

Golfers amongst O.Ns might find my story interesting.

This October, 2021, it will be 50 years since I was responsible for starting the British Universities Golf Team Championship.

When I arrived at Leeds University to study Dentistry, I also managed to play golf for the University Team. We played friendly matches against most of the main northern and midlands Universities – all day Wednesday – foursomes and singles – on many of the best golf courses. These included Hoylake, Ganton, Lindrick, Hollinwell, Fulford, Seaton Carew and Little Aston.

We played our home matches at Alwoodley and Moortown. We were very spoiled!

Unfortunately, The Universities Athletic Union (UAU) regarded Golf as a minor sport and so did not qualify to have a regional Team Championship. I thought this was wrong and set about persuading the UAU to see the error of their ways and change the status of Golf.

I became Athletic Union – Sports President – of Leeds University and a member of Union Executive, a post I held for 3 years under 4 Presidents. It took me a year to bully the hierarchy of UAU and particularly Dennis Follows, The Chair of UAU and the then Secretary of the Football Association to change the status of student Golf. In the end they got the message and agreed. Dennis said, You seem to know a lot about it so you better do it! I wrote the Rules and decided that girls would be allowed to play. UAU then was men only!

The first Championship started in October 1971. In the final Manchester beat Cardiff. Leeds were 3rd. The losing Cardiff Captain, Clive Brown is now Chair of the Championship Committee at St. Andrews. He makes the speech at the Open Championship presentation,

Our new Championship needed a trophy.

I served Leeds as A.U. President for 3 years (Non-Sabbatical) and they asked what I would like as a memento as no one did 3 years on Executive. I asked for and got a Cup for my new Golf Championship. It is called the Wallace Crinson Trophy after my late father who played County Tennis before spending WW2 in Burma. It is now 50 years old.

I continued as Chair of UAU Golf and a Vice- President of UAU until 1994 when all the Polytechnics became Universities. UAU disbanded and the new British Universities Sports Association was formed (BUSA).

I continued as Chair of Golf and a V-P. I was Chair of Golf 1971-2004.

In 1971, I played golf several times with John Giles of Leeds United and in March 1972 at Moortown we played a match against Don Revie's Leeds United. We won narrowly. I played with Andrew Carman our Captain and we beat Giles and Hunter on 18. Andy went on to be Chair of England Selectors.

In 1996 we were approached by NCAA – American Student Golf – to play a student Walker Cup Match for the new Palmer Cup. USA v GB&I, by nationality, not by College.

We picked our team of 10 and flew off at their expense to Bay Hill in Florida. I was team manager, with ex- Ryder Cupper as Coach. We had 10 days hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Palmer at Bay Hill unforgettable! In the following years at St. Andrews and Hoylake I managed teams involving Luke Donald and Graeme McDowell amongst others.

Since 2004, I have spent 7 years as Chair of Competitions at Sand Moor GC in Leeds and two years as Club President.

Away from golf and my life career as an NHS GP Dentist, I was Chair of Wetherby Swimming Club for 7 years and President of Leeds & District Junior ASA. Thanks Bill Tunstall and Geof Knowles.

I was also fortunate to attend all 10 World Cup football games in London in July 1966.

I hope that my memorial might be worthy of your interest.

Between dropping out of Newcastle Medical School and starting at Dental School in Leeds I spent 10 months working for Community Service Volunteers taking teenagers in Childrens Homes on outdoor pursuits.CSV was started by Alec Dickson, who started VSO.

Alistair Crinson (55-65)