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The Official Newsletter of the Golf Society of Australia

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Colonel golf ball tin made for rubber core balls
 manufactured by St Mungo Manufacturing Company
 in Glasgow c 1915



Joe KirkwoodÖ... Enigmatic Australian Professional

ONE Sunday afternoon in 1921, at Pinehurst, New Jersey, USA, a large crowd watched a lean, young Australian professional golfer performing some amazing golf shots. They had heard that he was pretty good at trick shots, and had asked him to put on an impromptu show.

He made the ball fly low and straight; hooked and sliced it; played a full shot off a watch; played left-handed strokes with right-handed clubs; hit a full shot that rose straight in the air for him to catch as it came down; and hit six balls in rapid succession without looking at them. No one had ever seen such an exhibition before.

In the middle of the show, an official rose and said,

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In the middle of the show, an official rose and said, 'Pardon me, ladies and gentlemen, but this young man has come a long way to entertain you, and it's up to us to show our appreciation.' Two girls were sent round with the hat while the exhibition continued and, at the end of it, the contents were handed over to the Australian—the total was US\$775. He had never seen so much money in his

(Continued on page 2)

The President's Annual Report presented at the Annual General Meeting

This year I am pleased to report a number of significant initiatives taken to enhance the image of the Society

Review of our constitution.

Establishment of our own web page.

Bringing together of golf club historians.

Preparation of a museum brochure.

Additionally, various other activities meant that 2004 was a busy year.

Constitution Review

The constitution review has been carried out during the year. This was approved by members voting at the AGM. Thanks go to Jean Gilbert and her committee, Roy Paterson and Barry Donaldson who have worked diligently to bring the constitution up to date including several significant changes.

Web Page

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Historians Committee

A Historians Committee formed to assist Clubs in understanding the value of their historical records and memorabilia and with a view to having uniformity of programs and an easily accessible data base.

An invitation is being extended to Country District Clubs to participate in future meetings. Members are welcome to attend these meetings, Ian Rennick is the Chair of the Committee, my thanks to Ian for his enthusiasm and organisation of this initiative.

Centenary Australian Open

The Society joined with the Golf Collectors Society to present an exhibition of championship history and

Some Quotes and stories of Joe Kirkwood

Comment on the 1921 British Open

On the final day he had a brilliant 70 in the morning, and in the afternoon was leading in the last round and seemed to have the Championship won, when it happened. 'During a shot,' said Joe, 'I was right at the top of my swing, when an officious official shouted "Fore". I badly mishit the shot, and the ball hit a man on the head. He was carried into the clubhouse unconscious, and I thought that I might have killed him. My concentration was gone, and I took a seven for that hole and a six for the next. That was it—the difference between winning and losing. I finished sixth.'

The Open was won by Jock Hutchison of Chicago, after a tie with Roger Wethered.

Once, in Glasgow, I gave an exhibition to a large crowd, and at the finish we asked them to throw a coin donation on the green. The Scots are reputed to be mean, but that day they covered the whole green with coins—I've never seen it done before or since—and most of the coins were silver. We took over £140 off the green.

Ben Hogan is undoubtedly the greatest player that ever lived. There is no question of doubt about that. Many people believe that Bobby Jones was, but I've played with Jones many times, and he mishit a lot of shots. Jones was brilliant, certainly, and the best bunker player of all time, but he did not have a great golf swing. Hogan did, and Hogan rarely mishit a shot. Hogan had about every thing, except physique, he's only a little fellow, yet he hits the ball as far as anyone. Walter Hagen was the greatest golfer for the longest period—he dominated golf for 25 years, and will go down as an outstanding player. Hagen had much more ability than Jones, and a very sound golf swing.

I had seven clubs in those days—not 70,' he said. 'They were two woods, four irons, and a putter, and that's enough for any man. The game was more interesting then, I think, and you had to play a greater variety of shots than now with all the different types of clubs. I think that in this way the game has lost some of its glamour.

To be a competition player you have to confine yourself to one method—you have to groove your swing. I have so many ways of hitting the golf ball, that it is pretty hard for me to confine myself to one.'

Kirkwood would hand a little card to his friends, on which was printed:

*Tell your story of hard luck shots,
Of each shot straight and true,
But when you are done, remember, son,
Nobody cares but you.*

Joe Kirkwood

(Continued from page 1)

life—in Australia he had been given £5 for a tournament win, and here were hundreds of pounds for an hour's demonstration of trick shots, a pastime that he had never taken seriously!

In that moment he decided to make trick shots his career, and up to the 1950s he had earned (and spent) over \$1 million—his name, of course, was Joe Kirkwood, the greatest trick golfer that ever lived. But the \$775 was not the only windfall that day. Watching the demonstration was Walter Hagen, the greatest professional golfer of his day, and he, too, had been impressed by Kirkwood's amazing ability. He asked Kirkwood to have dinner with him that night, and so began a golf partnership that was to last twenty years, take them all over the world, and make fortunes for them both.

