



The Long Game

The Official Newsletter of the Golf Society of Australia

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From the President

It is pleasing to note that the "Long Game" is now being published more regularly, giving me the opportunity to keep members informed of our activities.

The Society continues to flourish and the events in our recent calendar have been well attended.

The Don Lawrence Trophy was held at Peninsula Golf and Country Club and was won by Beverley Wait and Hedley Ham.

The President's Trophy was played off between Denise Dawson and Daryl Cox and was eventually won by Daryl after a vigorous tussle at Royal Melbourne.

A selection of Museum items are now on display at Moonah Links Golf Club, the home of the Australian Open, at Finigal on the Mornington Peninsula. The Museum at AGU headquarters, South Melbourne will continue to be open to visit by those interested.

Finally I'm looking forward to our hickory match against the Golf Collectors Society of Australia at Royal Sydney in November. (see future events)
Keith Wood AM



Dr. A. Mackenzie working on a course design (painting owned by Titerangi Golf Club, near Auckland, New Zealand)

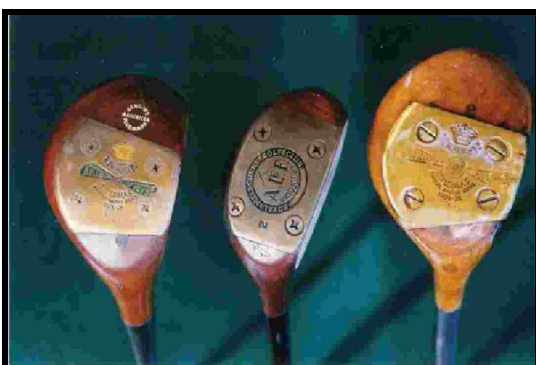
THE ORIGINS OF THE GAME OF GOLF

by **Ross Baker** An address to members of the Golf Society of Australia at Victoria Golf Club on 17th February 2003
Part one

In any discussion on the origins of golf the following early traces must be considered

- Roman Times PAGANICA
- Holland 13th Century Spel Metten Kolve
- England 14th Century Cambucca
- England 17th Century Palle Mail
- France 17th Century Jeu De Mail

Palle Mail.. Two clubs used to play the game of Palle Mail are in the British Museum. They came from a house in Pall Mall London. One club has a shaft 46 1/2 inches long, the other has a shaft 43 1/2 inches long, the shafts are probably ash. The heads are 5 1/2" to 6" long and possibly of evergreen oak, they are cylindrical in cross section and have iron rings on each end to protect the striking face. The



Some classic woods made by A. Le Fevre, well known Professional at Royal Melbourne

(Continued from page 1)

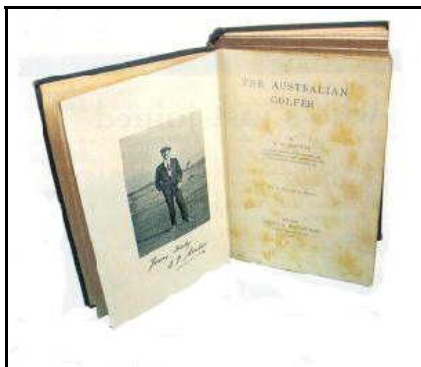
shaft is connected to the head in the centre and the ball is struck by the end of the head, much the same as in croquet. The face of one end has about 5 degrees loft, and the face on the other has about 15 degrees loft. The game was played by lofting a wooden ball through a hoop or hoops. As can be seen the game and the clubs vary greatly from golf.

However in the French version **JEAU De MAIL** the game was played across country and the ball was hit to a target. This game had some similarities to golf.

The Belgian game of **CHOLE** was played from early times and was played with a club made of a rigid wooden shaft and an iron head which was somewhat spoon shaped. A ball made of beech wood was hit towards a target. The game was played by opposing teams. The club used in CHOLE is more like a golf club.

In Holland the game of **Kolf or Het Kolven** appeared at the beginning of the 18th century. This was a game similar to golf.

