permission to lay this water main across the course and this was agreed subject to payment of a suitable fee, together with the use of the redundant well to supply a new watering system for the course. A trench was dug along the second fairway across the third fairway and along the roadside to reach the hospital. Shortly after this was completed, the club engaged an irrigation company to install an automatic

watering system. Pop up sprinklers were connected to all the greens, a covered tank and pump house were installed to the left of the sixth fairway at the top of Cooks hill. Water was supplied from the hospital tank in the woods and electric controls for each green were located in the pump house. After about ten years the watering system was modified with pop up sprinklers being installed on all the tees and aprons to the greens. A more powerful pump was fitted and a new control panel relocated in the green keepers mess hut.

In 1980 when Alan Middleton was Captain, the club was getting busy and the new club house which had been built on a tight budget was getting too small. Alan had designed the patio to be built on if the clubhouse needed to be extended and this was carried out, giving a new dining area on the upper floor. Some years later the men's toilets and showers were enlarged by extending into the trolley store which was redundant. This was a great improvement. The original men's showers were later walled off and refurbished to become the existing ladies showers which gave them more space.

About this time it was decided that a new green keepers shed needed to be constructed and it had to be built on the site of their old mess hut. A new brick built mess hut and toilet were constructed to the right of the second tees. The old mess hut was removed and a large steel framed machinery shed built near this site. It had one open fronted bay which was later enclosed with a roller shuttered door as the machinery got more extensive over the years. This gave two fully enclosed bays as it is today. The old shed which had been built in 1901 was removed but it had had a long history as it was the original motor shed and in WW1 had been used to stable some of the army's horses.

The club's course machines had been updated a little by the eighties. The greens were cut using two Atco 20" motor mowers, a Patterson motor driven spiking machine to aireate them and a Sisis motor scarifier to remove thatch. We had a second-hand ride on Toro mower for the tees which was also used for cutting the aprons to the greens and bunker banks saving a lot of time. The tractor was a David Brown with a cab and a front end loader together with a new hydraulic tipping trailer. These made tee construction and bunker maintenance quicker and easier. The tractor was very noisy though as the gears whined which made it tiring to cut fairways and the rough grass as this was before ear protectors were available. The fairways were cut with Ransomes triple gang mowers and the rough with a tractor powered rotary mower.

Chapter 13

I had two golfing holidays in the late 1970s travelling to Ayr in Scotland for the first one. There were six golfers in two cars and we stayed at a small hotel in Ayr. The golfers were Dick Butcher, Ivor Everett, Jim Bell, Gordon Harmer, Rodney Neal and myself. Dick is good fun being the life and soul of the party. He is a good chef and at the time worked at the Petersfield Hotel in Horning. He still plays regularly and helps with the clubs annual barbecue social event. Ivor is a popular club member who was Captain in 1983 and President in 1991 to 1994. He is fastidious in his dress and is always last up to the bar causing shouts of "where has he got to?" but he takes this with good humour. Jim

Bell was Captain in 1978 and took over as treasurer from Dick Wall shortly after this. He was an excellent treasurer for many years and is one of the reasons the club is in such a good financial position today as he did not like spending money without a good reason. He was a keen golfer and often played on Saturday afternoons with Tom and Molly Johns and Len Clarke. Gordon Harmer worked in the shoe trade and had a side line making leather club covers. He was a steady golfer but later left the club and now plays at Royal Norwich which is near to where he lives. Rodney Neale who worked at a fruit farm at Swafield was an erratic golfer and could be a bit temperamental. However he was good fun.

We played some good courses on this trip and we had a very good start as we played both courses at Turnberry on our first day. The Ailsa course is really spectacular with the views across to the Isle of Arran and of the famous lighthouse which is awe inspiring. The Arran course was not quite as difficult but still a good course. The WW2 runways were visible on this course as Turnberry had been an R.A.F. base. I enjoyed playing Irvine Bogside when I was partnered with Rodney Neal and he had hired a local caddy who got fed up with Rodney's game. He started clubbing me and his club selection was always correct helping me to go round in level par. We next played Prestwick Old Links which is one of the oldest in Scotland and is very much like Brancaster. This course had many timber faced bunkers which made it difficult to play. It was strange to see airliners taking off and flying low over the course as it is near the airport. We also played Prestwick St Nicolas which is a cliff top course and a good test of golf. The last course we played on this trip was the Ayr municipal course which was in very good condition. It was a parkland course and must be the best municipal course any where.

A few years later I had another golfing holiday with some of the same group with Jim Wye, who was another popular member, taking the place of Rodney Neal. He was head cook at the Mundesley Hospital and had joined the club in the early seventies having been a regular soldier earlier in his life serving in the Middle East. He was a keen member of the Salvation Army, lived with his wife in Trunch and went on to become club Captain in 1987. When playing in his Captain's day, he was first to tee off and had a hole in one with his first shot. When he retired he had difficulty breathing and had one of the first ride on electric buggies at the club. He would ride this as fast as he could occasionally turning it over but never coming to any harm. He was a very nice man. We travelled to Leven in Scotland which is near St. Andrews and stayed at a local pub. We played the Championship course at Carnoustie which was a very difficult test of golf.

Carnoustie has big sand dunes and the Barry Burn meanders through some of the holes, particularly the 17th hole which it crosses three times and the 18th hole which it crosses twice. I am glad to say that I made it across this water hazard every time and played quite well unlike Jim Bell who went in the Burn at the 18th hole and lost his ball which did not go down too well. We had to enter our names into a ballot to play the Old course at St. Andrews and our names came up two days later. I had a difficult start to our round as when we arrived at the first tee the starter informed me that I was not allowed to use my trolley. I had no carrying strap on my bag so I had to hire a bag and use the strap from it as I did not have time to transfer my clubs. So I had to carry my

heavy tournament bag but in spite of this I enjoyed the round and scored 79 which I was happy with as the greens are huge and sloping. The atmosphere and surroundings at St. Andrews are fantastic. The course I liked the most was Elie and it was unusual as the starter's hut has a submarine periscope fitted to it enabling him to see over the hill in front of the first tee. Elie has lovely views over the Firth of Forth and I went round in 70 which made my day. We also played the Kings course at Gleneagles and I really enjoyed it. The scenery is fantastic with hills all around and it is a great course to play. We also played Aucterader which is next door to Gleneagles and is a nice parkland course. We had a lot of good golf on this holiday and a good time was had by all.

Chapter 14

In the early 1980s I began teaching the teenage children of some longstanding members Margaret and Maurice Bunn who are two of our most popular members. They are keen golfers and support the club to this day. Margaret was Ladies Captain in 1995. They brought their sons Howard and Robert to me for golf lessons and they were good pupils who became very good low handicap golfers. They played in the Myhill teams for many years and played in the winning teams of 1984/86. Another very good golfer I taught was Andrew Mileham, son of another popular member Charlie who was sadly killed in a car accident. Andrew also played in the Myhill winning teams of 1984/86. Probably the best golfer I taught was Peter Briggs, son of David, who also had considerable input as well in teaching him. Peter played in the winning Myhill team of 1984 and he eventually became good enough to turn Professional. He joined Chris Potter as his assistant at Sprowston Manor Golf Club and later won the Norfolk Professional Championship at Royal Cromer on the first playoff hole. Peter is now director of golf at Dunston Hall Golf Club. I also taught David (chalky) White who also did well and got down to a single figure handicap. He is the grandson of Ron Robertson founder of East Coast Plastics, who sadly died of a heart attack on the course at the 6th hole. A seat on this hole is named after him and his family now sponsor the Ron Robertson Junior trophy which is played annually.