Born at Canterbury in Sydney on March 22, 1897 of a Scottish father, Kirkwood was eight years old when he fashioned a golf club out of a gum sapling and hit balls about the Manly course while minding the sheep and goats that were used to keep the fairways in trim. Six holes were in use in 1903. He won his first tournament at Manly in 1911, shooting an 89 with one club—a putter! Later, as a young caddie at Manly his talent was recognized by Dan Soutar while he was professional from 1911 to 1921. Soutar

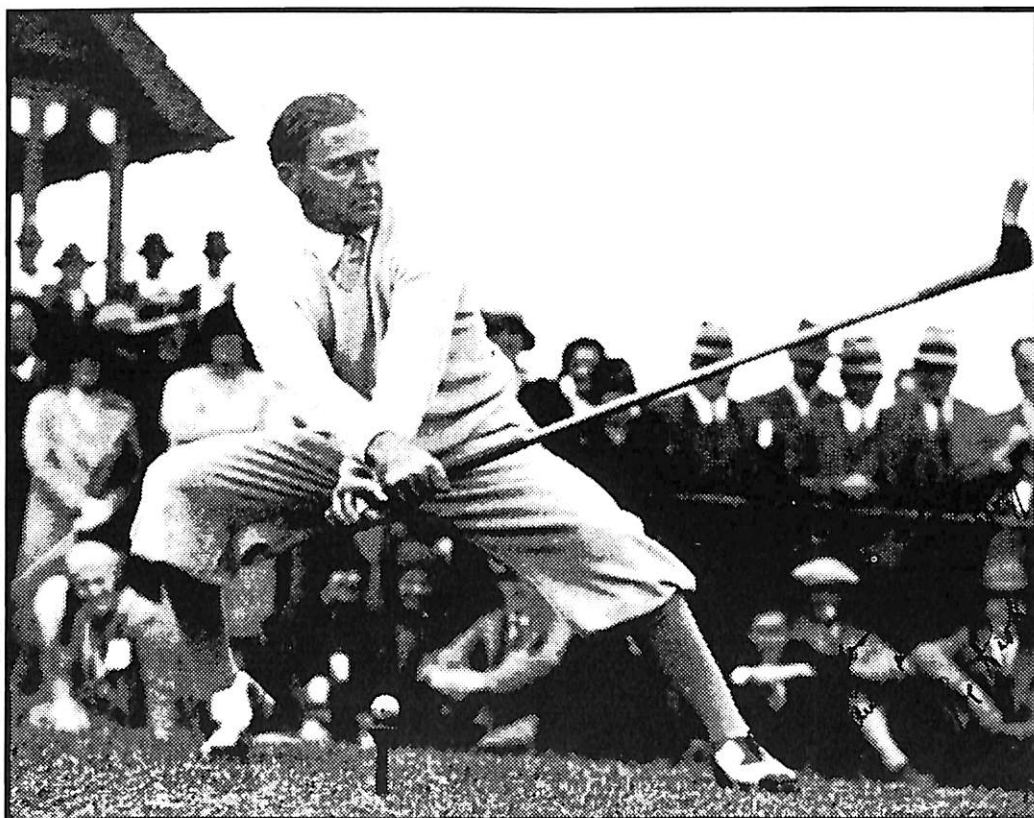
took Kirkwood on as his assistant for five years. He became an assistant professional there when only thirteen. (Soutar later, in one of his letters appears to have become disenchanted with Kirkwood's professional role in Melbourne. To paraphrase Soutar "Arthur East, Joe Kirkwood and Arthur LeFevre are trying to "run things" over here and are anything but popular" (Soutar 4/11/1919))

At 18 Kirkwood took a club job at Yeerongpilly in Brisbane and a year later became professional at Melbourne's Riversdale Club. In 1919 he shot course records of 66 at Metropolitan, 65 at Riversdale, 69 at Royal Sydney and 70 at Royal Melbourne, causing his admirers to hail him as a world-beater. Kirkwood had only seven clubs in his bag when he won the 1920 Australian Open at The Australian Golf Club with a score of 290, carving 12 strokes off the previous record. That same year he won the New Zealand Open.

Joe Kirkwood then travelled to USA in 1920 and toured America with Victor East returning November 1921 with stories of mixed success. However later in 1921 Kirkwood again headed overseas first playing in and coming sixth in the British Open. He then set up a permanent base in America. Although he won the Opens of California, Texas, Florida, Illinois and Georgia in 1923, the Canadian Open in 1931 and the North and South Open at Pinehurst the same year, as noted above, he was disenchanted with the small purses being offered and turned his skills at hitting trick-shots into a new career.

Touring with Hagen

On the playing side, the thirties in Australian golf opened dynamically when the illustrious American golfer Walter



Hagen visited here for a series of exhibition matches with his travelling partner, our own Joe Kirkwood.

Hagen was a remarkable character. *The Masters Of Golf* says he swung the driver and the swizzle stick with equal flair and flamboyance. Frequently both led him astray. Yet no golfer in history could recover so successfully, so quickly, as Hagen — whether from an errant tee shot or a hangover. Stories of his drinking are legendary. Following his loss to Leo Diegel in the semi-finals of the 1928 US PGA championship — which he'd won consecutively since 1924 — Hagen informed tournament officials that he could not return the Wanamaker Trophy because he'd left it in a taxi back in 1925! (The trophy, still wrapped in a package bearing Hagen's name, was found in the backroom of a Detroit sporting goods store in 1930).