From paintings and prints we have evidence of the Scottish Wool Traders playing a game similar to golf in Holland on the frozen rivers. One such painting is by Adriaen Van de Velde (1668). The clubs used to play Kolf had a shaft of hazel. A hazel shaft was selected with another smaller branch coming from it. The branch was then cut so that about 1 1/2" remained. The head was then cast around this. The metal used for the head was usually lead. The club, although shaped somewhat like an early golf club must have been a cumbersome implement, and they certainly would not have lasted long.



The first Australian Golf instruction book written by D.G. Soutar and published in 1906

No complete clubs used to play Kolf have survived for us to inspect, however a number of heads with the remnants of shafts are in museums. There is a view that one of the reasons for the demise of this game was in fact, that the clubs just didn't last, and the lack of suitable timber from which to make clubs in Holland.

1457

We know from historical papers and documents that golf was being played in 1457. Three Acts of Parliament, starting in the reign of James 2nd mention Gouff being discouraged.

THE EARLIEST CLUBS

The earliest clubs known to exist are referred to as the Troon Clubs. They date from the late 17th Century or early 18th Century. They were found in a house in Hull during renovations in 1898. With the clubs was a

newspaper dated 1741.

There were six long nose wooden clubs and 2 irons. All the clubs have shafts of ash, but only two clubs, one wood and one iron, have grips. The heads of the wooden clubs are long and broad and have lead in the back and horn in the leading edge. They have been likened to the early work of Philp (see later), although not as elegant. The irons have broad faces and square toes, they are quite primitive and have heavily nicked hoses or sockets.

The early wooden clubs had heads of apple, beech, pear and thorn, the shafts were of ash, greenheart, purpleheart, redheart, hazel, or lancewood. No doubt lancewood would have got its name for its use in making lances.

CLUBMAKERS AND HOW THEY EVOLVED.

In the very early times clubs were made out of wood. Naturally someone skilled in woodwork of some description was a likely person to make you a good golf club. From the Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of 1502 it has been ascertained that King James IV of Scotland was supplied clubs by "The Bowwar (Bow maker) of Sanct Johnestoun (Perth)"

In 1603 **William Mayne** (Bower burges of Edinburgh) was appointed Royal Fledger, Bower, Club Maker, and Speir Maker for life, by James VI.

There has also been found in a note book of HSC Everard pertaining to the period 1627 - 1663 the following notation

—“Bonker Clubis, a irone club, and twa play clubis of my awin. For mending bonker clubis Is 6d for a golfe club bsydes ane payet be my lord for me and Jo Stephenson And for a club shaft Jo Forrest 10 shillings.”

In the first part of the 18th century **Andrew**
(Continued on page 3)

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Dickson was noted as a good club maker. He made clubs for James II, Duke of York, and also acted as his forecaddie when playing over the Links of Leith.

Dickson is mentioned in Thomas Matheson's *The Goff* of 1743.

Of finest ash Castalio's shaft was made

Pond'rous with lead and faced with horn the head,

The work of Dickson who in Letha (Leith) dwells

And the art of making clubs excels.

Another club maker of the same time was **Henry Mill** of St Andrews. Early wooden clubs consisted of a Play-club (driver) Long Spoon, Mid Spoon, Short Spoon, Baffing Spoon, wooden niblick, maybe a lofting iron or a sand iron, driving putter, putter. (both long nose).

The next club maker of note was **Simon Cossar**. Cossar worked at Leith during the second part of the 18th century (1750..) and held the appointment of Club maker to the Company of Gentlemen Golfers. Cossar was held in high esteem by the Company and this is evidenced by the fact that he actually signed his name after the Captain in the Company's Minutes. His signature was followed by his title if you like "club maker".

There are three magnificent examples of Cossar's work at the Royal and Ancient Museum, one play club dating from 1760, a long spoon from 1764, and the third and possibly the oldest, a magnificent putting cleek.

James McEwen established himself as a club maker at Leith in 1770. He was originally a wheelwright at Brunsfield. It is interesting to note that the trade of wheelwright involved the use of timber for the centre and spokes of the wheel and steel, for the tires, which were made in the blacksmith shop. One could assume that no better grounding for a club maker and clock-maker could be found at the time.

His son **Peter McEwen** (1781-1836) followed in his father's footsteps, and married the daughter of Gourlay the famous feather ball maker. Peter's son Douglas (1809 -1886) carried on the business and saw it reach its best both at Leith and then Musselburgh.