In 1984 our men's Myhill Team won the Trophy beating Sprowston in the final played at Royal Norwich. Our team members were Graham Turner, Howard Bunn, Jeff Duncan, Roger Plummer, Peter Briggs, Andrew Mileham, Robert Bunn and Derek Rush. The Captain of the team was Charlie Gray. I have mentioned everybody in this team, previously excepting Graham Turner, who is a very good player and has been an outstanding supporter of the club for many years. He recently won the Norfolk Seniors Title, and plays in the Norfolk Seniors County team.

There was one change from the winning 1984 team, Mick Millard playing instead of Peter Briggs, when we again won the Myhill in 1986 beating Ryston Park in the final at Eaton Golf Club. The Captain was John Allen, another great supporter of the club who was our first proper junior organiser and still plays regularly today. I taught his wife Lesley together with sons Richard and Paul who became good golfers but they do not play now as they have moved away and have young families.

As well as the club's successes in the above mentioned county events, Paul Ellis and George Barclay won the 1989 County Foursomes title which was a great achievement.

Paul is another great supporter of the club and a very good golfer. He has played in recent Myhill teams, now plays for the Norfolk County Senior team and is a very able match player. George Barclay, a Scot, has now left the club and plays at one of the Norwich clubs.

Chapter 15

In 1983 Bill and Margaret Ball, the club steward and stewardess, decided to retire, Bill was now 65 years of age and they had the offer of a small bungalow at Gimingham. I was very sorry to see them go as they had been very good friends to me and my mother. We used to play golf together on Sunday afternoons after they retired and would go back to their bungalow for tea afterwards. They had been brilliant stewards who had served the club well and they were deservedly made Honorary Life Members of the club. The new steward and stewardess were Dave and Mary Bott who could not have been more different. Dave was a noisy cockney with a raucous laugh which echoed around the clubhouse and he did the bar work. Mary was very pleasant and did the cooking. They had a son and two daughters and I got on fairly well with them playing golf with Dave sometimes. He did not always go down well in the clubhouse as he could be a bit intrusive with the members. I taught his son, Alan, to play and he soon got down to a single figure handicap. He decided to turn Professional and found a job as assistant to Frank Hill who was then Pro at Eaton Golf Club after his training, Alan later became head professional at Liphook Golf Club in Hampshire.

About this time I taught a semi retired couple from Oulton Broad who became good customers and club members. They were Donald and Margaret Hayden, both qualified Chemists who had shops in Oulton Broad. Donald had been a Major in SOE during WW2 and later had been the Lord Mayor of Lowestoft. They would stay a few days in his brother Jack's cottage and had playing lessons. Mother and I would sometimes play foursomes with them on a Friday afternoon and they would treat us to a slap up tea in the clubhouse afterwards. To raise funds for the British Legion they presented two trophies to the club, one for the men and one for the ladies, called the Armistice Cups to be played in November each year.

I also taught two other couples Mike Baxter and his wife Margaret also their son James. The other couple were Paddy Ward and his wife Sheila and sons Jeremy and Steven they all became good members. Mike owns a Builders Supply Business now based in Aylsham he was a good customer of mine. He also raises a lot of money for charity.

Paddy was a Manager at the Bacton Gas Terminal from which he took an early retirement, buying a Villa in Spain where he would go in the winter. In later years Paddy bought a golf buggy often playing with his son Steven. He often went round the course very fast and he could sometimes get a bit impatient. One day he decided he would build a new patio at the front of the clubhouse, as the previous one had been built on when the clubhouse was extended. He got his family together and they laid some concrete slabs but these were not level and the patio was named the ski slope by the members! Ivan Farrow, who was at that time Derek Rush's son in law was brought in to correct and level it. He also constructed brick side walls for safety and it is now a good

patio. Paddy had another trait regarding the Annual General Meeting. He would bring up points of order at the meeting but this did not endear him to the Chairman! He meant well but was very particular. Paddy held a family day at the club each year where his many family and friends would play golf and have a meal afterwards. He was generous and gave good prizes to the winners.

Chapter 16

During the late 1970's - 1980s the Senior Section began to develop within the club. During this time some people were taking early retirement instead of the normal age of 65 years. Quite a few members of 55 years and over used to play early on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and they decided to form a senior section. They charged a £1 fee per head annually to cover costs and formed a committee comprising of Captain, Vice Captain, Secretary and Treasurer with also other committee members. I shall mention some of the founder members that I remember the most. One of the longest serving was John Dickenson, a retired Bank Manager, who played for many years with the seniors until he was 90. His brother in law, Denis Aldred, also played until recently and also Ken Hines. I taught two brothers Tony and John Banester who were builders and played for many years. Roy Farthing, a hospital manager, was Treasurer of this Group and must be one of our longest serving members. The long serving Secretary was John Titley. Two seniors, Terry Webster and Frank Russell have become Captain of the Golf Club. Terry was captain in 1999-2000 who at one time had been a professional footballer playing in goal for Derby County. Frank Russell, another pupil of mine, was captain in 2004 and is now a social member. I also taught two other seniors and they were Geoff Griston a retired deputy Head Master at Stalham School and Maurice Coupland who is well known for his Marathon running for charity. Lastly I will mention another long serving senior 'Big' Neville Robinson was had been a scout Master at North Walsham and he played in the senior events until recently. My apologies to any one I have left out but there are many seniors who have contributed over the years. The seniors have expanded greatly, now playing 26 matches against other clubs mostly on Thursdays and hold their own competitions on Monday mornings.

Another group of members, of mainly low handicap, who play regularly on Sunday afternoons are affectionately known as the Mundesley Mafia. Almost all of them I have mentioned previously as they have played in our most recent Myhill trophy teams but I will mention some of their long serving mid handicap members. Ray Wayte, who was manager at Carters Builders, was one of the longest serving followed by Maurice Bunn. Gordan Gallagher, who worked for the post office, was another member of the group and played in the Myhill and Cullington Teams. His friends Tony Stockham, Kevin Cushion and Jim McQuattie also play regularly. Young low handicap golfers often join this group which is good for the club as it helps to give them competitive experience. Two other members Eric Marshall and Eric Walton, who joined the club in the mid 1980's, played with the Mafia. They were popular members and became known as the two Erics as they played together. Eric Walton owned a grocery shop in the high street and he was Captain in 1991. Eric Marshall became part of the social committee and organised many social events including Tuesday night socials which had been started by Mike Tedder. and these are still going well today. Eric Marshall's son Ian was a car

salesman who sponsored an annual foursomes event for several years. Olive Marshall became Ladies Captain in 1992 and her Eric was Captain in 1990. They were great club supporters.

