

(Extract from ‘Golf, Gorse & Ponies’ – the Centenary History of Yelverton Golf Club 1904-2004 – Chapter 8 The Club’s Captains....)

J C Bowering 1944–1945

John Bowering joined the Club in 1927, and was one of the wartime committee members who suddenly found himself with the Captaincy, and the problems of his predecessor. His election was confirmed at the AGM in February 1944, (which was attended by 25 members!), and again 12 months later. He lived in Plymouth, and petrol rationing meant that he had to cycle to and from Yelverton – and good for him you might say; but clearly a measure of his commitment.

By early 1945 the end of the war was clearly very close, with the prospect of a resurgence of interest in restoring peacetime leisure pursuits. The minutes of the period reflect this upsurge of optimism, recording initiatives to restore the large part of the course taken out of use, re-employment of ‘demobbed’ greenstaff, reintroduction of cooked luncheons, and all those things which are now taken for granted. No matter that the Club was close to bankruptcy, John Bowering pushed these things forward with evident gusto.

In his working life, he was the proprietor of The Bowering Press, a Plymouth based printing business, which did all of the Club’s printing for many years. After the War he lived in one of the houses further up Links Road from the Clubhouse, and in his retirement it is said you could set your watch by him, as he made his way to the Club at noon precisely – opening time! A 12 handicap golfer, he was an inveterate smoker, who was rarely seen without his pipe – you can see him with it in the Gala day 1959 photograph in Chapter 16.



Gala day 1959

Back (L to R) Dick Ford. (?) Ada Doidge. (?) . . . (?) . . . (?) . . . (?) Mrs Chadder. Margaret Dishman. Paul Uren. (?). Mrs Ford. (?). Rosemary Emerson. R Dunstan. Bobby Dunstan. **John Bowering**. Rosie Bowering. Jock Begleman. (?). Tommy Wright. Ray Bowden. (?). Pam Izard. Ron Doidge.

Middle (L to R) Bob Greenhalgh. Mr Dishman. Phil Phillips. Phil Easlick. D Dale. Gig Dapot. Len Harmer. Felix Chadder. Frank Bawden. Harold Easlick. Geoff Willis. Jenifer Underhill. John Emerson. Alec Blakey.

Front Row (L to R) Phil Chadder. Mrs Chadder. Nan Harmer. Harold Foster. Cecily Dapot. C Hadfield. Mrs E Hadfield. Jimmy Knape. Cyril Baker. Mrs H Baker. Nesta Cresswell. (?)