The large Australian galleries which watched Hagen on that 1930 tour were entranced by his shot-making and effective, if unusual, style. He had a remarkably wide stance, which

(Continued from page 2)

stemmed from his baseball-playing days, and also a tendency to sway sideways as he swung, yet he did almost all his forward swaying *after* impact.

The crowds also loved seeing Kirkwood again. Kirkwood could tee up two balls and, with a seven-iron, hit them simultaneously and cause them to cross in mid-flight, one hooking and the other slicing. He could play left-handed with right-handed clubs. He could pound a ball into the ground so that only the top was visible and then crack it over 200 metres with a four-wood. He would also hit balls with all manner of odd clubs, including a driver with a piece of hose pipe for a shaft.

Kirkwood also claimed 29 holes-in-one, once while being filmed by newsreel cameras on the fifth at Sea Island, Georgia, and another occasion when hitting off the face a gold pocket watch borrowed from a member of the gallery. He was also the first professional to use the wooden tee peg as we know it today. During his globe-trekking he played golf with kings, queens, dukes, counts, emperors and presidents and other nobility of many lands. His son Joe Kirkwood Jr. won movie fame in the role of the boxer Joe Palooka and he also had twins sons nicknamed Pitch and Putt.

During that first tour by Hagen and Kirkwood, Killara's club pro Walter Clark and its most prominent amateur, I. K. Harrison, caused something of an upset in one match by defeating Kirkwood and the Australian Open champion Ivo Whitton one up. Where was Hagen? He was unable to partner Kirkwood because of what was reported in *The Daily Guardian* at the time as a "burnt thumb" (nobody's quite sure what that meant, or what had caused it). He joined the gallery, which started at 200 people and later grew to about 500. Through Kirkwood's generosity, the entire proceeds of the gate at five shillings a head went to the Royal North Shore Hospital, which may have just been where Hagen's injury was treated.

Hagen toured again with Kirkwood in 1937 giving exhibitions and they proved no less popular than they were on their first visit.

In between time, so successful had the 1930 tour been with Hagen and Kirkwood, that the much-travelled Kirkwood returned in 1934 with Gene Sarazen as his partner.

Touring with Sarazen

Again the crowds turned out in their many thousands to see the exhibitions, for Sarazen was another remarkable American golfer, if only slightly less colourful

than Hagen.

On that 1934 tour, besides giving exhibitions around Australia with Kirkwood, Sarazen also played in the Australian Open at Royal Sydney. The locals gained great satisfaction when Bill Bolger defeated him with a total of 283, then considered a world record.

The stocky American had been told by Kirkwood that our Open would be a pushover for him. Trailing by three shots after three rounds, Sarazen had a substantial lunch and a second glass of beer, which he wouldn't normally do. He promptly dropped four shots in the first three holes of the

afternoon's final round and failed by three shots to catch Bolger. But he vowed to return one day to win our Open (which he did two years later).

Bill Edgar's recollection of a Fourball with Hagen and Kirkwood

On 27 March 1937, Walter Hagen and Joe Kirkwood began their Victorian tour with an exhibition match at Commonwealth against Bill Edgar and Mick Ryan.

Journalist 'E. R.' described the match:

"Hagen was by much the outstanding player of the four. Without fireworks, in a fairly high wind, he was round in approximately 73, two strokes over the course record.

Without Kirkwood's assistance, he would have been square with the better ball of Edgar and Ryan, who scored 78 and 80 respectively. It was somewhat of an anomaly that Joe Kirkwood gave a demonstration of control and trick shots after the match. In the match, his shots were mostly uncontrolled, so much so that, after reaching the first green (270 yards) from the tee and getting a winning birdie three, he was not on a fairway until the 10th where, he put his second into the rough.

However, he proved that aggravating factor to his opponents - the man who suddenly comes to light in unexpected places. At the 5th, playing his second over a tree, he was 6 foot off for a winning birdie three. At the 13th, he did the same for a half in birdie fours, Edgar sinking a long putt.

Though Kirkwood was in every bit of trouble about the place and could not have scored better than an 82, his happy attitude to his vicissitudes was an example that at least one of our leading professionals might take to heart.

Hagen had two bad shots, both topped. Otherwise, he was far up the middle at every hole and his control in



Joe Kirkwood with Bobby Jones travelling to the British Open in 1927. Jones won in 1926-27 and 1930

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(b) By Cable Train in Elizabeth Street to Brunswick terminus—then Electric train to Gaithey Street. Total fare 4/6.

(c) By Electric Train—From Melbourne Hospital to Coburg Cemetery terminus. Fare, 6/6.

(NOTE—Routes (a) and (b) are recommended except for players walking along route (c).)

KIRKWOOD BOOKLET

All Golfers should possess the Kirkwood Golf Links Booklet. It is illustrated throughout by Thacker. There is a laugh in every page.

SEND TO-DAY!

The Manager, Kirkwood Golf Links. Please forward me a Free Copy of the Kirkwood Booklet. My full address is:

Mr. Mrs. Miss.....

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ENQUIRIES ARE INVITED BY LETTER OR PERSONAL INTERVIEW.

Please address all letters—

The Manager, Kirkwood Golf Links,

De Gault House, Capital House,

100 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Phone, Central 12217 (three lines).