Chapter 17

In February 1984 the Norfolk P.G.A. had it's first trip to the Algarve in Portugal and I took a team from Mundesley. It consisted of Derek Rush, John Dawes, Mick Millard and myself. We stayed in villas on a complex at Cavoeiro and we played three 18 hole rounds at Palmaries Golf Club which is a spectacular course. The first few holes are played along the sea shore, the next holes are played through orange groves and the last few holes are along the top of a hill giving lovely views of the bay towards Portimao. The format was a Pro-Am with the best 2 scores counting. We also had one round at Parque De Flouresta which was a mountain course and very difficult. Our team hired golf Buggies as the course was so hilly and the slopes were so steep it was frightening to ride in them. On one hole, with Derek driving, we slid sideways down a steep slope and ended up a few feet from a ditch. We did not have a lot of success in this event as there were some very strong teams but we had an enjoyable time. We played on these courses for 4 years and on our last visit to Palmaries we won the Palmaries Trophy. On our 5th and last visit to the Algarve we stayed at the Quinta Largo Resort and played the courses there which was much better as we did not have to travel so far. They are great courses with a lot of lakes and water hazards. I think we also had a round at the Vilamora Old course which is very similar. David Briggs played with us on this trip as John Dawes did not come. David's wife Louise and Derek's wife Vivienne came too and played some golf together. We all had a good time on these trips and we used to go out for a meal in the evenings. The Norfolk P.G.A. Secretary who organised this last trip was David Bray who has been a respected member at Mundesley. He was Club Chairman in 2006-8 and has been Captain of Sheringham Golf Club. His wife Carole has been a keen member of the ladies section having played in the Gillieson and League Teams. She was Ladies Captain in 2003 and 2010.

In April 1987 I was runner up in the 36 hole Norfolk Golfers Alliance Championship. I led after the first 18 holes but did not do quite so well in the last round as I was upset because the day before I had heard the sad news of the death of my old friend Bill Ball, an ex steward at the club. His funeral service at Mundesley Church was well attended as he was very popular. Roger Plummer our Green keeper left the club in the autumn of that year as he was appointed Head Green keeper at Royal Cromer Golf Club. A new assistant Green keeper Tim Gee was appointed and Alan was made head Green keeper. This proved to be a mistake, as although Alan was a good assistant to Roger he could not organise his work and Tim was totally inexperienced. As a result the course deteriorated badly. The committee had to take action to deal with this situation and decided to dismiss Alan and find another green keeper. There was quite a long delay before a new person could be found so I had to step in to train up and help Tim. He was very hard working and willing to learn. but he had difficulty in getting an even cut with the green mower. I painted a white mark on both sides of the grass box for him to line up with the edge of the cut thus producing even stripes. We carried on like this for some weeks and we also scarified all the greens to remove thatch which improved them considerably.

The club later appointed a new head green keeper Ray Blackmore who had moved to the area from Middlesex.

Chapter 18

In 1988 Bernie Searles became Captain which pleased me as I had taught him and his wife Sarah who was later to become Ladies Captain in 1994. They have been good supporters of myself and the club for many years. At the time of writing they still play often and come along to support our teams. Two other members who I taught around this time were Tony Lake and Mike Foster. Tony is an engineer and his works are in North Walsham. He was captain in 1995 and President 2011-14. For many years he has organised the annual barbecue evening at the club together with Dick Butcher. Mike was Captain in 1998 and for many years did a great job in organising the club's social events. He has just succeeded Tony as President. Mike does picture framing and art restoration from his gallery/workshop in Swafield. I also taught Mike's late father John who played for many years in the seniors together with Peter Jackson who was a very long standing member and joined the club in the 1960's. He played until he was 80.

The Royal Cromer Golf Club celebrated it's centenary in 1988 and as well as many other events held a Pro-Am to which I was invited. I had a very good team and we won the first team prize. I played well in the individual professional event too and this gave me quite a thrill. It was a great day.

In early 1986 Dave and Mary Bott left the club. The new stewards were Peter and Glenda Perkin who had been publicans in Attleborough and they were completely different from Dave and Mary. Peter was a good barman and Glenda a good cook but although they did a good job were difficult to work with as they were very temperamental. They could in short order throw all their toys out of the pram. This made things a little difficult at times. We enjoyed the peace, when they went on holiday. They had a good assistant Rosemary, who helped to calm things down at times of stress.

The death of my mother:

On the 10th of May 1989 my mother passed away. She had suffered a severe heart attack when out shopping in North Walsham, and was taken to Aylsham Hospital. I visited her every day, but her heart was failing and she died peacefully after 10 days in Hospital. When the phone call from the hospital came, it was a great shock to me, as she had seemed quite bright when I visited the previous evening. My family were a great help at this sad time and helped me at my mother's funeral. It was held at St Faith's crematorium and was very well attended. My mother was very popular, in particular with the ladies section. She was a wonderful mother and I still miss her today. She was a great help to me at the club, She would look after the shop on Tuesday afternoons and on Thursday, (which was my day off). Also when I was on holiday. After her death Margaret Ball looked after it for me, for many years. Molly Johns succeeded her as Ladies Secretary for several years, after which, Lesley Allen took over.

Chapter 19

Around 1990 I began teaching Peter Allsop a member from Trunch and he soon became a steady golfer. Peter was Captain 2002 and has served as Chairman of the Green Committee, the Junior Committee and the House Committee for many years. He was a Wholesale Green Grocer and had to start work very early in the mornings. He has done a lot of work for the club, is a popular member and he has recently retired.

In October 1991 I met my wife to be, Sue, when she came for golf lessons. She ran the Trunch Corner Stores with her husband, who had sadly passed away some time before we met. She was lovely and I gathered up enough courage to ask her out. She agreed and we got on very well. On New Year's Day 1992, I asked her to marry me and she said " Yes." I could not believe my luck that we had fallen in love and we married in September 1992. The club presented us with a handsome cheque, which was presented by the Captain Ernie Eales. Ernie is a popular member and plays with Dick Butcher on Sunday mornings. He is a great friend of Marlene Tedder who was Ladies' Captain in 2002. Sue and I have been very happy together for 23 years. She has two sons Ian and Richard who I get on well with and they have both got their own homes. Richard has two daughters Amelia and Meadow with his partner Heidi. Sue is a great supporter of the Ladies Section and has served on their Committees. She helped me in the shop and was a good caddy when I played in professional events. She sold the Trunch Stores and went back into nursing from which she has retired. We now live in North Walsham.

In late 1993, Bruce Baxter had to retire as Secretary due to illness and he had done a great job over the years. He was deservedly made an Honorary Life Member of the club. The new Secretary Peter Hempel, who was an ex Army Officer, was very posh and did not have much idea about the job. He was always rushing about! Peter was a chain smoker and nearly burned the clubhouse down when he left a cigarette end in his wastepaper basket. Fortunately his office door was open and Glenda's assistant Rosemary, noticed the flames and was able to put out the fire. There was, for many years, a scorched patch on the office carpet where the wastepaper basket had been.

Peter Hempel our Secretary at the time and the then President Ivor Everett asked me if I could do more regular junior coaching and I agreed to give them group lessons, free of charge, on Saturday mornings. I had to employ someone to cover the shop and my friend, Arthur Pearman, agreed to do this for me. I taught quite a few juniors at this time including my step sons Ian and Richard and some of their friends. Graham Strachan, who is now in the RAF, Laurence Wright who is now a green keeper at Royal Cromer, James Baxter who I mentioned earlier and Sam Craig who now works at American Golf. These are some of the best of this group and the last four are all single figure handicap golfers. Peter Hempel did not last long as Secretary, only about a couple of years I think but he had a good assistant who did the book work and her name was Maureen Thompson who was very efficient.

When Peter Hempel resigned as secretary in 1995, his replacement was Peter Clarke who was a member of Royal Norwich Golf Club. He had taken early retirement from an electronics firm in Norwich. I knew Peter quite well as I had met him when playing in

County events as he was assistant to the long serving Norfolk County Golf Union Secretary Roger Trower. Peter proved to be a hands on hard working secretary, who was very experienced due to his work for the county and was very popular. If necessary he would help out in the bar at busy times and I got on well with him. He was a keen golfer and played off a single figure handicap.