Douglas McEwen has been described as one of the greatest club makers of all time, his clubs were models of symmetry and shape. Douglas McEwen favoured Thorn as a timber to make wooden clubs. In order to achieve a bend in the neck, a shape desired for strength, they would plant thorn cuts horizontally in a bank. As the thorn tree grew it would bend upwards to become vertical, thus producing a bend. When ready the trees

were cut, the bent section split with wedges, and a head formed. On completion the head was stamped with the thistle emblem and then rubbed with red keel.

Hugh Philp was born in 1782 and was originally a carpenter and cabinetmaker in St Andrews. About 1812 golfers started to send clubs to Philp to be repaired. In 1819 Philp was appointed club maker to the Society. Philp was highly regarded as a club maker and used thorn for his club heads. Later he used pear and apple. He used ash for his shafts. His stamp H Philp appeared a little forward on the head.

In 1845 **James Wilson** started working for Philp and remained for 7 years before setting up his own business. Wilson was also a fine club maker and produced many high quality clubs.

When Wilson left Philp took on his nephew **Robert Forgan**. On Philp's death Forgan took over the business in his name.

It was said Robert Forgan started the method of driving the wooden pegs to hold the horn slips on an angle.

Forgan was appointed club maker to the Prince of Wales and from

then on the Prince of Wales plume was impressed on his clubs until The Prince became King in 1901. ♠

Editor's note.....This interesting commentary will be completed in the next edition

Golf Trivia Quiz (answers page 7)

- 1 Where was the first Open played in England , when and who won?
- 2 Which two courses have held the greatest number of Opens?
- 3 Name the course and year Seve Ballesteros played in his first Open .
- 4 Name three golfers who have won five Opens
- 5 Who has won the most Opens ?
- 6 What golf ball is associated famously with Royal St George and why?
- 7 What score did Jean Van de Velde have on the 72nd hole at the 1999 Open?
- 8 Which holes on St Andrews do not have double greens?
- 9 Who won the open played at Portrush and when ?
- 10 How many strokes did Paul Lawrie make up to get into a playoff in the last open at Carnoustie?

British View on Golf Ball Standardisation

George W Greenwood Golf Magazine March 2 1925

Nothing new under the sun

GOLFERS in Great Britain are divided upon the question of standardising a ball other than the one now in universal use. It is the view of the vast majority of players-the average man whose golf is confined to the week-ends and an occasional afternoon-that nothing should be done to disturb the existing ball, except, of course, in the direction of making it fly farther. In other words, the man who plays golf for amusement and recreation, and not to make a business of it, wants a flattering ball-a ball that will travel the greatest possible distance. "I do not want a ball," he says in effect, "that makes hard work of golf; I want a ball that will help me to get the maximum of fun out of the game, for which I pay handsomely." He will certainly "kick" against having to play with a ball that does not fulfill these requirements.

As an illustration of the mentality of the average golfer I need only draw attention to an article published recently in a London daily newspaper purporting to describe the invention of a new type of golf ball that flies undreamt of distances-six hundred yards is an ordinary drive! The ball, moreover, fulfils all the requirements as to regulation weight and size. What was obviously a gigantic hoax was believed by hundreds of golfers to be an established fact, so much so that frantic efforts were made to secure supplies of the "wonder" ball. "That's the ball I want," they shrieked in chorus.

I only mention this to show that the golfer's appetite for length is no less than the dipsomaniac's craving for drink. This is one side of the picture -a picture showing how the ordinary man regards being forced to do something which he thoroughly dislikes.

The other side of the picture concerns the relatively small body of men who are keenly anxious to direct the government of golf on right lines, and to prevent the orgy of undisciplined hitting, sweeping over the world to the swamping of the finer points of the game. They are the policemen of the game, and police often, as we know, are never popular amongst the mob.