G. H. WATKINS, Manager.

it possible that a man with such calibre and with so much grip on the golf game could play like that. He was in trouble all over the place and I'll never forget Walter Hagen saying to him "What about trying some of your trick shots, Joe?" and Joe said "Well, I wish I could, Walter"

Golf Course Designer ??

One of the enigmatic facts about Joe Kirkwood, at least for me, is his involvement in the development of a golf course in Brunswick, Melbourne. A copy of the advertisement inviting applications appears on this page. How did he come to be involved or did he simply lend his name to a development project? How successful was the venture? What ultimately happened to the course and club? Nowhere in the material gathered for this article is there any mention of his involvement in this project.

Finally

Given the energy and skill of Kirkwood and his golfing record there is a degree of pathos in the meager reference to him in an internet listing of well known Australian Professional Golfers. It appears as a two line summary as follows—

Kirkwood, Joe H born Sydney 1897, died USA 1970, pro Riversdale GC

Below

Professionals in the 1920 Australian Open at the Australian Golf Club.

Back row (from left) Rufus Stewart, J Victor East, Carnegie Clark, Jim Scott, Fred Popplewell and Peter Merrilies. Middle row.. Reg Clark, Charlie Campbell, Allen Maiden, Arthur East and Tom Daniels.

Front Row ..Arthur Le Fevre, Joe Kirkwood, Rowley Banks, Walter Clark, Vic James and Reg Jupp

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the wind was perfect. He is a stylist, which Kirkwood now is not.

Edgar played the better golf on the amateur side and if he had about 6 inches more on some four putts, he could have made a difference to the result. The visitors were four up at the turn, having won the first two holes with birdies. The audience numbered about 300."

Edgar also confirmed on that day Kirkwood's golf could only be described as very erratic. "He was everywhere and you just couldn't believe



A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

BY T. G. JARRETT

Golf Illustrated April 1965

LAURIE AUCHTERLONIE, the St. Andrews golf club maker, who has succeeded his father, the late Willie Auchterlonie as honorary professional to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, has many of his father's great qualities.

One is tempted to refer to him as being "out of the same mould." but that would be an inept description. It would be more correct to say that he was a chip off the old block." The day after Willie won his Open Championship in 1893, he was back at his St. Andrews bench making golf clubs. He never cashed in on his Open win.

Willie was always more interested in making clubs than in winning tournaments. He was proud of his title, but that pride was nothing to the joy of creating a golf club perfect in its technical detail and in the beauty of its form. Laurie has inherited Willie's technical skill and his love of the craft. He works in wood, not just because it provides a living, but for the sheer joy of it.

On an unobtrusive shelf in his workshop are two putters which will probably never be used in a serious game. One is made from rosewood the other from lignum. Both are extremely hard woods, very brittle and requiring extreme care in handling. Commercially, they are unsuited for club-making: few craftsmen have the sensitivity of touch to avoid the cracking of the wood. But Laurie made the putters just to prove to himself that he could do it.

He works alone at his bench. He has no machinery save a small hand power-drill which is used to bore holes for fixing the steel shafts to the wooden heads. His tools are a vice, a rasp and a file. With these he gives character and beauty to a shapeless block of wood.

A few years ago a golfing friend presented Laurie with an apple tree from his orchard at Dairsie, a few miles from St. Andrews. That tree now provides the wood for the famous Auchterlonie putters which are in such great demand in the United States. Indeed through Laurie Auchterlonie, the old apple tree is giv-

ing as much pleasure in its death as it gave during its lifetime.

To him a golf club is more than an implement for adding yards to the drive or cutting strokes from the handicap: it is both of these combined with the beauty of sleek, graceful lines and rounded curves. The fascination of golf clubs holds Laurie even when he is away from his bench. The study of golf clubs is his absorbing hobby.

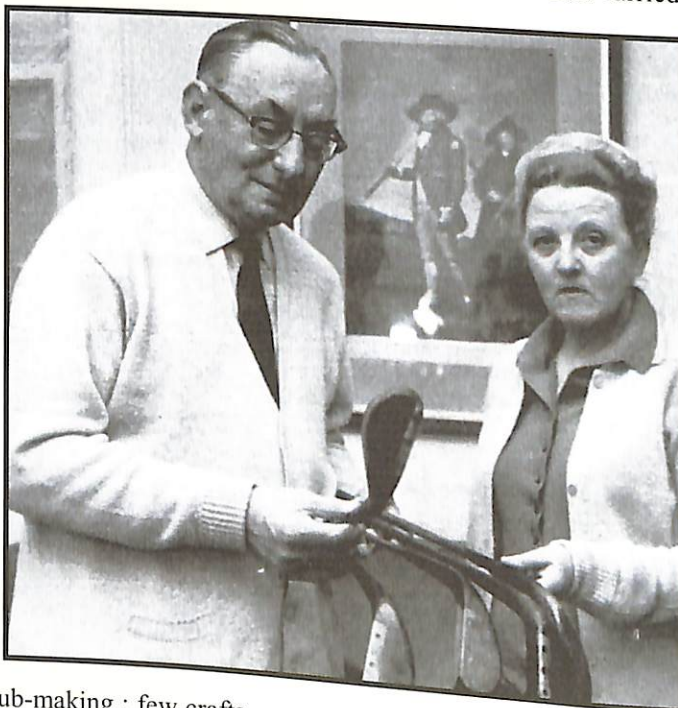
A dusty old hickory-shafted club is a storehouse of information to him. His huge powerful hands will caress a golf club-head with the gentleness of a mother stroking child, and he will tell from its shape where it was made, and by whom it was made, even to the extent of distinguishing between the work of brothers and of fathers and sons. Everything about a golf club tells a story to Laurie Auchterlonie: the type of varnish used, the manner of inserting the lead and the horn all tell him how, where, and when a club originated.