The Club Treasurer Jim Bell retired around this time. With his tight grip on the finances the club was prospering and he was deservedly made an honorary life member. The new Treasurer was Roy Sewell from Norwich, who was a qualified accountant so the job was well within his remit. He was a popular member and played Saturday mornings. One of his regular playing partners was Reg Reynolds who had once been cook at the Mundesley Hospital. He retired as area assistant catering manager of the local NHS Hospitals and is a well known member of the club.

A new member, Alan Coles a retired Solicitor from Bedford moved into the area around about this time and he was to have a most beneficial effect on the club. He did not have a current handicap so I had to give him a Certificate of Proficiency which was required by new members without a handicap. I used to do a 9 hole playing lesson to assess the new members knowledge of the rules of golf, etiquette and also their playing ability to see if they needed any further lessons. Alan turned out to be a good golfer and was a charming man. He soon became a member of the Main Club Committee and was Chairman 2001 -2015 and Club President 2006 - 2011. He has been a great help to the club concerning legal matters. Alan played during the week with Don Allchurch who, along with wife Jean, were great supporters of the club and myself. Both were popular and long standing members.

The club's Centenary (2001) was fast approaching so it was decided to form a working Centenary Committee to raise funds and organise centenary events to mark this important milestone in the club's history. The members of this committee were as follows: Peter Allsop (Chairman), Mrs Louise Briggs, Mrs Vivienne Rush, Peter Rogers, Jeff Duncan together with John and Hazel Wilds. I have mentioned previously all the members of the above committee excepting John and Hazel Wilds who were popular long standing members and have supported myself and the club well. John served several years on the main club committee and Hazel, (Ladies Captain in 1997), was much respected by her section.

Chapter 20

In 1989 we had developed a strong ladies team, as some of the younger ladies and girls that I had mostly taught had become good golfers. Our team won the Gillieson Cup which is the County Ladies foursomes knockout match play annual event. Also we won Division One of the Norfolk Ladies League single match play team events and thus were the county champions which was a great achievement for our small club. Our team members were Molly Johns who I have mentioned earlier, Marion Almey a popular member who she was a farmer's wife and I also taught Judith Barber who was Roger Pardon's daughter. These were all good players. I also taught Ray Wayte's daughters Karen and Nina from when they were school girls and they were important young

members of the team. Karen, the eldest, is a good player but her sister, Nina, was even better and played in the Norfolk County team. Another team member that I taught was David Lake's wife Janet who was a very good player with a single figure handicap. Our team and Ladies' Captain was Lesley Allen, another good pupil. She is a very popular long term member of the Ladies' section. She kindly visited my mother when she was in hospital and this I much appreciated. She partnered me in the County Salvors Foursomes event a few times and was a good partner. Another pupil who partnered me in this event was Trudie Trezise who was Ladies' Captain in 1990 and a great friend of my mother. Leslie was also the Ladies' Secretary for several years. Since 1989 the Ladies team have never quite reached this exceptional level. Karen and Nina started work in nursing and the police respectively and Janet left the club to join Royal Cromer. Our Ladies team continues to do well and have had more good results over the years. They play Royal Cromer annually for the Jubilee Cup, presented by the then Dobbie Williams who was Ladies' Captain in 1968/69. This match is keenly fought as it is our local derby.

The Ladies supported me well and they gave prize vouchers to the winners of their many competitions on Wednesdays for use in my shop. Several of the ladies had regular lessons and I carried out quite a lot of repairs on their equipment as well. Two other lady members which I taught about this time were Louise Briggs and Bridget Roper. Louise was Ladies Captain in 2005, for several years she was junior organiser and also until recently was the treasurer for her section. Louise had also been a Ladies County Treasurer. (an impressive list of service to the ladies). Bridget was Ladies Captain in 2000, did a great job as the Lady Centenary Captain in 2001 and until recently she was Club Chairman for several years.

The longest serving ladies member must be Mrs Eileen Bromhead who, as Eileen Sopwith, first played at Mundesley in the 1920's and became a member on the 9th May, 1924. She continued to play and serve the club until she was Ladies Captain in 1960 to 1962. Mrs. Bromhead took the same office again in 1977 before becoming Club President in 1983 until 1988. She was a remarkable lady and on her 90th Birthday she appeared on Anglia TV. Even at this age she still supported the club matches and was always a good support to me when I was playing in professional events. Even after she gave up driving she would travel locally on the bus to watch me. Her daughter Sally Stratford was Ladies Secretary for 10 years to 2008.

Chapter 21

In 1993 Ray Blackmore left the club and Derek Smith was appointed the new green keeper. He came from Brancaster where he had been deputy head green. The club at Brancaster has a links course and it is totally different to Mundesley as there is not nearly so much mowing of the fairways and rough grass required. The course is kept more natural and also the grass does not grow so much. Derek was accustomed to a managerial role at Brancaster, so Tim Gee did most of the hard work. Derek wanted the club to buy a brand new John Deere tractor at considerable cost and this request caused a lot of argument at the club's AGM. His request was turned down. Later a good second hand John Deere mini tractor was purchased as it was light enough to use on the greens and tees. Also purchased a sprayer and a Sisis spiker to aerate the greens and the tees.

In early 1996 Peter and Glenda Perkin retired and they moved into a new terraced house on Seaview road, Mundesley only staying there a short time before moving to some where near Norwich. They had mellowed over the years and had served the club well. Their departure caused a change to the steward's role as the newly appointed steward's wife Ann worked full time as secretary at Ladbroke Engineering in North Walsham. Thus the new steward Ron Beales looked after the bar and clubhouse. An outside firm had to be brought in to provide the catering but they had overstretched themselves and soon went bottom up. This actually helped the club as our present long serving caterer, Phil Swash, worked for them and eventually became our caterer and still is today. He has worked hard for the club for many years, does good meals and is very popular. Ron Beales had taken early retirement from Marconi in Chelmsford and I believe had moved to Norfolk to run a pub which had not worked out quite as well as he had hoped. He was a keen golfer and great friend of Peter Rogers (Captain 1996) which may have helped him to get the stewards job. I did not get on with him that well as he had a domineering manner and could be difficult to work with. He organised a golf society at the club, called the MOGS which comprised of his many mates but this declined when he retired. He did a good job as steward however as he worked hard, was well organised and the bar and clubhouse were kept tidy. One of Ron's mates, Alf Tume, set up as a " Golf Club maker" which somewhat undermined my club sales and repair business. This did not go down well with me as this was part of my income. I was glad when Alf moved to France with his wife as this threat to my wellbeing was removed. Around this time Frieda Lee, who was part time bar assistant during Peter and Glenda tenure, retired having served the club well.

At about this time (1996) a family joined the club who have had an important part in moving it forward. They are David Craske who retired from the Police Service after 30 years locally, his wife Sue and sons Stuart and Paul. He is a very good golfer as are his sons Stuart and Paul who have played in the clubs Cullington and Myhill teams. I taught his wife Sue who is a steady player and who served as the ladies' treasurer for several years. I also taught Paul who has been a green keeper at Dunston Hall Golf Club. David was Captain in 2003, 2008 and is the current (2015) Club Captain. He has done a great job in organising the club competitions and he has raised a lot of money for charity. He has also been a hard working Chairman of the Green committee and a very popular member.

Chapter 22

In June 1996 my wife Sue and I played in the Coronation Salvors Tournament at The Norfolk Golf Club. This is an annual county foursomes event where Norfolk professionals can play with an amateur partner, with any amateur pairing of men or ladies can also compete. We played well and came third, probably our best result over the years. We played with Bernie and Sarah Searles, Paul Kenny and Anita Wilson and we always enjoyed their company. Back in 1976 Derek and Vivienne Rush won this event when it was held at Dereham Golf Club and this was a great achievement as it is not easy to win this trophy.