In the category of sane thinkers in England we have John Low, the author of the rules of golf; a man whose soul is wrapped up in the game. For years the ball question has occupied his attention, for he has felt that one day, so ingenious are the scientists and the manufacturers, the problem would have to be solved once and for all. Tinkering with the subject will, he maintains, have to give way to drastic measures. However, he cordially

welcomes the attempts now being made in America to find a solution and he has favoured me with the following statement-

"Personally, I am in favor of the new regulations proposed by the Executive Committee of the U.S.G.A., as they seem to me a step in the right direction. They are an indication that the Implements Committee in America have bottomed the question, and realise the importance of playing with a ball which requires control under varying and difficult conditions. After our conference with American delegates in 1920, I stated to the general meeting of the R. & A. Club at St. Andrews, as one of the important points in our friendly discussions: 'Regarding the question of distance as secondary to that of quality of stroke, your representatives desired a lighter ball; the American delegates favored a heavier. It became, therefore, a matter of compromise. If we have not in every way been able to carry out the full intention of our endeavour, we have reached an agreement which will show the inventor that the executive powers are determined to control the game.'

The Americans have come nearer to our views and we must welcome this tendency; but whether the result is likely to be final is very doubtful. The slight increase in size and decrease in weight will make for a ball which will not fly so far against the wind, and will require more control both against

and across a stiff breeze. In my opinion finality will not be reached until we have some measure of standardised make and material. I do not mean a 'dud' ball which will not go because it is unpleasant to hit, but a ball of lower specific gravity than the present, and governed as to make and material by stricter regulations. The present step is taken in defence of the game; I welcome it.-, **John L. Low.**"

It will be noted that John Low lays stress upon the standardisation of "make and material," as providing the only final solution. The proposed new American ball, to come into use on January 1, 1926, lighter and bigger than the present ball, will not, he thinks, reach finality. True, in a head wind the new ball will, in comparison, lose a few yards, but down wind the difference will be negligible. This was shown in the official tests last September on the National Links, Long Island. For example, Cyril Tolley, playing the new' ball down wind, hit it 274 yards, and the present type of ball 280 yards. ●

Editor's Note

This article, which appeared in the English Golf Magazine in 1925, makes interesting reading in the light of the present day debate.



Some of the old golf balls in the Golf Museum

Onward to America by Dr. A. Mackenzie

A further extract from Golf illustrated June 17th 1927

After leaving Australia, I visited New Zealand, but here, unlike Australia, there is no boom in golf, and it is rarely even mentioned in the newspapers.

In New Zealand the sunnier months are ideal for golf, but it is only played during their winter, this being largely due to the fact that the fairways are so narrow and the rough so long if golfers attempt to play in summer they lose too many balls. I played one round in New Zealand on one of the best courses, and four of us lost about a dozen balls. I think I impressed them very much in New Zealand with these defects. and I consider that the Maungakeikie Golf Course and one or two others in Auckland will show a lot of improvement soon. They seem quite keen on taking my advice, and this may set a standard and have the effect of improving most of the courses in New Zealand. One of the best courses was at Rotorua, in the volcanic district. On the course itself, and in the immediate neighbourhood, there are boiling mud-holes, geysers, and sulphur fumes issuing from numerous places in the ground, and in certain places a stick pushed into the soil is charred.

The originator of the Club was a cockney, and he remarked "We'll ave the only course in the world that 'as 'ot 'oles for 'azards."

As I was badly in need of a holiday after the strenuous work I had in Australia, I managed to get an excellent fortnight's trout fishing in New Zealand. I caught all my trout with the fly, and the smallest I landed was over four Pounds in weight, which is bigger than the largest I have ever got in Scotland, where I have been fishing since I was a lad of six. After leaving New Zealand I sailed for San Francisco to confer with my Western American partner, -"Mr. Robert Hunter in regard to several golf courses we are doing there. The first course we visited was the Meadows Golf Course, in Marin County near San Francisco, which we designed last year.

I found the construction work had been done magnificently by, the American Golf Course Construction Company, who have several foremen specially trained according to my ideas. I had originally estimated the cost of construction at eighty thousand dollars, as the soil was not very suitable, the ground was very weedy

and a tremendous amount of drainage was necessary.

On my arrival there, I found that all but two greens had been completed, the course drained, the ground ploughed and harrowed four times to get rid of the weeds, while much of the watering system had been finished and to my amazement I found that little more than twenty thousand dollars had been expended up to date.

