



Newsletter

An official publication of the Golf Society of Australia

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From the President

In the last issue of our newsletter I mentioned that a "wish list" was being established for Museum memorabilia. Thanks to Margaret Reid and Ian Rennick the list is under way. Any member who has an inspired thought about a suitable item for the museum might kindly let Margaret or Ian know of their thought.

In that issue I also mentioned my notional wish that the true amateur spirit should continue to guide golf. Hand in glove with that wish I also think of course and clubhouse conduct and wonder, in our ever changing world, to what extent golf will be able to maintain its unique dignity.

It is with this thought that I am reminded of the loss of our Foundation and Life member, Bill Edgar. Both on and off the course Bill's conduct was impeccable. His superb golf was well supported by his course demeanour. He never indulged in gamesmanship or displayed poor temperament with club throwing or profanity. He always dressed appropriately. One could never imagine Bill in baggy shorts and short socks of which we see so much today. Casual dress in downstairs spike bars or on balconies or patios is inclined to pervade into more formal areas of a club such as the bar bringing with it a tendency for a club to seem more like a pub. So if I may have a second wish about golf, it is that I trust the current fashion of dress a la American resort mode will be so contained so that it does not detrimentally relax our behaviour either on the course or in the clubhouse.

In this regard, Tiger Woods is setting a wonderful example for young people. His extraordinary maturity for a 21 year old is quite incredible to behold. When I watched him play in the Australian Open in Sydney last year his dignity and poise impressed me just as much as his fantastic shot making. With role model Tiger as the trend setter for the next generation we should be able to look forward to a well behaved and inspired set of youngsters who will without doubt preserve golf's unique dignity.

Daryl Cox, President

From the Editor

Thanks to those members who have provided feedback on our first two issues. I trust that the membership at large has found some items of interest in them and am committed to the effort to make this and future issues interesting to the broad cross section of members. We have undertaken to provide copies to our overseas "correspondent" organisations and trust that they also find the material of interest.

From an editorial viewpoint I see the challenge as trying to fill the void (if any) between the commercial journals and your own golf libraries with material of a more historic or unusual nature. Contributions from members are sought either by way of letters or articles. Please help to make the newsletter a more valuable adjunct to membership of the Golf Society. I do hope you all enjoy this issue.

John Lindsay, Editor

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Quotable quote

"It is nothing new or original to say that golf is played one stroke at a time, but, it took me many years to realize it!"

Bobby Jones

(Me too! - Editor)

1997 Dates for the diary

14th August	Dinner, Victoria GC
12th November	Douglas Bachli Trophy, AGM and Dinner, Commonwealth GC

Full details have been or will be provided by mail prior to the events. Please enjoy the above opportunities to join together and share our enjoyment of golf.

Trivia

Three golfers, E. W. Holderness, Joyce Wethered and Walter Hagen in 1922 won the British Amateur, British Ladies and the British Open golf championships respectively. In 1923 all three lost then in 1924 all three regained their crowns.

The Oldest Golf Clubs

Royal Blackheath, according to tradition, was founded in 1608, at the time the Scottish King was elected to the throne of England, and on Blackheath Common, he played his favourite game with his nobles. It is doubtful if clubs or societies existed prior to the reign of Charles II, much less golf clubs, and modern searchers among golf records set the correct date of Royal Blackheath as about 1787. "No written evidences of any society of Blackheath Golfers of earlier date than 1787 have come down to us" (Chronicles of Blackheath Golfers, by W. E. Hughes).

The earliest written evidence of the existence of Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh is 8th April, 1773, but the Society was known to have been in existence prior to that date, and in Chronicles of the Society 1735 is claimed as the year it was founded.

The earliest written evidence of the existence of the Honourable Company, under its then title of Gentlemen Golfers, is 7th March, 1744. The earliest written evidence of the existence of the Royal and Ancient is 14th May, 1754.

