

## Old Views of The Vale Summer 2023

Looking through the Centenary Book that was created for 2008 I see a picture of members outside the old club house, now a bungalow above the rented horse's field. There are several trophies in the picture but dominating the table is a silver epergne which I suspect was won by Mr Newman. In fact, much to the sorrow of the members, he won it three times and claimed it as his own! He then donated the (recently played for), Newman Cup to the club to replace the epergne.



An epergne is a glass/silver centre piece for a dining table like the old claret jug that is about to be played for at Hoylelake. Looking at eBay today there are a variety of epergnes you can purchase for between £28 to £750,000. I often wonder where Mr Newman's treasure ended up and what would it be worth to The Club today?

Where did all the records of The Club go that referenced the 1920's to post war years. I knew a local landowner who had old maps and the leather shoes for the horses' hooves, worn to protect the fairways. He parted with these and some local maps to an antique shop in Llangollen. Then there was the past captain who was given some information about the early years of The Club by a well-known solicitor, and he kept forgetting to bring them to pass onto me until they were destroyed in a house fire! Quite a pile of information had been stored in the club roof space and it was despatched to the rubbish tip some time ago!

The late Stuart Ffoulkes Jones used to play the old holes that were to the south of the A5 road each New Years Day and as you turn for Maes Mawr road there was a fine dog leg right with out of bounds down the right-hand side that can be seen in the field to left after first turning off Maes Mawr road.

I often wonder how many times I've played the holes 9 to 13 that are all that are left of the old nine-hole course! It wasn't just a golf course, or links as it was known, it was a very friendly social club. Friendly matches with Pwllglas, Wrexham, Oswestry and Llanymynech were keenly fought and celebrated. We had a strong Junior Section of teenagers who were heading for single figure handicaps, and we organised our own competitions under the watchful eyes of several seniors. In the sixties and seventies, we had a group of fine category one handicappers (0 to 4) who won the County Championship. There was one week of Open Competitions where members and players from other local clubs entered the various comps. The week ended with a presentation of prizes on the Saturday night and, those five days of Opens were our only ones for the year!

Families. The Pattinsons, The Rileys, The Joneses (Mr Vice Captain), Trevor L Williams and two sons, Dr David Roberts and brother Glyn, Southwell, Coleman, Wright, Vaughan, Edwards, Professional Tim Davies and two sons and daughter. There were many more that formed the backbone of The Club and who served as officers and committee members.

That's quite enough of some of my old memories for now! If any current members are interested there are still a few copies of the centenary book available from the office for an interesting trip down memory lane covering the early days and celebrating the Clubs first 100 years.

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