



# *Foxhills*

YOUR CLUB IN THE COUNTRY

## **Wayfarers 25th Jubilee - 2006**

Back in 1981, John Gilding, Foxhills Golf Committee Chairman, received a letter from the Leatherhead Golf Club requesting an interclub match with Foxhills seniors. Jack Lovelock, vice captain at the time, explained to Leatherhead that Foxhills was a young club without a senior section. Nevertheless, it was eventually agreed to field a team of 12 players of 50-55 years of age.

The first fixture took place on May 21st 1982, on the Longcross Course - most memorable for John Gilding who had a hole in 1 on the 16th! A return match was played at Leatherhead June 18th.

After many proposed names for the senior section had been turned down, John Gilding, consulting the Oxford dictionary, offered Wayfarers: a traveller on foot; which seemed most appropriate. This name was adopted.

John Lovelock was voted as club captain in 1982 and passed the running of the newly formed Wayfarers to Brian Lees who succeeded in arranging fixtures with Laleham, Guildford, and Drift. Jack also arranged the first of the Summer and Winter meetings.

In 1987 Brian Lees passed on the task of running the Wayfarers to David Wensley prior to moving to Dorset. Brian and David quickly organised an away day at Yeovil involving 40 very young seniors. Yeovil became a popular fixture and a Memorial Shield is still played during the two interclub matches each year.

When Gordon Taylor became captain he formed a committee which included Ray Childs as secretary and John Ayland as treasurer. During this time, fixtures were arranged through Arthur Dupuy (Director of Golf) with the Belgique Golf Club in Brussels and the Antwerp Royal Golf Club. Matches were also played against Le Touquet Golf Club until Gordon moved to Spain.

Ray Childs and John Ayland continued to build on those achievements and introduced the first of 10 open meetings, which quickly gained renown for their celebrated and diverse prize tables and after-match meals.

In 1992 it was agreed to raise and freeze the joining age from 55 to 60, and introduce winter pairs competitions and club matches against the ladies.

In 1995 Stan Atkins joined the Wayfarers from Royal Lytham and was co-opted onto the committee to assist Ray Childs, Hon Secretary, with match selection. After several very successful years in which the Wayfarers was at its peak, John Ayland moved to Devon and Ray Childs had to retire (albeit with a heavy heart) due to an operation and other demanding



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commitments. The committee was regrouped, Stan Atkins taking the lead from Ray. Eric Julius became Treasurer, Jack Tye ran Tuesday roll-ups and Roy Leonard arranged inter club senior open days.

2004/5 proved difficult years for the committee as many of the once young Wayfarers decided they no longer wished to play in interclub matches or competitions and demanded new and better venues with lower costs.

Year 2006 commenced with a large intake of new members, a fixture list with 6 new venues, and the introduction of Spring and Christmas meetings to supplement those introduced by Ray. This has all the makings of a very good year.

The Wayfarers have always endeavoured to set the standard and their uniform of primrose shirts and green sweaters with a Foxhills logo has been admired and copied by many clubs. Long may it continue?



Ray Childs with Stan Atkins

Finally, the Wayfarers have always been most fortunate in having the full support of Ian Hayton and even more fortunate to have been given assurance by his son Marc that this backing will long continue. By way of thank you, a number of Wayfarers have responded to the Golf Services manager's request for assistance on the course, undertaking duties such as starters and marshals. It is this goodwill portrayed by staff and membership that makes Foxhills so special.

Our thanks to Ray Childs, founder member, and by John Gilding, club Life Vice President, for information about the Wayfarers.