I attempted to be as critical as possible, but could find no fault, nor could I suggest any alteration to the work that had been done, and all that I was able to do was to make some further suggestions as to improving the character of the holes. I have no hesitation in saying that notwithstanding

its lack of natural advantages compared with many courses in the San Francisco district, this course will compare favourably with any of the existing ones.

In the San Francisco district I also visited the sites of other suggested new courses, and we made considerable alterations to the Californian Golf



Pebble Beach Golf Course

Course.

While I was in San Francisco the work on the Californian Course was commenced by the American Golf Course Construction Company, and one hole, which was completed before I left, was undoubtedly the best piece of construction work I have seen in America. The American Golf Course Construction company is amalgamated with and has the same foreman as the British Golf Course Construction Company of which my brother Major C. A. Mackenzie is Managing Director.

We went down to the Del Monte peninsula, which my partner describes as "God's -own country", and I am very much inclined to agree with him. The Del Monte peninsula has not only a magnificent climate, but has also the most glorious golfing country to be seen anywhere.

We are reconstructing, the Pebble Beach and Del Monte courses, and have just completed reconstructing the Monterey Peninsula Country Club No.1 Course besides having done all the designs for the Shore Course of the Peninsula Country Club, and also those for the Cypress Point Country Club.

(Continued from page 5)

The reconstruction of the Monterey Country Club's course was, I think, the quickest bit of work I had ever heard of.

Last year, during my visit to California, the course had been completed ready for sowing and most of the holes were blind and very indifferent in other respects. The result was that it was criticised severely by good golfers, such as Mr. Chandler Egan and others. Mr. Sam Morse. The President of the Del Monte Properties Company, resolved to have it reconstructed at any cost, so he called us in, and the course was actually opened for play on July 4. Mr. Robert Hunter drew up all the plans, and it was reconstructed and sown within thirty days, and played on two months later. ●

To be continued

Book ReviewRoy Paterson

The Greatest Game Ever Played: Harry Vardon, Francis Ouimet, and the Birth of Modern Golf

by Mark Frost

A recently published book, this is currently a best seller in America.

This is a brief summary taken from the Amazon.com website.

"Mark Frost has already proven himself a terrific writer, with such television series as the great Hill Street Blues and the innovative Twin Peaks to his credit, and a few successful novels, including the excellent Sherlock Holmes homage, The List of Seven, and a sequel, The Six Messiahs. But I don't know that anything can have prepared even his fans for this book, which, though one must have some reservations about its form, is quite simply one of the best golf books ever written.

To begin with, Mr. Frost has chosen his topic wisely. Harry Vardon (1870-1937) and Francis Ouimet (1893-1967)--both of whom came from working class families, had difficult relationships with their fathers, and learned to golf as boys at the local courses where they caddied, Ouimet in Massachusetts, Vardon some twenty-plus years earlier on the Isle of Jersey--are thoroughly compelling heroes. In 1913 their similar stories converged at The Country Club, in Brookline, MA--the very club at which Francis had caddied--in the United States Open. Harry Vardon was at that time probably the best golfer in the world and in previous visits to America had been instrumental in marketing the game here. But it was to be the young amateur Francis Ouimet's playoff victory over the professional Vardon and countryman Ted Ray that, or so Mr. Frost argues, gave birth to the modern golf era in America." ●

Driving In.... "A dreadful job" **From Golf Anecdotes" by Robert T. Somers**

Until 1824, the title of Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews went to the winner of the Club's Autumn Medal, a tournament played over the Old Course each September. It seemed simple enough but the system had its faults. As arbiter of all internal as well as external disputes, the club's best golfer wasn't necessarily the club's best statesman. A change seemed in order. Beginning in 1824, the Captain has been chosen by past Captains.

In the morning of the last day of the Medal, while a tall grandfather clock inside the gray, stone clubhouse tolls eight, the hangman's hour, the new captain is led to the first tee by the old captain. There, before a sizable gathering of family, friends, club members, and those who like to see grown men writhe in misery, he plays a shot from the first tee of the Old Course while, with a shattering boom, a bombardier fires a cannon dredged up from a sunken wreck off the shoreline late in the eighteenth century.