Other Old Clubs

Instituted

Bruntsfield Links, Edinburgh	1 7 6 1
Royal Musselburgh	
1774 Royal Aberdeen	
1780 Crail	
1786 Glasgow	
1787 Dunbar	
1794 Burntisland	
1797 Royal Albert, Montrose	
1810 Scotsraig, Tayport	
1817 Old Manchester	
1818 Interleven	
1820 Royal Perth Golfing Society	
1824 Royal Calcutta	
1829 North Berwick	
1832 Carnoustie	
1839 Leven	
1840 Inverness	1 8 4 1
Peterhead	1 8 4 1
Royal Bombay	1 8 4 2
St Andrews Club	1 8 4 3
Panmure	1845 Peterhead
	1851 Lanark
	1 8 5 1
Prestwick	1 8 5 1
Prestwick, St. Nicholas	1 8 5 1
Monifieth	1 8 5 4
North Berwick, Tantallon	1 8 5 5
Gullane, Dirleton Castle	1 8 5 5
St Andrews University	1 8 5 6
Cupar	1 8 5 6
Pau	1 8 5 7
Portobello	1 8 5 8
Wemyss Castle	1 8 5 8

Earlsferry and Elie	1 8 5 9
King James VI (Perth)	1859
Royal North Devon	1864
Alnmouth	
1867	

The oldest golf club in the world outside the U.K. is the Royal Calcutta in India which was founded in 1829which leads us to the second oldest golf club in the world outside the U.K. which is revealed in our next story.....Ed.

The Australasian Golf Museum



Peter Toogood and some fellow enthusiasts in Tasmania have put a great deal of time and effort into establishing the Australasian Golf Museum in the old primary school at Bothwell located about 1 hours drive NW of Hobart. Nearby is the 9 hole course at Ratho established in 1839 claimed to be the second oldest course outside of the U.K.. The course is located on private property originally settled by Alexander Reid from Scotland. Reid later moved to New Zealand. It is interesting to note that there is a course near Edinburgh called Ratho Park.

Peter, who is writing a history of golf for the museum, relates another interesting link with the early days of golf. His research has uncovered an account of Mary Queen of Scots playing golf at Dunbar with Earl of Bothwell about 1567.

Our Secretary, Rosemary Wakeham, visited the Museum at Bothwell during the recent Ladies Championships held in Hobart and reports that a visit to the museum is a must for all golfers visiting the area. During most of the year, the museum is open Tuesday through Sunday 10am - 4pm. Visitors during winter months should check opening times by phoning the museum (03) 6259 4033 or the Museum Chairman Roy Farr (03) 6259 5510 to be sure of gaining access.

Report on May Dinner

Approximately 50 members and guests attended the May dinner held at Royal Melbourne Golf Club on 21st May 1997. The guest speaker on this occasion was the Victorian Minister for Sport, Tom Reynolds. Tom gave an entertaining account of his political career and insights into the activities of his portfolio including involvement with the drive to secure major sporting events for Melbourne.

As usual, Royal Melbourne was a delightful venue.

Golf Trivia Quiz

(Answers on Page 6)

1. Tom Watson has won five Open Championships, How many has he won in Scotland and where?
2. Who won the Scottish Amateur Championship 4 times in the 1960's? We saw him in 1968.
3. The lowest 72 hole score shot by an amateur in the US Open is 282. Who shot this total, when and where?
4. Who was the first man to shoot four sub 70 rounds in the US Open? When? Where?
5. Who was the first British woman to win the US Womens' Open? When? Where?
6. Do the rules of golf allow you to stand out of bounds to play a ball which is in bounds?
7. Name the US golfer who broke his putter in anger in the 1987 Ryder Cup matches and had to putt with his 2 iron?
8. What was unique about the winners of the four major championships in 1994?
9. Name the two Australian golfers who won the World Cup in 1989?
10. Who won the first Byron Nelson Classic? When?