Some years before this, Ray and Pearl Wayte presented the club with two Mantel Clocks which were to be trophies for an annual Open Family Foursomes event known as The Wayte Clocks. Ray and Pearl probably got the idea for this event from a similar open foursomes competition which they played in at Gorleston Golf Club. It was said that they did not gel too well when playing together in these events but they usually came in the prizes. Apparently they would often choose golf umbrellas and it was said that at one time that they had 16 new golf umbrellas at home!! Sue and I played in several of these Family Foursomes over the years and our best result was second. For several years Ray and Pearl's daughter Karen and her husband Mike Few, who is professional at Weston Park Golf Club, won the first prize. This led to professionals being banned from this competition as entries were declining and now the competition is no longer held.

In 1996 David Briggs was President and it was decided the club car park needed to be extended. David organised this and a redundant part of the steward's garden was chosen. He brought in Aylsham Plant Hire with their earth mover and this area was levelled off. A heavy roller was used to firm it down and it was surfaced with gravel giving a big increase in parking spaces. New drains were also dug to give better clubhouse drainage.

About this time (1996) I taught a lady, Marion Shreeve, who was to become a very popular member of the ladies Section. She got on well and played with the ladies on Wednesday afternoons becoming Ladies' Captain in 1999. Shortly after this her husband Reg joined the club and became Club Treasurer when Roy Sewell retired. Reg is a shrewd businessman and owns the Sandy Gulls Caravan Park, Mundesley which has static caravans together with a nice touring site over looking the sea. Reg has been very good at updating the club's course maintenance machinery, mainly John Deere, by arranging lease agreements with Bartram Mowers. This enables the green keepers to have good up to date machinery which saves time and keeps the course in good condition. Reg has done a good job and is still treasurer today.

A long serving lady member who I have forgotten to mention is Barbara Simpson who was a retired G.P. and was Ladies Captain in 1975. She presented a cup in her name which the ladies play for annually. Her electric trolley could sometimes end up in a bush as she was absent minded and would forget to turn it off. She was a nice lady of the old school.

Chapter 23

Ray Self was Club Captain in 1997 having had joined the club some years earlier, moving from Sprowston Manor Golf Club with his wife Janet who was Ladies' Captain in 1998. Ray had worked for Norwich City Council and I believe he was in the building department. He was a useful member with that experience, and served as Chairman of the House committee and also later Chairman of the Green committee. He did a great job as the Centenary Captain and this we will come to later.

Joan Walker was another popular member and was Ladies' Captain in 1996. I taught her and her husband, Peter, some years earlier. He became a popular member of the Senior

Section. I also taught their two sons David and Andrew and they both became members of the club. David who is an accountant, now lives in America and Andrew helps run the Fish and Chip shop in Mundesley. I also later taught his son Harry, thus I have taught three generations of this family. Around this time I taught a young man who worked on the Gas Rigs off the coast and his name was Mark Barnard. He got on very well, later turning professional and is now the Manager of American Golf in Norwich. Mark is a nice man.

In 1999, Alan Coles went to see the local farmer Chris Payne who owned the land across the lane from the clubhouse and they discussed the idea of setting up a covered Golf Driving Range on it. Chris is never slow to see an opportunity to make money and decided to go ahead. He fenced off an area of land opposite the clubhouse and sowed it with grass. He then had plans drawn up for a proper covered driving range building with fourteen bays and he planned to floodlight the range at night when needed. This caused him problems as some residents on Trunch Road objected. Chris got over this by reducing the power of the flood lighting and having them situated at the side of the range, rather than shining down towards the Trunch road. Shortly after this Chris was able to get planning permission and open the range for public use.

The Driving Range has been successful over the years, and has helped the club as it is a good source of new members. I also benefited as I could give lessons even when the weather was bad. It also made my free junior coaching on Saturday mornings safer and more popular. Chris let me have half price tokens for the balls and the juniors had 70 balls for £1. My junior lessons became very successful at this time and gradually we began to have more junior members, playing in our junior competitions and started to organise a few matches against other local clubs. I will give you more details of these later.

Chapter 24

Peter Clarke, who had been a very popular and hard working secretary, retired as Club Secretary in the year 2000. He was computer literate and much of the office work started to be completed in this way. He had obtained 12 silver spoons, which used to be prizes for the ladies in the 1930's, and are kept exhibited in an inscribed case and make a nice trophy. These were to be played for by the ladies and the first month my wife Sue won. The club appointed a successor to Peter and he was Jim Woodhouse, a retired RAF Officer. Jim was a keen golfer and was a hands on Secretary / Manager as they were now called. (They liked to be called this but the job was just the same, this new title enabled them to get more money). Jim had no experience of running a golf club but had good help from Maureen his assistant and myself. I liked Jim, got on well with him and we played golf occasionally. He worked hard and was popular with the members.

In March 2000 Margaret Ball died after a short illness. After the death of her husband Bill, she had moved into a small bungalow in Mundesley. She continued to play with the ladies on Wednesday afternoons and was a great help to me as she would look after my shop on my days off or when we were away on holiday. Her funeral at Mundesley

Church was well attended as she was well liked. After the service refreshments were served at the Manor Hotel.

After Margaret's death I needed someone to look after my shop as she had done. Eric Marshall had just retired from his job as the manager of a pig unit in Bacton. He was doing some part time work on the course and I asked him if he could look after the shop for me and he accepted doing a good job. I liked Eric, who had an infectious giggle and we got on well together. He was good fun. Eric used to partner me in the Norfolk Golfers Alliance and I enjoyed playing with him. We once played together in the Alliance Christmas meeting at Royal Norwich and we did well, winning a bottle of whisky each in the team event. Eric was driving and when I arrived home I was a bit merry and managed to drop my bottle smashing it on the pavement. This was a shame but at least I had my cash from the professional's prize!

Another of my oldest friends, Roger Pardon, died in October 2000 after a short illness, I missed Roger as we would often have a coffee together at the club. His funeral at Mundesley Church was very well attended as he was a well known and much liked local businessman. Refreshments were served after the service at the Manor Hotel which he had once owned. Sadly a few months after Roger died his grand daughter Paula Barber who was only in her early twenties, died from a heart condition. Her mother was so shocked by her daughter's tragic death that she is no longer able to speak.

Chapter 25

The Centenary Committee had done an excellent job in raising funds and had collected a considerable amount of money, which was raised from various social events. It was decided to spend some of this money to renew the lounge and dining room furniture. The Chairman Peter Allsop, arranged some good deals and some very suitable furniture was purchased. Also a new carpet and a suspended ceiling were fitted to the lounge, also improved lighting. The suspended ceiling in the lounge greatly reduced the conversation noise, exacerbated by the original pitched roof. All the above improvements were carried out in time for the beginning of the Centenary year in 2001. John and Hazel Wilds helped greatly with the production of a very Comprehensive Centenary Booklet for the members, giving a good description of the club history.

On Monday 1st January 2001 the Club's Centenary year began with The Captains' Drive In. The Ladies Centenary Captain, Bridget Roper, dressed in 1901 costume, struck the first shot and the Club Captain Ray Self, also in period dress, did the same. It has now become the club tradition to carry out this ceremony on January 1st each year. The drive in was followed shortly after by a New Year scramble competition and a good time was had by all. It was a fitting start to the Centenary celebrations. On Saturday 21st April 2001 there was a special Centenary Golf Club dinner at the Northrepps Country Cottage Restaurant to which my wife and I were kindly invited. The guest speaker who was very amusing, was an official from the R&A, the meal was first class and altogether it was a great evening.