His enthusiasm for the history of golf is shared by his wife Bea. She has carried out the secretarial work and maintained the inventory of at least one important golf museum. Laurie and Bea have both given their knowledge freely to authorities on both sides of Atlantic for the purpose of establishing museums or expanding their scope.

Laurie is now turned 60. He is broad shouldered and powerfully built and in this respect only does he differ from his sparsely built father. But he has that shyness and effacing modesty which endeared his father to generations of golfers in all walks of life.

He plays golf regularly.

Even in the bleakest winter he will be seen playing a random stroke as he exercises the dog. But, like his father Laurie was never interested in winning tournaments, although he was a scratch golfer the age of 18. Golf to him is fresh air and exercise; an excuse for using golf clubs; and it provides him with the proof that the beauty which he fashions at his bench is lasting and durable ☺



Sighting the Putt

Mad Mac was a Scottish caddie whose wardrobe consisted almost exclusively of a long, woolen overcoat which he wore regardless of the weather. He also favoured a pair of binoculars without lenses, through which he'd study the line of a putt before announcing (typically) that it was "slightly straight." ☺

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The Society joined with the Golf Collectors Society to present an exhibition of championship history and memorabilia. Also on display will be old clubs, balls, brochures and copies of The Long Game.. Daryl Cox and Ross Baker are assisting with Ross making a replica old putter during the course of the event.

Museums

Moonah Links and South Melbourne Museums are being maintained and a new brochure explaining the Societies activities and involvement with the AGU Museum is complete and will be available for use at Moonah, South Melbourne and the Australia Open display. My thanks to Moira Drew for her work.

The Long Game

The Long Game is now being published regularly with excellent content and member's news. Copies are sent to each Metropolitan Club and Country Districts for information. Roy Paterson and his committee, John Lindsay and Mike Clayton are to be congratulated for the production of this magazine.

History Committee

The History subcommittee is working diligently to collect and coordinate the many items of known history in Australia. The golf course on Flagstaff Hill is of particular interest. Daryl Cox and his committee Ian Rennick, Hedley Ham and Ross Baker are very enthusiastically carrying out their research.

Members Dinners

Member's dinners have again proved very successful and have been well attended, with several outstanding guest speakers. The dinners will continue in 2005. A younger persons' dinner at Royal Melbourne proved a



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- 1 Keith Wood presenting John Scrivener with the Doug Bachli trophy and medal for a winning score of 38 points.
- 2 Denise Dawson, Mary Allen, and Ruth Summerfield at the AGM
- 3 Bernice Davies winner of the Ladies Medal in the Doug Bachli Trophy
- 4 and 5 New Committee members Lindsay Gitsham and Janet Hibbins

On a hot summer's afternoon back in 1898 Mr. Coburn Haskell, a retired business man, strolled into the office of a friend, Mr. Bertram G. Work, at that time superintendent for the B. F. Goodrich Tire (sic) and Rubber Company and in due course began to unburden his mind of the woes incidental to a fit of shanking his mashie shots, which was gripping him at the time.

"Well, if you ask me," answered Mr. Work, as his visitor reached a temporary pause in his sad recital, "I think it all probably serves you right, wasting so much time on the silly business of knocking a little ball around the fields. Why don't you turn your hand to something worthwhile. Get out and make two blades of grass grow, where formerly but one grew, for instance?"

"Not interested in grass, except that which grows on fairways and putting greens, and there are lots better green keepers than I am. Anyhow, there's more to golf than you may think. It's a great game."

"All right then, go ahead and do something to make it an even better game. Invent a new ball or design a new stick or something of the kind."

Now here was an idea. For a minute or so Haskell sat silent, and then —

"If a good rubber ball could be developed - a solid one - why I believe it would mean a big improvement in the game."

"Solid rubber won't do," interrupted his companion, "too soft; it would take too much compression in the hitting."

"Then how about compressing the rubber in the manufacture?"

"No, that won't do either."