James Braid's Putter

The Society is delighted to acknowledge a unique donation from Mr Bruce Wallace of WA. Mr Wallace played at Walton Heath with James Braid on the occasion of Braid's 80th birthday. The great champion shot 72 and, gave the putter he used on that day to Bruce as a memento of the occasion. We are indebted to Maxine Bishop who delivered the putter safe and sound to the President during the May dinner at Royal Melbourne. It is always a pleasure to see members from other states at a Society function - we were indeed fortunate that Maxine was able to join us and "deliver the goods".

Letter to the Editor

Tommy Armour's name was mentioned in the last issue of the Newsletter and I was reminded of an experience I had as a young lad living temporarily in America in 1963. I was fifteen at the time and every day was a wonderful, enlightening adventure. Being from Carnoustie in Scotland everything was different, most notably the lifestyle I was now living. My host family moved in high golfing circles with many famous people, including Jack Nicklaus, being close friends. The week of the Indianapolis 500 golf tournament Mike Souchak was their guest. I had a couple of the very interesting fireside chats with him.

During the winter months the family moved to Delray Beach in Florida where I attended High School. One day at the country club, I was introduced to Mr Armour and was invited with the family to join his table. I noted his huge hands which hung loosely from his chair armrests. His legendary status was well established, his hands being a well known feature of his reputation. Over the next four months I found myself sitting with him on a number of occasions just talking about things in general. He was very kind and would buy me a lemonade. I used to think, why on earth did he have any time for me. I instinctively said little and listened a lot while in his company. However on one occasion I did actually summon the courage to tell him a Scottish joke. Being the only two Scots at the table we naturally monopolised the laughter leaving the Americans to smile politely in a confused sort of way.

Eventually the time came when I had to return to Indianapolis and he was evidently aware because when I went to say goodbye, he said "Laddie, go to my locker- there's a present for you " Inside was his brilliant instruction book which I believe at the time was the biggest selling book of it's type, with the inscription -

"To Andy Coogan - with best regards
Tommy Armour"

We had some photographs taken, and my slender hand disappeared into his. I occasionally think about this experience and conclude by suggesting that no matter how accomplished we are, we are only human. Maybe that's why the great man took the time with me, or maybe it was the fact that he had won his only British Open in 1931 at Carnoustie. I'll never know the answer, but thank you for letting me relive a very happy memory.

With warmest regards to my fellow members of the Golf Society,

Andrew Coogan.

The Maltby Moonlighters (A Tale of the Dying Year)

The following lines refer to a match played between two gentlemen, on the links of the Sheffield and District Golf Club on Lindrick Common, at midnight, on December 31st, 1895, finishing, of course, on January 1st, 1896. The moon was full exactly at midnight, and they used luminous balls; but owing to the mist they could only keep the ball in view by sending caddies in advance, protected by umbrellas. I should be glad to know if this is actually a record performance:—

Two stout Yorkshire golfers, who lived for the game,
Were panting to win an unperishing fame;
Not content with three rounds till the late afternoon,
They yearned for a fourth by the light of the moon.

And this will explain how it once came about
That they "drove" in the new year, and "holed" the old out.
'Tis a fact, they'd so bad an attack of the "fever",
They vowed they'd go golfing for ever and ever.

The full moon its rays shed around in a flood,
As the champions bold on the "teeing ground" stood; They
"drove a long ball," this adventurous pair,
And the luminous globes, like twin stars, cleft the air.

But, alas! the damp grass raised a silvery haze,
Which soon hid the ball from the caddies' keen gaze;
So they started ahead, like two good-natured fellows, And
marched well in front, under gingham umbrellas.

Then, just as A carried the fifth hole in three,
The bells all rang out in a chorus of glee,
Which echoed, "I wish you a happy New Year."
B replied. "If I live, the next bunker I'll clear."

And, as they were nearing the finish at last,
The walls of a cottage they wearily passed,
When the terrified inmates awoke from their snore,
Starting up in their beds at the weird cry of "Fore!"

So they "drove," they "approached," till the "record they
broke,"
Ere a single old golfer on New Year's day woke.
For the first hole in eight, and the second in four,
I trow, were ne'er played out by moonlight before.

