

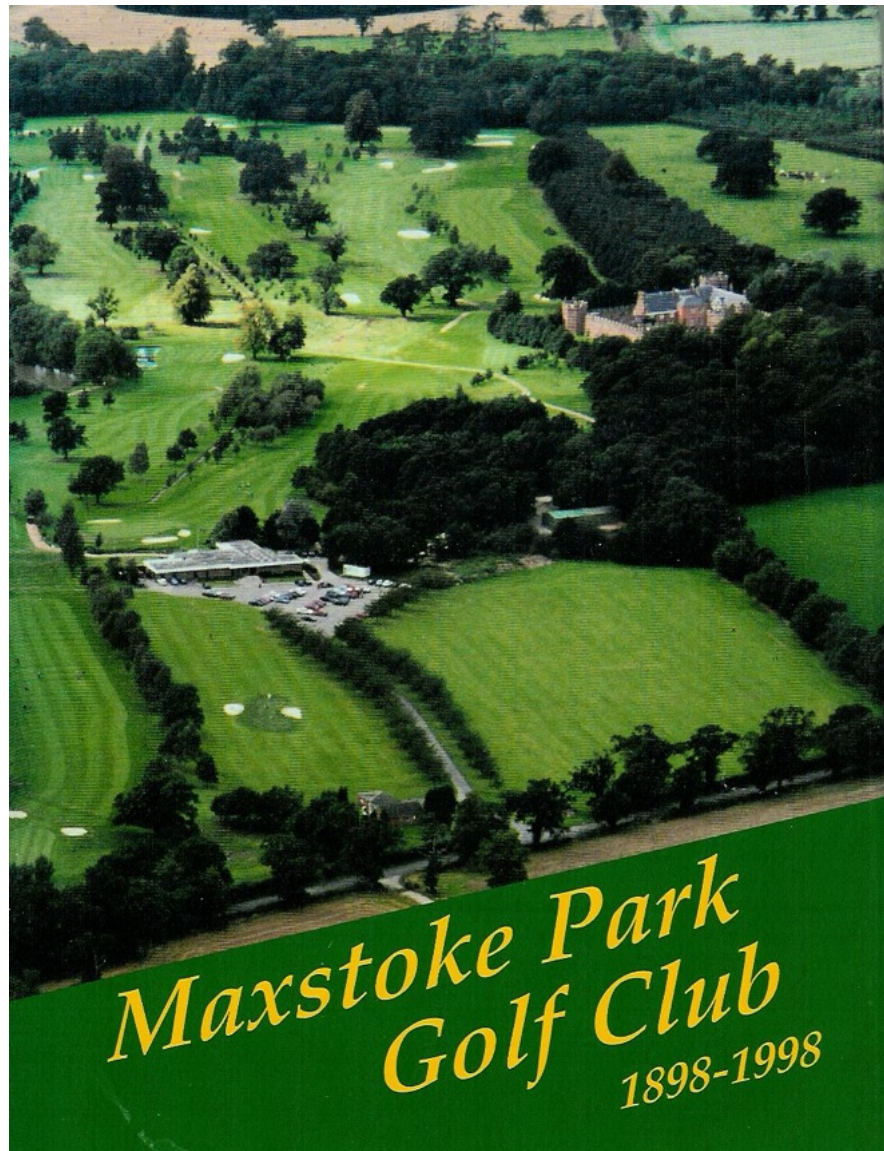
*2021 2906 SWGC v Derbyshire at Maxstoke GC.*

**The SWGC team was:**

David Williams	North Warwicks	Captain
Tony Ranger	Kenilworth	Match Secretary
Ron Saywell	Kenilworth	Treasurer
Ian Phipps	Olton	
Barry Hallam	Coventry Finham	
Keith Lindsay	Coventry Finham	
Dave Chamley	Leamington and County	
Robert Kemp	Walmley	Esteemed Kitty master
David Hadley-Smith	Moor Hall	
Gordon Williamson	Leamington and County	
Jim McCarthy	Kenilworth	
Charles Leggitt	Kenilworth	
Patrick Murphy	Coventry Finham	
Alan Griffiths	Sutton Coldfield	
John Butler	Kenilworth.	

**Maxstoke Park  
Centenary from 1898 - 1998**

*View of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>  
holes, the Clubhouse and  
the Castle.*



## 2021 2906 SWGC v Derbyshire at Maxstoke GC.

Maxstoke club had 4 homes in its 100 years of existence before eventually finishing up in a delightful part of the Warwickshire countryside.

The story started way back in 1895 when Doctor E Luke-Freer laid out a 9-hole course on his own land at Ward End.

From those insignificant beginnings has emerged a thriving and enthusiastic club which has travelled from Ward End via castle Brom which to its picturesque location at Maxstoke Park.

In the winter of 1897 -8 Dr Freer informed the players that the course was not paying its way and subsequently a list of players subscribed 43 guineas each, and so the Ward End Club was formed.

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 1901 the club moved to Castle Bromwich, on land just behind the Bradford Arms but with space limited the club decided to move on and by 1906 a new 18-hole course laid out by Harry Vardon; and the course was officially opened on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1906 by the President, Viscount Newport.

After a new layout by a course architect, Mr Colt, the course developed into an outstanding course, said at the time to be 2<sup>nd</sup> to Little Aston.

The history of the Club over the next 40 years is worthy of study, and the stories of golf during WW2 period when up to 50 bombs fell directly on the course, are amusing to read but must have been quite frightening at the time.