Birstall Golf Club, near Leicester, was also celebrating its Centenary in 2001 and it was decided to arrange a match against them on a home and away basis over two consecutive days. The matches proved to be very successful. The home match was played on the 7th and 8th June and the away match on the 5th and 6th of July. Centenary Trophies had been purchased for each section of the club, the Ladies, Men, the Senior Men and the Juniors and were played for during July. These have been played for on an annual basis ever since.

On Thursday 27th September the club was host to The Norfolk Golfers Alliance. I played reasonably well and was third in the Professionals competition. It was good to have the Alliance at Mundesley during the Centenary Year.

The last Centenary event was a Dinner and Dance, which was well attended. The Centenary year was a great boost to the club and everything went very well. It gave good publicity and must have helped to attract new members.

I too had a good year in 2001 as I had many sales of items inscribed with the Mundesley Golf Club Centenary Badge. I sold club sweaters, shirts, pitch repairers, ball markers and golf balls with this crest on. These sales were a much needed boost to my income.

Chapter 26

In 2002 Louise Briggs was the Junior Organiser, the Chairman was Peter Allsop and I was on the junior committee together with Bimbo Craske. We now had enough good juniors to enter two county junior matchplay competitions. These were a knockout team singles event called the K.K.Smith Trophy with 4 players each side and the other was the Bass Trophy. The format was a match play league with singles matches, played home and away and with 5 players each side. We did not enter the Bass trophy in 2002 but we played in the K.K.Smith and got to the semi-final. We were drawn away against Hunstanton and the team played well. We only lost 2 down overall which was a good result against a strong team. One of our team's members was Bimbo Craske's son Matthew who was our best player and I think he was 6 handicap at this time. He was never defeated in any of our subsequent matches which was quite a feat. Alex Carter, then playing off 11, also played and I had taught him from about the age of 10. (He is now a 3 handicap player). The other team members were brothers Daniel and Harry Woodward and they were 10 and 12 handicap respectively. They were very nice lads and their father helped by taking them to matches. We did not do so well in the K.K.Smith in 2003 but we entered the Bass Trophy and won our league which got us to the finals. One of our highlights that year was beating Royal Cromer both home and away. In the final we were beaten in the first round but won the third place play off. Our team had a new member Peter Murphy, who is Peter Allsop's grandson, who had a fairly high handicap but later got down to 2. Our team was further strengthened later with four more lads who attended my Saturday classes at this time. They were Matthew Nudd who soon got his handicap down to 8 and Ryan Clarke also had a similar handicap. Ryan's parents supported the junior team and could be relied upon to transport Ryan with other members of the team to away matches. The other two lads were David Hinton and Josh Gray who were 12 and 18 handicap respectively. I and my wife Sue,

would transport the juniors to the away matches and often would be in charge of the team.

Around this time we had more junior members so we decided to hold extra competitions for them. We had alternate monthly medal and monthly stableford events with prizes funded by the entry fees. I also donated golf balls from my shop. A Round Robin Matchplay singles match play competition was held and also an eclectic. The annual Junior Club Championship is kindly sponsored by Mike Baxter of S&M Building Supplies.

As the Junior section was thriving the Junior Committee decided to be assessed, to see if we qualified for the Junior Golf Mark which is a national symbol denoting excellent facilities for junior golfers. To achieve this we needed a Junior Protection Officer and the Club Captain David Craske, who is a retired Police Officer, agreed to do this. A Junior Golf Mark Official came to the club to inspect our facilities and gave her approval. Louise Briggs and the Junior Committee had worked hard to achieve this recognition. There is now a Golf Mark for all sections of golf club members and Mundesley qualifies for this too.

Chapter 27

In early 2003 the club committee decided to alter the upstairs layout of the clubhouse as the kitchen and the Secretary/Manager's office were now too small. The kitchen was to be extended into the adjacent office by removing both doors, putting a new door at the end of the landing and knocking through the wall into the adjacent committee room giving access to the dining room. This meant that the Secretary/Manager's office would have to be moved downstairs and I was told that it was to be moved into my shop which I would have to vacate. I was called to a meeting with the Club Chairman Alan Coles and Geoff Griston who was on the main Committee, to decide how we would proceed. I was offered two locations for a new shop and the first was a Porto cabin on the driving range car park which I felt was unsuitable as I would not get insurance. The second option was to use the ladies' trolley shed which was part of the clubhouse building and was becoming redundant. This would be secure and I agreed to this option. I was asked to draw up a plan listing the alterations required and I did not think that a great deal needed to be done. I asked for the ceiling to be plastered and for a slat board display system to be fitted to the walls. I then had to buy several hundred pounds worth of fittings for use with this system. The lighting was poor so this needed to be improved and a window installed so I could see the 1st hole of the course. Alistair McGuire, a member who I taught as a junior (8 handicap), supplied carpet tiles for the floor. The insurance company required steel bars with a frame to be fitted inside the new window and this was made by Tony Lake. I bought two new signs for the shop and an alarm system together with a telephone were installed. Some committee members were annoyed that I had a partition wall erected in the shop to screen my repair bench as this made the display area slightly smaller. I needed this area as I did a full repair service for the members and needed a work bench to carry this out. I had listed this requirement on my plan and had received no objection from the committee. This renovation gave me

a nice shop and it improved sales for the next few years. The clubhouse alterations proved successful and the upstairs layout is still the same today.

My part time helper in the shop, Eric Marshall, became seriously ill during 2003 as he developed cancer and had to have an operation. He never fully recovered and sadly died a short time later. He had been a good friend and I missed his good humour. His funeral service at Ridlington Church was well attended as he had done a lot for the club particularly with the social events. Again I had to find a new shop assistant. I asked a long serving member who was a friend and neighbour Roy Stacey who agreed to do this for me. Roy was a great character often telling tales of his WW2 experiences in Burma and Java, mostly concerning the female medical staff. He took early retirement from a building firm in Middlesex and moved to Norfolk in the early 1960's. He had a job at the Bacton Gas site working in security and later did a similar job at the gas condensate depot at North Walsham Railway station from which he retired. He was a great friend of Jim Wye, Len Clarke, Molly Johns and Jim Bell and he would often play golf with them on Saturday afternoons. When he got older he bought a ride on golf buggy which he shared with another of his friends Dick Butcher. Roy played until he was nearly 90 and after he stopped playing Dick Butcher would bring him up on Sunday mornings to see his friends. Sadly he passed away recently.

The Ladies' Section celebrated their Centenary in 2003 and their Captain was Carole Bray. Her Captain's Day was the main highlight of the year and all the Ladies wore 1903 period dress and had a special tea but they were unable to play golf as the course was closed due to heavy rain. Salah Abbot wore traditional Samoan dress as she was born there and she performed a Samoan Traditional dance. Her friend, Roy Stacey, played accompanying Samoan music on a cassette recorder and an enjoyable time was had by all. The other highlight of this year was a ladies outing to Burleigh House in Lincolnshire. The ladies who wished to play golf, played on the parkland course and the non golfers looked round the House. Afterwards all the ladies had a meal together before travelling home. They had a good year in 2003.

