

From the Archives

Miss Jeanne Bisgood CBE – three-time winner of the Roehampton Club Gold Cup

Former Lady Golf Captain, Caroline Scallon has invited the Club to acknowledge the 100th birthday of Jeanne Bisgood on 11th August. This wonderful achievement marks yet another memorable event in the sporting life of a talented golfer who won the English Women's Amateur Championship three times (1951, 1953 and 1957) and making three appearances in the Curtis Cup (1950, 1952 and 1954).



Jean Bisgood, 1954



D. R. Stuart
At Roehampton Club, competitors in the Gold Cup Golf Trophy were Miss Evelyn Howett, Mrs. S. V. Hicks, Miss Jeanne Bisgood, who made her third successive win with a score of 74, and Mrs. R. E. Garrett, third

Jeanne Bisgood Roehampton Club Gold Cup 1953



ENGLISH LADY CHAMPION, Miss Jeanne Bisgood, a barrister, receives the Gold Cup from Mr. F. Higson, captain of Roehampton Club.

Her name appears on the Honours Board in the Clubhouse winning the Roehampton Club Gold Cup in three successive years between 1951 and 1953.

Her golfing exploits were captured many times in the golfing press and even on television when she was interviewed by the BBC in 1954 in the build up to the Curtis Cup match in the United States at the Merion Golf Club.

A number of photographs have also been included in this article as a reminder of her accomplishments starting in 1938 with her appearance in the Bystander

Girls Championship held at Stoke Poges pictured at the time in a report written by Eleanor Helme who has been featured in previous editions of the Club newsletter.

In 1939 in another article written by Ms Helme, Jeanne is pictured with local golfing talent, Pam Barton playing together at Open Meeting held at the Ranelagh Club in Barnes (now defunct). The report makes reference to Jeanne getting home from school to play in the event. In 1949 Jeanne made the papers with her surprise win in the Women's Championship at Harlech beating the American and Canadian Champion Miss Grace Lenczyk 2 and 1.



Jeanne Bisgood at Roehampton Club in 2001



Miss Pam Barton spoiled her score at the eighteenth at Ranelagh; she reached it with 66, but took a 7 to finish fourth with 72 net. She is with Miss Bisgood, who returned a 78

The newspaper refers to Jeanne as a 24-year-old barrister from Parkstone Dorset and a pupil of former Open Champion Reg Whitcombe. Many other reports of the event also saw fit to highlight the use of chewing gum by her opponent throughout the encounter. Later that year Jeanne took part in the English Ladies Golf Championship at Burnham and was pictured with her father in the *Tatler* (photo).



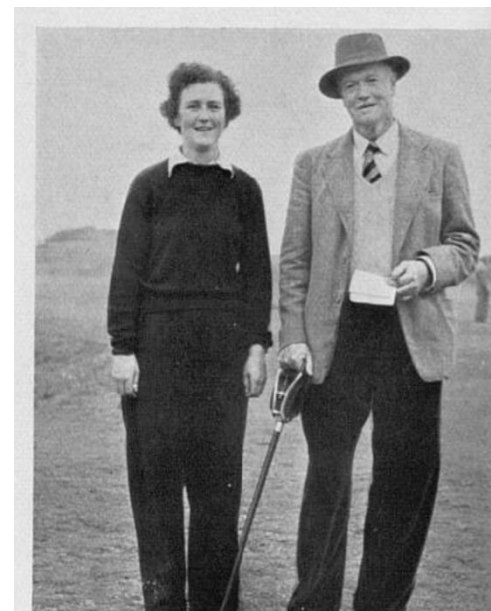
A joke before driving off for seventeen-year-old Susan Hill, Miss Elizabeth Price, the England player, Miss Jeanne Bisgood, and Mrs. S. V. Hicks, Secretary of the Surrey Ladies Golf Association

Jeanne Bisgood Roehampton Club Gold Cup 1952

The same publication covered the Roehampton Club Gold Cup in 1952 'in fine weather and keen competition' with George Gadd, golf professional at Roehampton Club acting as starter for the competition.

The article also features Jeanne in a photo before teeing off and another showing her with the trophy. In the following year Jeanne was pictured again with other competitors who witnessed her third successive win. Jeanne's third and final win in the Women's Amateur Golf Championship took place at Queens Park, Bournemouth. This event was covered in the *Illustrated London News* with a photograph.

Another newspaper report uses a headline of 'Miss Bigwood's Big Win in Final' and goes on to describe her putting as 'croquet fashion' on her way to the biggest victory in the championship for twenty-seven years and was gained with ruthless efficiency before the Mayor of Bournemouth



Miss Jeanne Bisgood with her father Mr. B. H. Bisgood, president of the Parkstone Golf Club



Miss Jeanne Bisgood, who practices as a Chancery Barrister, with the Gold Cup she won with the excellent score of 72. Miss Bisgood is to play in the match against the U.S. team which takes place on June 6-7th

Jeanne Bisgood with the Roehampton Club Gold Cup in 1952

had arrived to present the trophy. Her opponent Margaret Nichol had unexpectedly made her way to the final with her mother making a late decision to see her daughter play and having to travel 350 miles overnight to get to the venue. By the time she arrived when the players had just completed nine holes, her daughter was five holes down and well on her way to defeat.



GOLF CHAMPIONS The English women's golf team won the Home International championship of 1958 at Hunstanton. The team was: (back row) Mrs. Jean Hetherington, Miss Jeanne Bisgood, Mrs. Sutherland Pilch (non-playing captain), Mrs. Angela Bonilack, Mrs. Marley Spearman; (sitting) Miss Elizabeth Price, Mrs. Ann Howard, Miss Bridget Jackson and Miss M. Nichol



(Left.) WINNER OF THE ENGLISH WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP: MISS J. BISGOOD
On October 4 Miss Jeanne Bisgood, of Parkstone, who is a barrister, won the English Women's golf championship at Queen's Park when she defeated Miss M. Nichol, of Hexham, by 10 and 8 in the 36-hole final. Miss Bisgood previously won the event in 1951 and in 1953.

Jeanne Bisgood winning the Women's Amateur Golf Championship in 1957



In 1958, Jeanne was selected to play for England in the Home International Championship at Hunstanton. The England team won all three of their matches to win the event overall. The winning team was pictured in the *Illustrated London News* and included Mrs A Bonallack. In 1970, Jeanne was appointed Captain for the Curtis Cup team against America at the Brae Burn Club.

As a final recognition of her lifetime achievements and her contribution as Chairman of the Dorset Education Committee, Jeanne was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1982. The Club would also like to pay tribute to a significant figure in ladies' golf and her place in the heritage of our Club.

Steve Riedlinger, Club Archivist

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT: THE VICTORIOUS ENGLISH SIDE WHO DEFEATED IRELAND ON JUNE 21.
 The International Women's Golf Tournament was won by England at Hunstanton on June 21. They defeated Ireland by four matches to three, and survived the tournament without being defeated. The final placings were: England, three wins; Ireland, second with two wins; Scotland, third with one; and Wales, who won no matches, fourth. In the group above are: (standing, l. to r.) Alison Gardner (reserve), Mrs. A. Howard, Mrs. M. Spearman, Miss M. Nichol; (seated, l. to r.) Mrs. A. Bonallack, Miss Jeanne Bingood, Mrs. Sutherland Pilch (non-playing captain), Miss E. Price and Miss B. Jackson. Scotland won in the three previous years.