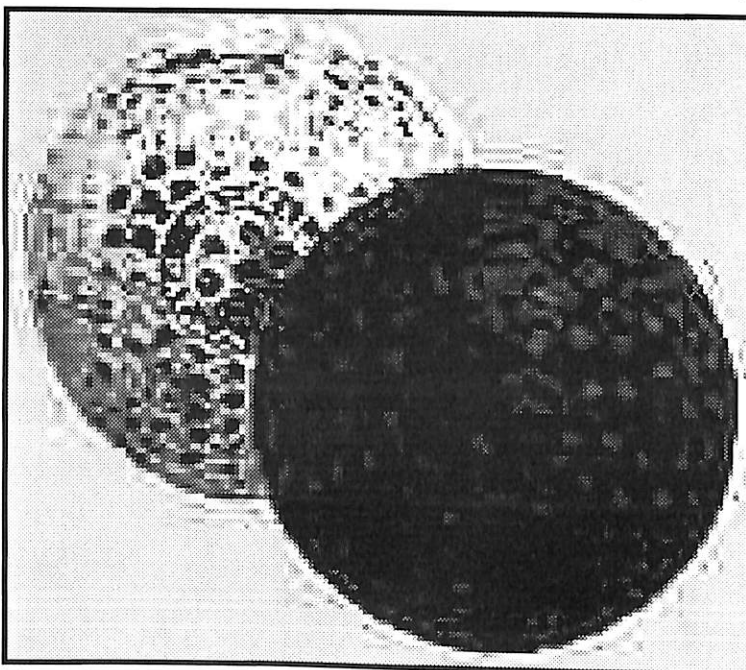
Again Haskell paused in silence for a minute or more, then, "Well, what of this idea - suppose you cut the rubber in strips and stretched these and wound them into a ball; you could then get the ball as hard or soft as you can chose, couldn't you?"

"Now, you have said something," answered Mr. Work. He sent out and had a supply of rubber yarn brought in and invited Mr. Haskell to go to work on the first rubber golf ball ever attempted.

"It was an amusing sight," explains Mr. Work now as he recalls those experiences. "The day was hot and before

Haskell really got started on his task he was perspiring from every pore. You who have never tried the experiment can't fully appreciate the difficulty of trying to wind this ball of rubber yarn, keeping the strand pretty well stretched while it is being wound. I don't know how many times it happened that Haskell got the thing going and brought it up to about the size of a marble only to have it slip from his grasp and quite unroll itself on the floor. Haskell would do a little "cussing" and start all over again.

"Finally in the dusk of the evening, with a beam of triumph, he presented to me a ball about the size of a walnut, fairly round and with the strands quite tense. It felt firm and solid, but of course the need for a covering of some kind was obvious. Otherwise the first slight cut would start the thing ravelling and in less time than it takes to tell it, there would be no ball left."



The story of the development of a satisfactory covering is many parts of an epic of itself, and the early experimenting on this end of the job fell to Mr. Work. He began casting around for a practical idea as to the correct substance to form the cover and eventually chose gutta percha. At the present time coverings are made of balata. Also Mr. Work evolved a plan for heating a slab of gutta percha, molding it into shape and pressing it onto the ball.

This operation is considerably simpler in the telling than it was in the doing, but it was eventually completed. The ball was then painted, and Mr. Haskell hied himself to his golf club with it. He summoned Joe Mitchell, the club professional, went to the first tee, teed it up and asked Joe to hit it. The mold in which the cover had been pressed on was the same as that used for making "guttie" balls, and the new ball looked quite the same as the others.

Mitchell, little suspecting the part he was playing in the history of the mechanics of the game, took his stance and swung. At a considerable distance out from the tee a cross bunker extended the full width of the fairway. It was placed there to catch a topped second, and only the most prodigious drive with the old "guttie" would cause the ball to reach it even on the roll. The idea that one could actually hit a ball over it on the carry was more than preposterous. But right over the middle of this bunker sped the

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(Continued from page 5)

ball on Mitchell's drive. It landed on the fairway yards beyond the further limit of the bunker. Mitchell watched the flight and fall of the ball with open-mouthed wonder. When he saw it strike the turf well beyond the bunker, he began a kind of dance and set up a yell of surprise. Had he actually carried the bunker or was he seeing things? *It he* had carried the hunker, then what in the world was in that ball to make it travel so far? Then Mr. Haskell let him in on the secret of what made that mighty drive possible.

That's the way it started - this rubber-cored ball, which really revolutionized the game of golf. Mr. Haskell and Mr. Work, who incidentally has climbed to the position of president of his company, were the co-inventors, and it was decided to call it the Haskell ball. There still remain several chapters of the long story of development from that day on down to the present, in the course of which many improvements and refinements have been made from time to time. Four years later, that is in 1902, Sandy Herd won the British Open Championship, thus becoming the first player ever to win a big national title while playing the rubber-cored ball. Since then, few, if any titles in golf have been won with anything else.

Haskell formed a company called the Haskell Golf Ball Company and sold the balls under license. One of the first companies in Britain to do so was Spaldings. After Sandy Herd won the 1902 British Open Championship using the then new Haskell ball, its popularity increased. As with all new inventions, however, it took time to win full acceptance. As late as 1914, J.H. Taylor, James Braid, Harry Vardon and George Duncan played a four-ball match pitting the gutty ball against the new rubber-core ball. The new ball proved supreme in terms of both durability and length, and the gutty ball fell into disuse.

Although improvements have continued to be made to the golf ball, very little has changed since the bramble and dimple pattern was added at the beginning of this century. At one point liquid was introduced into the centre of the ball, a form of design which remained in use until around the mid 1960s, when one-piece rubber balls were introduced.