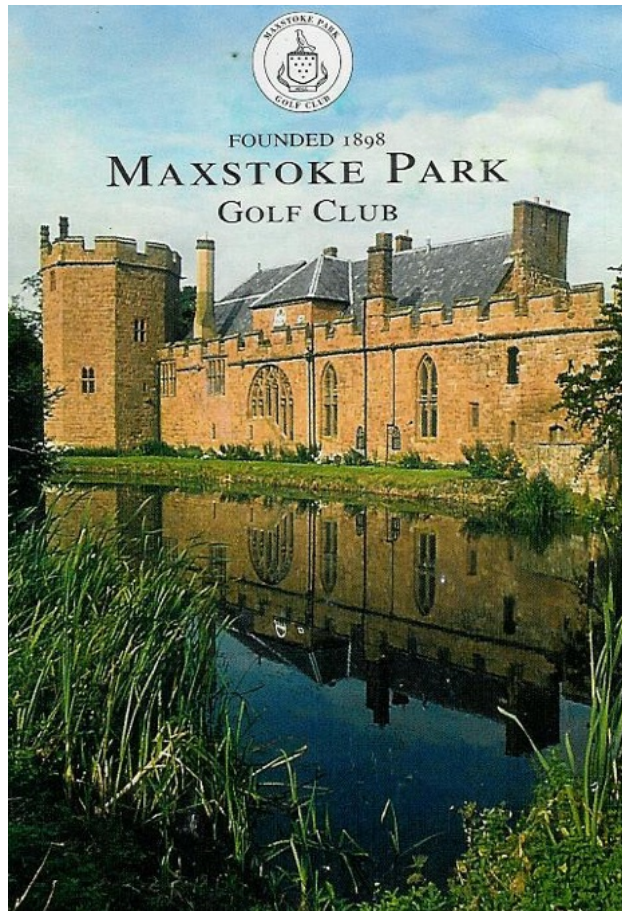
In 1945 negotiations started with Maxstoke Castle owners and in 1947 the first 9 holes were opened for play.

Over the next 15 years 3 holes were added at regular intervals so that by 1960 the 18 holes had been completed.

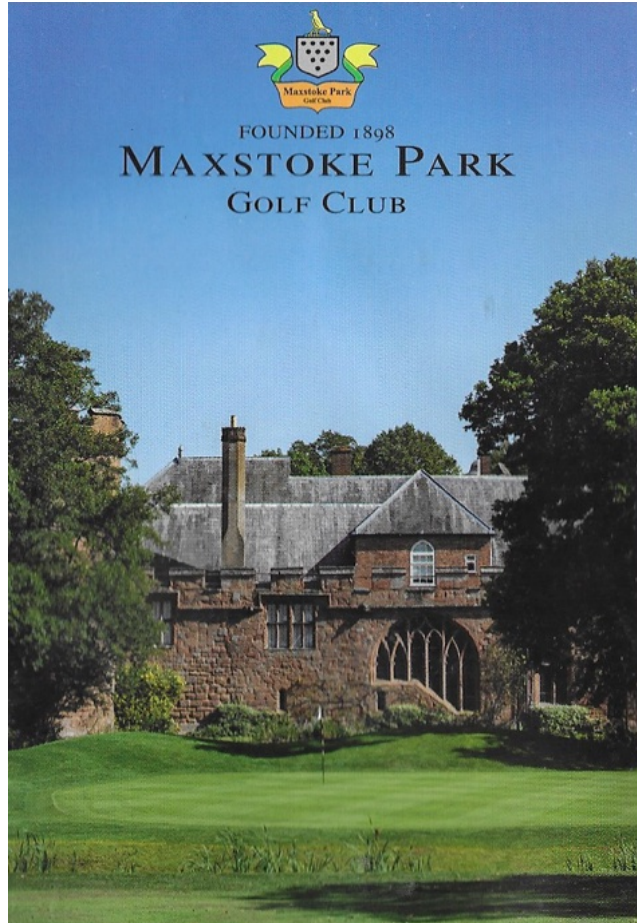
In those early days Maxstoke members worked hard on the course to establish a fine layout in spite of many difficulties – Dudley Evans, a member for over 70 years, features prominently in the history of those days,

Maxstoke is a hamlet in North Warwickshire, that has two buildings of great note. Maxstoke Castle has been in the hands of the Fetherston-Dilkes since the 17th century, whilst the Priory dates from the 14th century. Much of the ruins have disappeared over the years, whilst those that are left are in private hands.

Maxstoke Castle, which is 3 miles outside Coleshill in Warwickshire, is a fine example of a 14th moated and fortified manor house, commissioned by Sir William de Clinton; the licence to crenulate dates from February 1345. The house, which is surrounded by four acres of mixed formal and informal gardens, has been in the continuous ownership of the Dilke (later Fetherston-Dilke) families for over 400 years. The house is private and not open to the public but once a year - usually in mid-June - the house and gardens are opened in support of local charities. Teas, plant and other stalls are provided. However, this year, 2021, in line with Covid 19 guidelines, only the garden will be open for limited numbers.



*The Castle frames the 17<sup>th</sup> green*



*The Match Secretaries set out the agenda for the day's golf.*

*2021 2906 SWGC v Derbyshire at Maxstoke GC.*



*Captain David welcomes Derbyshire to Maxstoke Park and below the Match Secretaries prepare.*



*2021 2906 SWGC v Derbyshire at Maxstoke GC.*



*The Pairings are announced. And later it was England v Germany!*



**The Result**

Clearly we all enjoyed the Maxstoke Park albeit that the course was demanding in many ways, with lakes being a major hazard on a number of holes!

At the end of the day, it was a glorious halved match BUT importantly England beat Germany 2-0 in the Euros.