And when, at the eighteenth, both "lay dead,"
They "halved," and hied home, all exultant, to bed.

Moral - "Tee Ground," 1896.

From the "tee" every-man should drive straight, true and high,
If you "foozle," why, patiently seek "a good lie,"
And carefully strive to make up your lost way;
But whatever you do, *don't turn night into day.*

January 14th, 1896. A. H. S. BEAN.

The Red Jacket (Why does the President wear one?)

Shortly after the Golf Society of Australia was formed, Ken Shepherd and Nick Helen went to the football. Their discussions after the game centred around team colours (Melbourne and Hawthorn on this occasion). They reflected on the fact that once in the past all golfers were easily recognisable by their red jackets. At Nick's request Ken raised the idea of all GSA members wearing red jackets at GSA functions with the Committee. The idea of the red jacket was readily embraced but it was decided to limit the wearing of the red jacket to current and past Presidents of the Society.

In reviewing the material for this Newsletter, the following article dated 3rd February 1893 which appeared in the US Golf Collectors Society Bulletin in 1986 seemed to provide an excellent account of why golfers wore red jackets and of the ultimate demise of the practice. So, here is the article which appeared under the heading of "The Red Coat".

The Red Coat

The wearing of what the Conservators of Wimbledon Common have vaguely described, in their recent by-law for the regulation of Golf, as "an outer garment of red," has for a long time fallen into desuetude, especially in Scotland. To inquire the reason why, in the home of Golf itself, this recognised distinctive badge of the tribe of golfers should have been discarded would be to open up a wide field of investigation, affecting largely the habits and characteristics of the widespread class who now play Golf. One obvious cause for its disappearance, however, in the North may be indicated. The provision of a red coat meant the adding of a couple of pounds to the annual outlay on the player's favourite game. At one time in the history of the sport the wearing of "a club uniform" was obligatory on all members of Golf Clubs; but at that time the bulk of the players were the landed gentry, the advocates, the highly-placed Government officials, and the well-to-do professional classes. Balls in those days were five shillings apiece; travelling between Edinburgh and St. Andrews or Musselburgh was laborious and costly, and could only be undertaken by men with ample leisure. Then there was the dinner and the wine after the game was over, and if the losses on matches be added, it will be seen that the cost of a very ordinary day's outing came to £5 or £6. The game was one essentially under the dominion of the classes; so far the masses were mere outpost skirmishers. But when in 1848 that great revolution took place in Golf by the introduction of the gutta-percha ball, and the consequent cheapening of the sport, the barrier which had made Golf the almost exclusive appanage of wealth was cast down, and the democracy marched into the citadel, so to speak, with tuck of drum and banners flying. But though the basis

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of the fabric was broadened and strengthened, some of the venerated traditions surrounding the institution were cast aside and one of these was the disappearance of the red coat. Many of the in-coming players naturally argued that it cost money to buy a red coat, trimmed with buff or blue, and mounted with brass buttons, while the wearing of it did not add to the length of the drive nor to the certainty of holing out. Possibly "the missus" lodged a prior claim to the utilisation of the funds for a new Sunday gown to herself, or shoes and stockings for the children, and "the mister" was, perhaps, not proof against the gibing sarcasm of a female tongue with its edge set, nor at the prospect of being hectored and worried every time he sallied out to play a match in a red coat. So the golfer's red jacket has led a lean and precarious existence in the North; the well-worn and strangely assorted misfits of the wardrobe have been husbanded and utilised instead; and one of the oldest and most picturesque traditions of the game, extinguished by callous neglect in Scotland, is now being fostered and maintained by the rising band of young, energetic, and enthusiastic golfers south of the Tweed.