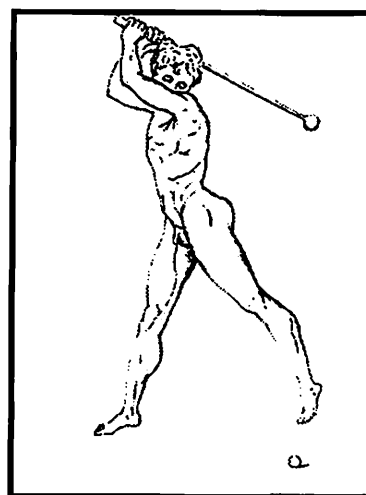
Until the early 1920s there was no standard weight for golf balls. However, most were either 1.62 ounces in weight and 1.62 inches in diameter (the small ball, or British size), or 1.68 ounces in weight and 1.68 inches in diameter (the large ball, or American size). Eventually the Royal and Ancient Golf Club agreed that the larger ball should be mandatory as from the Open Championship of 1974.

The editor acknowledges the source of this article as "Beyond the Links" by Sarah Fabian Baddiel ●

A RAPHAEL (1483-1520) AT GOLF

In the museum at Venice there is a drawing, of which the accompanying print is a reproduction. Apart from its artistic merits, which could not fail to be great, there are points of interest about this drawing. In all essentials, the swing is evidently the golfing swing. It does not matter by which name the game was called. It may have been the Italian equivalent of Golf, or it may have been *jeu de mail*. By the bye, in this *jeu de mail*, according to the old French book of rules, they played with a wooden ball through the green, as one may say, but when it came to the putting, they might change the wooden ball for a steel one; which, as they seem to have thought, putted better. They putted at a thing which was virtually a croquet hoop - not at a hole in the ground.

It is not very obvious what the exact shape of the head of



the club may be with which Raphael's man (who seems, by the way, to have just stepped out of a Turkish bath) is playing. Probably it is a hammer-headed kind of thing, such as they used for playing *jeu de mail*.

The most interesting point to note is the correctness, judged by the modern golfing standard, of the swing. The most noticeable point

of difference is the height to which the hands are raised above the shoulder. There is no fear of this golfer breaking his club on his right shoulder-blade; he has none of that vice of swinging the club round the shoulder, instead of over and above it. Rather we should say that his club had been brought up "ower straight," as the golfing professor's phrase it, and that he would consequently bring it down "ower straight" also, and very likely slice the ball. But then we must always remember that neither this man nor Raphael, his maker, had had the inestimable advantage of reading the Badminton book on Golf, nor any other of the kindred works which teach the grammar of the noble game.

For the rest, however, Old Tom Morris would pass this Raphael-esque man sound enough. That turning on the left toe, with the heel well off the ground, is as perfect as it could be.

This is all as it should be, and we may congratulate Raphael and his man. And even if his hands be thrown somewhat away above his shoulder, in a manner which does not suggest the best execution, may not this after all be attributable, perhaps, to the greater freedom of swing which must accompany such total freedom from garments. This, perhaps, is how we all do it in those practice swings, which we take when we get out of our morning tubs.

We shall not go far amiss, in our golfing aims, if we strive to realise, in our swings, this ideal of the great designer.

H.G. Hutchinson, Golf, 1893 ●

MUSEUM COLLECTION PROGRESS REPORT -

- **Museum storage**

The Museum store and working room is now in working order and the database fully operational on the computer terminal.

- **Display at Moonah Links**

Displays at Moonah have been cleaned, the shelves dusted and some minor changes and additions made. An updated list of items located there has been provided to the AGU for insurance and monitoring purposes.

- **Museum Brochure**

A brochure has been prepared to promote the Museum collection generally to be available for use at the Australian Open. ☺

Golf Club Historians working group

Ian Rennick as chairman convened the 2nd meeting on 4th October at Kew Golf Club.

The meeting was advised that the Golf Society website "golfsocietyaust.com" is established and will incorporate a page to include links to participating Victorian Clubs when information is provided by interested clubs.

An interim report shows that one in three clubs in Victorian have published a history, one in five have an active history committee, and half the clubs have some historical items on display. A detailed report will be available at the next meeting.

The museum database software package "Mosaic", was now available from the Golf Society at a volume discount price. Mr. Roy Paterson provided a paper giving details of the Mosaic database software. This was handed out.

It was agreed that clubs should use common categories for uniformity so as to provide ease of transferring information between clubs. A sub committee was formed headed by Ms Moira Drew.

It was reported that the Geelong Golf Club course had been closed but the club house was still open. The owners of the land hoped that a nine hole course would be opened in the future. All minute books and documents have been catalogued and packed in boxes for storage.

John Brice spoke to the meeting of his experiences at Yarra Yarra Golf Club in obtaining information and storing it to record the Club's history. John has prepared a paper "The Role of The Historical Sub Committee" which is available to anyone interested. ☺

Search for Past Results Interstate Teams Matches

In order to commemorate the centenary of the **Interstate Teams Matches**, the Australian Golf Union is currently in the process of compiling all results from every staging of the event since its inception in 1904.

If anyone is able to provide results from any of the following years it would expedite this process.

1905, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913

1920, 1922, 1923, 1925

1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1966 1971, 1972.

Ephemera would also be welcome.

Any assistance provided would be very gratefully received— copies of results should be mailed to Simon Magdulski at the Australian Golf Union (153-155 Cecil Street, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205— phone (03) 9626 5023).