I have not mentioned another tradition of the Ladies' Section which is their annual coffee morning and this has been held around Easter for many years. This raises funds for their general expenses throughout the year They have various stalls, one of which is the plant stall which for many years was run by Sally Owles, a popular member of the ladies who I taught during the 1970s and she was Ladies Captain in 1987. Other helpers included Hazel Wilds and Marion Almey who I mentioned earlier together with Joan Tebutt who was also a longstanding member. She was great fun, was a friend of my mother and her husband Gerald was also a club member. The cake stall is still run by Sarah Searles, Margaret Bunn and Joan Walker. There are various games including guess the weight of the cake competition, putting and also a raffle. The ladies usually make several hundred pounds from this event, which is enjoyed by everybody.

During the summer of 2003 Jim Woodhouse left the club as he had been offered the Secretary/Managers position at Gorleston Golf Club. Unfortunately during his tenure all the club's minutes going back to 1901 had been lost. These were mostly in beautiful

copperplate writing and they used to be stored in the clubhouse loft in a tea chest. They were moved to the office when research was done for the Centenary Booklet. I think these documents must have been accidentally mislaid when he moved into his new office. The new Secretary/Manager was Tom Duke who had recently held a similar post at Royal Cromer Golf Club. He had previously been a top manager at Barclays Bank and was a bit of a control freak. He saw his position more as a managing director. This made the Board, as the main club committee is now called, in less control of affairs. I got on reasonably well with Tom but had to show him due deference as did everyone at the club. He was a good golfer playing in our Barnard Trophy Team and also played in the Norfolk County Seniors team. He had a very good office assistant, Alison Cook who is still with the club today and is most helpful.

Around this time Louise Briggs retired as Junior Organiser and 'Digger's' wife Betty Shaw took over. I got on well with Betty, she was good with the juniors and would not stand any nonsense. Just before this it was decided to have a Junior Captain who would be part of the Junior Committee and we found this a useful link with the Juniors. I will mention these Captains and to the best of my knowledge they were 2000 Daniel Woodward, 2001 Harry Woodward, 2002 Colin McQuattie, 2003 Matthew Craske, 2004 Alex Carter, 2005 Matthew Nudd, 2006 Ryan Clarke, 2007 Peter Murphy, 2008 Harry Walker, 2009 David Clarke, 2010 Craig Welsh and 2011 Alister Brewin.

In 2004 a Scottish lady member named Lorraine Stuart came to me for lessons. She is lively, good fun and is popular with the ladies. She has lowered her handicap recently become a good player and she was an outstanding Ladies' Captain in 2014. Her husband, Donald, is a keen single figure golfer and has been a club member for several years.

In September 2004 Ron Beales retired as Steward and went to live in Spain with his wife Ann but sadly died there a year ago. The new Steward is John McGuire who moved into the club Bungalow with his wife Annette and their son John. They were experienced Stewards as they had worked at Royal Cromer and came to Mundesley from Sprowston Park Golf Club. John has also worked as a chef for British Railways. He is a good Steward, is well organised, is very good on the computer and produces films with sound tracks of the club's social events. Annette serves part time behind the bar and also helps out a lot at the big events. Both Annette and John are popular with the members and give everyone a warm welcome to this day. I taught their son John to play golf and he is a Junior Member. He is also good at football and cricket.

During 2005 Derek Smith our head green keeper, who was a Corporal in the Territorial Army, was called up for a tour of duty in Iraq. Derek decided to leave the club and a new green keeper was appointed. His name was Phil Mansbridge, an experienced green keeper, who had worked at a championship course in Derbyshire. The assistant green keeper Tim Gee was promoted to head green keeper and they worked well together for several years.

Our Junior team did well in 2005 and got to the final of the K.K.Smith County knock out matchplay competition. The match was held at Weston Park Golf Club and our team,

captained by Matthew Nudd, narrowly lost to Dereham Golf Club. In 2006 the junior team won their league in the Bass Trophy and got to the final held at Thetford which is a long and difficult course. Our captain was Ryan Clarke but we did not do very well and ended up in 4th place.

In July 2006 I played, with an amateur partner from the club, in my last national competition and it was the Lombard Trophy. Alex Carter, a very good player who I had taught from the age of ten, was my partner as he had won the qualifying competition at our club. Unfortunately, Tom Duke the manager, was late sending in our entry and we had to travel to Whittington Barracks Golf Club in Staffordshire for the Regional Final which was a long three hour drive. In spite of this we played quite well and ended 1 under par which was not far out of the prizes. It was a windy day and we both had a bad hole on the 11th which put us out of the running. However, it was a good finish to my playing career. My wife Sue caddied for me and drove home.

Around this time Alan Coles presented the club with a pair of new steel gates for the entrance to the green keeper's compound which replaced a rusty steel gate given by Benny Smith from the Bacton Gas site. Tony Lake made the new gates, they look very good, are well made and have M.G.C. inscribed on them.

In August 2006 my wife and I bought a second-hand caravan and this became our main form of holidays. We had a dog named Dougal and found caravanning was the most suitable way to holiday as we did not have to put him in kennels which he does not like. He is a short haired German Pointer, is nervous around other dogs and we began taking him round the golf course which he still enjoys.

In late 2006 Betty Shaw retired as Junior organiser and I agreed to the request from the Junior Committee to take on this role. I had been teaching a new younger group of juniors and they started to come to the fore as several of our older juniors were approaching 18 years of age after which they ceased to be juniors. About this time my part time shop assistant Roy Stacey retired and I asked Eric Wilson, a popular long time club member, if he would do this job. He agreed to this and he served me well until I retired in 2008.

In 2007 our Cullington Trophy team got to the final of the knock out County foursomes match play event which is for male golfers above 9 handicap. The final was held at Eaton Golf Club against Barnham Broom and our team played well but narrowly lost. We also got to the Cullington final back in 1998 but lost to Eaton when the match was played at Gt. Yarmouth and Caister Golf Club.

The Ladies' Captain in 2007 was Vera Spinks who had been a county squash player and was one of my pupils. Her Vice Captain was Carole Bray who asked my wife Sue to be her Vice Captain. Carole had become ill and advised Vera that she felt unable to be Captain in 2008. Vera asked my wife to take this position and she accepted and became Ladies Captain on the 1st January 2008. My wife had a very good year in 2008, she was a popular Captain and won several Trophies during the year. Also the ladies won their

division of the County League which is played in singles matches. The team members were my wife Sue, Carole Bray, Mary Mclean, Lesley Allen and Vera Spinks all who I mentioned earlier. Pat Jackman was also a team member who had been Ladies' Captain in 2006. She has a famous daughter, former world squash champion Cassie Jackman M.B.E. Other members of the team who had both been pupils of mine were Sarah Searles and Sally Owles. This was a great achievement for our ladies. My wife's Captain's Day was the highlight of her year and went very well. Her father came down from Lancashire to be with her.

My 65th Birthday was in September and I decided it was time to retire. I wrote to the Board Officers and members in the spring to give them plenty of notice and to be able to appoint my successor. I was finding business difficult as the recession was starting to have an effect and added to this was the increasing competition from the internet. I retired as Junior organiser at this time. Richard Collyer, whose son Jamie was my pupil, agreed to replace me. He was very keen and sponsored a Junior Competition called the Forte Cup.

In the spring of 2008 our assistant green keeper, Phil Mansbridge, left the club with immediate effect after a disagreement and this put the club in a muddle as Tim Gee was off sick. I had to takeover and, with the help of Boxer a part time retired green keeper from Sheringham, maintain the course for two weeks until the new green keeper Fred, could start. Fred had been found by Roger Nicholson who was Chairman of the Green Committee at the time and Captain in 2006. We had a problem with fusarium in the greens but I could not spray them as I did not have a certificate. Fred soon sorted this out when he started work. Tim Gee returned to work but I continued to help by cutting all the fairways for the rest of the season and things started to improve.