It has been pointed out more than once in the correspondence columns that not a red coat was to be seen among the competitors in the last Amateur Championship. Some correspondents have drawn from this fact the inference that the wearing of the red coat is now only the peculiar prerogative of the long handicap player—of the man who, so to say, began to play Golf only yesterday. But if this canon of hasty criticism is to be applied to "the exterior garment" of a player in order to allocate his class or fitness, then the scratch golfer, or the golfer who owes, is to be picked out from among the golfers of gay plumage by the superlative seediness of his appearance. This, of course, would never do, for the virtue lies not in the coat, but in the wielder of the clubs; and while there are many players to be met with wearing red coats who can give long odds to the player clothed in "remanets" and hardly to be distinguished in appearance from a professional, so the converse is equally true. All that can be said is that there is a good deal of conscious or unconscious "swagger" on both sides. The player with the red coat may trust more to outward magnificence for effect on the spectator than to real ability in handling the clubs, the other player, with reason to be proud of his play, may wish, and may seek, to emphasise a tacitly assumed distinction between two classes of players—may wish to lend the authority of personal approval to a currently accepted but erroneous, impression among a large class that the player with the red coat is a duffer. But let us see which of the two classes has authority on his side, which corresponds more nearly in upholding the former traditions of the game.

The golfing dress of the old Scottish golfer was a round blue Scottish bonnet, like a Tam O'Shanter, a red coat and knee breeches, with shoes and buckles. So much, at all events, the old portraits of celebrities in past days show us, especially the golfers belonging to the

Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. The wearing of the golfer's dress was rigorously exacted in those days by the imposition of pains and penalties, for we find that on November 16th, 1776, there is an entry in the above Company's minutes to this effect—"This day Lieut. James Dalrymple, of the 43rd Regiment, being convicted of playing five different times at Golf without his uniform, was fined only in six pints, having confessed the heinousness of his crime." But Lieut. Dalrymple was evidently of opinion that the crime was far from being expiated at the cost of six pints of claret, for the captain humorously adds a note, "At his own request he was fined of three pints more." Again, under date May 31st, 1788, it was decreed that "every member of the Society shall dine in his uniform at every public meeting of the club, and play in the uniform when they appear on the links." On the 3rd June, 1837, the medal was played for at Musselburgh, and "Mr. John Wood was fined 'two tappit hens' for appearing on the links without a red coat." The golfers at St. Andrews on 4th August, 1780, "took into consideration the question that their golfing jackets are in bad condition, and agreed to have new ones—red, with yellow buttons." In 1790 and 1793 the Bruntfield Links Golf Club "agreed to appoint a caddie to attend the captain 'clothed at the expense of the Society'"; and in 1824 Douglas McEwan, the son of the club-maker, "was appointed to carry the captain's clubs on the Saturdays." When Peter McEwan was appointed club-maker to the Society on 30th January, 1819, "a committee was appointed to see him provided with a proper coat and uniform suitable to the Society, and to which there would be attached a very handsome present of a badge voluntarily offered by Bailie Tullis." On the 12th June, 1790, the Edinburgh Burgess Golfing Society, which was instituted in 1735, passed a minute stating that in future the members of the society "shall wear an uniform as is universally done by other societies of golfers, and that the uniform be a scarlet jacket, black neck, and badge." The old Innerleven Club also declared that the uniform of the players should be "King Charlie's tartan" (they must have been lingering adherents of the Stuart cause!)- and members were not allowed to play for the medal or for any other prizes except in the uniform of the club. Resolutions were also passed declaring that members should dine in their club uniforms. Here then we have well authenticated evidence to show that the practice of wearing the red coat was widely established and pretty rigorously enforced. Even professionals of the old school wore red coats, and Allan Robertson's red jacket was as well known on St. Andrews Links as any of the familiar marks in the landscape. But a society of golfers had no more power to ensure the preservation of the red coat among golfers than the Legislature had power 500 years ago to ensure the sale of commodities at a fixed and invariable price for all time coming. The taste and inclination of the Scottish golfer have been opposed to the red coat, and hence it has fallen on evil days in the North. But no one can say that there was not wisdom as well as policy in the efforts of our