Simon may also be contacted on his email address simonm@agu.org.au. ☺

The Editor

An Old Friend L.A Monkhouse Golf 1897

Years ago I bought
this driver
Which you hold now in
your hand.
Dear it seemed at seven
shillings;
Golf I did not understand.

Time, alas! has spoilt the
varnish,
Cracked the head in
pieces twice,
Worn away the maker's
trade-mark;
On the shaft there is a
splice.

Yet was ever club so sup-
ple?
Give it just one gentle
swing,
Whiz !! the ball went
swiftly flying,
Clearing walls and every-
thing.

True, its working days are over,
But it hangs still on the wall -
Souv'nir sweet of days long vanished,
Gone forsooth beyond recall. ☺



Program for 2005

The calendar of events for 2005 will be mailed to members of the Society with the 2005 handbook, early in the new year.

Members are encouraged to immediately transfer the various dates of dinners, golf events and other activities to their personal diary.

Thus, the Secretary Ann Reynolds will then know that members are aware of forthcoming activities through the year

Acknowledgements

The Golf Society of Australia wishes to acknowledge the use of material in this publication.

The Society is grateful to The R & A, The Golf Collectors' Society of USA, Golf Online's Web Site, Golf Magazine, Golf Digest, Golf Collectors Society of Britain, and others whose material has been used. This use has been acknowledged at the end of each article.

The Society also acknowledges the use of material from various websites.

The material in this newsletter is copyright

Summer Puzzle

C	N	S	R	B	W	S	S	I	T	I	E	R	O	C	S	N	M
L	T	O	T	E	T	H	W	R	E	K	N	U	B	H	S	A	S
A	G	D	D	A	S	M	D	I	I	U	E	T	S	U	A	R	A
E	V	G	O	N	N	F	S	Y	N	E	H	T	K	S	T	W	R
U	E	E	B	U	L	C	F	L	O	G	Y	L	N	A	M	O	T
D	H	R	R	A	G	D	E	L	L	I	B	A	I	E	U	E	T
O	O	N	G	P	N	B	U	L	R	F	O	O	L	G	L	L	U
O	P	L	E	A	H	P	A	R	E	O	H	Y	H	A	C	N	P
W	D	D	E	G	H	C	V	C	T	H	A	Z	A	R	D	O	Y
K	E	U	F	O	A	S	B	I	H	M	N	D	N	D	E	E	A
R	I	T	L	P	S	H	O	Y	C	L	D	O	O	Y	I	Q	W
I	D	E	A	N	E	E	R	G	U	Y	I	A	O	S	H	A	R
K	D	T	T	O	C	S	L	E	A	H	C	I	M	T	A	W	I
E	A	G	L	E	I	T	R	R	T	A	A	E	S	H	Z	R	A
O	C	E	H	R	L	R	W	U	O	L	P	T	M	S	A	I	F
J	E	T	N	S	S	O	O	E	O	S	A	N	D	T	R	A	P
B	I	R	D	I	E	K	A	N	L	C	N	W	O	P	R	F	N
Y	A	I	H	L	S	E	N	E	D	R	I	V	E	R	T	U	P

AUCHTERLONIE
BILL EDGAR
BIRDIE
BUNKER
CADDIE
COURSE
DOUG BACHLI
DRIVER
EAGLE
FAIRWAY
FLAG

GREEN
HANDICAP
HAZARD
HOLE
IRON
JOE KIRKWOOD
LEO WRAY
MANLY GOLF CLUB
MICHAEL SCOTT
MOONAH LINKS
PUTT

RAPHAEL
ROUGH
SAND TRAP
SCORE
SLICE
STANCE
STROKE
SWING
WALTER HAGEN
WEDGE

Find the words in the word maze above.

The solution can be viewed on the Society website at

[Http://golfsocietyaust.com/puzzle.htm](http://golfsocietyaust.com/puzzle.htm)

Errata : The crossword in the last edition stated that Marion Hollins was involved in the design of Pebble Beach. This was an error. The Editor regrets any concerns he may have caused to earnest historians.



A Prosperous Christmas and a happy, healthy 2005 to all members and readers

Summary Financial Statement

Year ended 30th June 2004

Cash on hand and in bank 1st July 2003 \$21,059

Fees and other income \$10,863

Net revenue on Functions \$116

Total \$10,979

Less

Various Payments including cataloguing expenses (\$2,840), purchase of Society jumpers (\$1,145), Handbook and Newsletters (\$2,299)

\$8,650

Net surplus \$2,329

Cash on Hand and in Bank 30th June 2004 \$23,388

The Picture Gallery



Left to Right and down the page

- 1 John Lindsay proposing the vote of thanks to Noel Terry who spoke to members at the Huntingdale GC Dinner
- 2 Mary Allen and Beverley Coutie- winners of the Don Lawrence Trophy with 39 points
- 3 Norman Davies, Lorraine Clothier and Geoffrey Cupples at the AGM.
- 4 Ruth Summerfield and Elizabeth Hodgkins at the AGM
- 5 Keith Wood presenting the winner, John Lindsay with the President's Trophy at RMGC
- 6 Havel Rowe and Dick Curtis at the AGM
- 7 Jean Gilbert, Beverley Wait and Judith Onto enjoying a pre meeting chat at the AGM.