Our junior team got to the final of the K.K.Smith County Knockout singles matchplay competition in 2008. The team members, who were all taught by myself, were Harry Walker (Captain), David Clarke, Liam Upton and Jamie Collyer. Our reserve player was Albert Perez who played in some of the earlier matches. They had two good away wins on their way to the final having beaten Royal Norwich and in the semi final beat Hunstanton. The Hunstanton match had such an exciting finish. The teams were tied after 3 matches had completed 18 holes and Jamie Collyer had to win the last hole to win the match, which he did. On the 31st of August we played against Sheringham in the final held at the Royal West Norfolk Golf Club. We played well and won 11 holes up. It was great to see them win and was a fitting end to my junior coaching. This left a strong Junior section for the next few years.

The club's social events continued to be well supported at this time and they were well run by Chris Young who was Captain 2009. Chris is a planning officer for NNDC, he is a good golfer and has played in our Myhill team. He was followed by Peter Woods who was in Captain 2010.

On Wednesday 8th October, Saturday 11th October and Sunday 12th October the club allowed me to sponsor competitions for all sections of the members to mark my

retirement and these all went well. The men's event was won by my neighbour Trevor Baldwin who is a popular member and who fits double glazing and new kitchens. The club also arranged a Dinner Evening to mark my retirement on Sunday 12th October. It was a great evening and was very well attended by many members who had been my great supporters and friends at Mundesley over many years. All my close family attended, my wife Sue her two sons Ian and Richard, their Partners Carrie and Heidi, Sue's grand daughter Amelia, her father David and Sister Adrienne with her husband John. My cousin Richard Watts and his wife Shirley came along and I was honoured in a kind speech given by Club President Alan Coles. I was presented with a handsome cheque from the club by the Captain David Craske. Holiday vouchers and a statuette of our dog were presented to me by the Ladies' Vice-Captain Gill Nightingale. Harry Walker, the Junior Captain, presented me with an inscribed salver and a framed photo of our winning K.K.Smith Junior Trophy team. I was very moved by these generous tributes and will always remember this wonderful evening. The next day I retired after 42 years and 3 months service and this was the end of ninety years of service to the club by my family.

Epilogue

Lee Patterson, the Professional at Royal Cromer Golf Club, was appointed as my successor at Mundesley which he intended to run as his second club with the help of his assistants. I continued to be on the Junior Committee to help David Welsh, the new Junior organiser, to learn the ropes. Richard Collyer had resigned this post after a disagreement with the same person as our ex green keeper Phil and left the club. My wife Sue helped Lee's assistants with the junior lessons for the next year or so and this worked reasonably well. Our last junior successes were in the 2010 Bass Trophy matches when our team reached the final held at Costessey Park Golf Club. There were now 5 Junior Leagues and two teams had to be found from the semi finalists for the final. We finished in third place after losing at the first playoff hole. All but one of this team were my pupils they and they were Joe Annision, Harry Brown, Alister Brewin (Captain), Andrew Bailey together with Craig Welsh. I was pleased when Craig won his match as he was not a natural golfer and had worked hard to improve, He was popular with the other juniors. Our other junior success was in 2011 when we reached the final of the K.K.Smith Trophy held at Royal Norwich Golf Club where we narrowly lost to Costessey Park.

In the autumn of 2010, Lee Patterson resigned as Club Professional as he had found it was not possible to run two clubs. Shortly after this Tom Duke retired from his position as Secretary/Manager. After much thought the club decided to amalgamate the Club Professional and the Secretary/Managers role and to call this new position Director of golf. Lee Patterson's Senior Assistant, Ryan Pudney, was appointed to carry out this role. Ryan is a good teacher, is popular with the members and he is also a very good golfer. In 2011 he qualified to play in the final of the National Captain and Professional PGA Tournament with his partner who was David Crosby, Captain of 2011. The final was held in Turkey and I believe they finished in the top five which was a great achievement. Also in 2011 it was decided to move the pro shop back to its previous position at the front of the club house and to knock through the wall to give access to the ladies washroom. This would become the new office and adjoin the pro shop to make Ryan's job easier.

The existing shop would become the ladies new wash room. David Briggs once again stepped in carrying out this work with the help of some other members and also some contractors. These alterations appear to work well.

In the spring of 2011 Fred, the assistant green keeper, resigned as he had got the Head Green Keepers position at West Runton Golf Club. I helped Tim Gee out until the new green keeper arrived and cut all the fairways for the rest of the season. The new assistant green keeper was Phil Mansbridge who had left some years earlier and he is still with the club today. In the autumn of 2013 Tim Gee retired as head green keeper due to ill health and he had served well for 25 years. The new head green keeper is Richard Plummer from Ryston Park Golf Club who is Roger Plummer's son.

David Craske is once again the Club Captain for 2015, continuing his excellent service to the club and the Ladies' Captain is Angie Ellis. I am sure they will have a good year.

I must mention two ex pupils who I taught as juniors over 10 years ago and now serve the club. They are Andrew Whitby our assistant steward who does a very good job and Matthew Craske who I mentioned earlier. He is Ryan's shop assistant, works in the bar and occasionally works out on the course. Matthew has lowered his handicap to 3 and is considering turning professional. Both he and Andrew are friendly with the members which is good for the club.

For the last four years my wife Sue, together with the help of Gill Kemp and others, has helped to introduce new lady members to the club which has been very successful and several new younger members are now well established. Sue has now handed this group on to the Ladies' Captain Angie Ellis. Our Ladies County League team had a good year in 2014, when, led by their Captain Lorraine Stuart, they won their division and were promoted. This was a great feat as I feel our ladies' standard scratch score at 70 is two strokes too high, making it difficult for our ladies to compete against other clubs.

The Vice Captains for this year, 2015, are Allan and Ruth Epton, a couple I taught about 10 years ago. They have recently retired from their caravan site at Bacton and are popular members. I wish them all the best for 2016.

I must say what an excellent job all our Club Captains and Ladies' Captains, together with other officers who I have not mentioned here, have done over the years. They have all supported the club very well. It is a big commitment to perform these roles and the club would not be what it is today with out their help.

I am often asked when I am going to get my amateur status back as I stated I would in my retirement letter to the Board. When I wrote this letter I did not realise, until later, that I would have to give up my P.G.A. membership. This membership gives me many benefits, such as free golf on many courses and free entry to the British Men's and Ladies Open Championships. I also get free Ryder Cup Tickets for myself and half price for my wife. Since I retired we have some brilliant days watching golf at these events. When David Crosby was Captain in 2011 he said that he would ask the board if I could

become a playing member as many clubs do allow professionals to be playing members. I contacted the R&A at St Andrews and they said it was up to the Club but the Board said social membership only. This is not suitable for me as at 71 years of age I cannot play to scratch any more and it is not fair to any partners paired with me in these events but I am most grateful to be allowed to play the course as an honorary member.

Mundesley is a great place to play golf with wonderful views over the country side including many ancient churches most unchanged for over six hundred years. It can be magical to play in May when the sky larks are singing, the may blossom is out and the gorse is in bloom. One visitor remarking on the sense of peace on the course said it is like playing golf in church. My best wishes to all at this great golf club I hope it continues to have success for many years into the future.

I wish to thank my wife Sue for her valuable help with my story and also my cousin Richard Watts for compiling my uncle Paul's part.