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golfing forefathers to press home the utility of the "outer garment of red." It was picturesque and distinctive; it was useful in order to secure the attention of the non-golfing public. The societies we have quoted played on the old Leith links, Musselburgh, Bruntsfield, and St. Andrews—places largely shared in for recreative purposes by the community as a whole. The red coat, therefore, marked out the players and the non-players, and the danger to the pedestrian was as far as possible eliminated from the chances of the game. Even the Conservators of Wimbledon Common have recognised this fact, and since the beginning of December all golfers at Wimbledon have been obliged to wear red jackets on pain of being prohibited by the Common rangers from playing altogether. What is the result? Players and the public alike see at a glance who is playing Golf; the danger of being struck by a ball is much less acute; and certainly the ever-circling army of redcoated players is a pleasing and exhilarating element in the surrounding landscape. On all sides, therefore though it may be tabooed by aspirants for Amateur Championship honours, there is much to be said for the universal adoption of the red coat, both in point of picturesqueness and comfort—considerations which are only heightened if one goes, for example, to the Braids on a summer Saturday afternoon, and watches the toiling, perspiring golfers arrayed in a hard billycock hat and a tight-fitting Sunday black coat.

Originally published 3rd February, 1893. Extracted from the Golf Collectors Society Bulletin No.87 1986

Ben Hogan's 1 iron

In June 1950, the man in the headlines was Ben Hogan, who was playing in his first U.S. Open since a near-fatal automobile accident 16 months earlier.

The Open was being played at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa., where Hogan had assumed a three-shot lead after 11 holes of the final round. Then Hogan began to falter, three-putting three holes, including the 15th from eight feet. The press said Hogan was physically exhausted because of his legs, injured in the accident and still causing him discomfort, but Hogan insisted his legs felt fine. Whatever the reason, Hogan went to the 18th hole needing a par 4 to join Lloyd Mangrum and George Fazio in a playoff the next day.

After his drive on 18, Hogan slammed a 1-iron—a magnificent shot he "smote with all he had," reported The New York Times the next day—and made his par.

It was that 1-iron shot on 18 that was the focal point of a picture taken by Life magazine photographer Hy Peskin.

It is perhaps the most famous golf photograph ever taken, showing Hogan on the 18th fairway, a picture-perfect follow-through complete, with spectators lining either side of the fairway, jammed every inch of the way to and around the green. A second after Peskin clicked his shutter, the crowd broke through the ropes, rushing to encircle the green and effectively blocking Hogan's view of the shot.

That also was the last stroke made with the 1 iron. Mysteriously, the club disappeared sometime between that shot on 18 and the time Hogan's clubs were put away for the night. It remained lost for some 33 years. When it resurfaced in 1983, it was delivered to Hogan, who verified its authenticity. Despite the absence of the 1-iron, Hogan fared well in the playoff. He shot a 69, defeating Mangrum by four strokes and Fazio by six to win the second of his four Open titles.

Hogan's long-lost 1-iron and Peskin's classic photograph are on display at the USGA Golf House in New Jersey.

Extracted from the Golf Collectors Society Bulletin No.87 1986

Acknowledgements

The Society is extremely grateful to the Golf Collectors' Society of USA who have kindly permitted us to use material from their "Bulletin". As members will be aware, we have already used material from that source.

We are delighted to report that we have recently heard from both The Golf Collectors of Great Britain and publishers of the Japan Golf Report who have both indicated their agreement to us using material from their publications.

We hope, in time, that the arrangement will become reciprocal as our own Newsletter becomes more established.

Of course, any material derived from any of these sources will be acknowledged.

Answers to Golf Trivia Quiz

1. Four, Carnoustie (1975), Turnberry (1977), Muirfield (1980), Troon (1982) - he also won at Royal Birkdale in 1983.
2. R. D. B. M. (Ronnie) Shade.
3. Jack Nicklaus, Cherry Hills, Denver, 1960
4. Lee Trevino, Oak Hill, 1968.
5. Laura Davies, 1987.
6. Yes.
7. Ben Crenshaw.
8. None was from U.S.A.
9. Peter Fowler, Wayne Grady.
10. Byron Nelson, 1944