Prince Leopold, a son of Queen Victoria, played in as captain in 1876 during the British Open championship. It was a strange day, with players from the Open and from the Autumn Medal teeing off in alternate groups, because the R and A remembered to reserve the course for the Medal but forgot about the Open.

Horace Hutchinson, who had won the second and third British Amateur championships, was so ill when he drove in as captain in 1908 he staggered across the street from what was then the Grand Hotel, played the required shot, then slouched back to his bed.

Caddies range down the fairway waiting to retrieve the ball as each new captain drives. The fortunate caddie who retrieves the ball returns it to the captain, who pays him a gold sovereign. Spectators can tell how the caddies regard the new captain's game by how far they station themselves downrange. When the Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) drove in in 1922, the caddies, who have a good idea of how far the incoming captain will hit the ball, were reported to have stood "disloyally close to the tee."

By tradition the incoming captain is offered a bracer before facing the ordeal. Evidently the Prince accepted not only his own but a few that might have been missed by those who had gone before him. He wove to the tee through a thick mist, and as Andrew Kirkaldy, the salty honorary professional of the day, bent to tee his ball, the Prince muttered, "This is a dreadful job." Versions of what happened next vary, but it seems clear he hit a terrible shot. Bernard Darwin, the great British essayist, journalist and sometime golfer, claimed the Prince hit the ball "low and to the left." Others less inhibited said he actually heeled the ball. It evidently squirted behind him and rolled into the Valley of Sin, a deep depression on the left front of the 18th green. Seeing the ball come to rest, one spectator, who might have had as much to drink as the Prince, cried, "My God. If he holes it we'll have a new course record."

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

After the driving in, the new captain returns to the clubhouse where he entertains guests of his choice at a champagne breakfast. Later in the day he plays his round in the Medal. The Prince had a terrible day. Playing off a 15-stroke handicap, he hit his first drive off the toe and rolled it close to the out of bounds fence. A hole-by-hole description related, "Then he had a 7, then a 9 ... He finished with a good 6. The Prince shot 119." ☺

New Members

The following have been elected members of the Society.

Ross Bradfield
Louise Briers
Jennifer Carr
Simone Kelly
Judith Onto
John Philp
John Scrivener

In looking at the list above I'm sure the others listed will not mind if one name is selected for special mention.

Louise Briers was and is an outstanding achiever in the golf world.

Twice Australian Ladies Amateur Champion; Successful partner in Australian Ladies Foursome Championship four times; Victorian Amateur Champion three times. Selector and delegate for Womens Golf Australia 1998 to 2002.

A hearty welcome to all of the above new members!!

Dates for 2003

Golf Events

13th November Hickory Match against The Golf collectors Society of Australia at Royal Sydney Golf Club.

17th November Doug Bachli Trophy—Victoria Golf club.

AGM and Cocktail Party

17th November— Victoria Golf Club

Acknowledgements

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

Golf Trivia Answers (see page 3)

1 Royal St George 1894 JH Taylor

2 St Andrews 26 Prestwick 24

3 Royal Birkdale 1976

4 James Braid, JH Taylor, Peter Thomson ,Tom Watson

5 Harry Vardon 6: 1896, 98, 99, 1903, 11, 14.

6 Dunlop 65, Henry Cotton's low second round

7 Seven

8 1st 9th 17th 18th

9 Max Faulkner 1951

10 Ten

A Very Long Shot

Back in 1928, the year he won his third British Open, Walter Hagen boasted that he hit a ball from the roof of the Savoy Hotel, in London, across the River Thames.

Early in 1970, the year after he won the British Open, Tony Jacklin climbed onto a platform on the Savoy roof, took a ball from a silver tureen, where it had been kept to keep warm for maximum resiliency, and flailed away. He, in fact, flailed several times.

From the vicinity of the Savoy, the Thames stands at least 400 yards wide— maybe a little more. Jacklin's best effort carried an estimated 365 yards.

If Hagen had actually driven across the Thames he remained the only one who had.

Given modern club technology it is interesting to contemplate the possible ease with which the feat could be accomplished in the present day. ☺

Vale Ian Holland

The Society sadly records the passing of Ian Holland, a long standing member of the Golf Society of Australia and a member of Peninsula Golf and Country Club and Keysborough Golf Club. Just recently our President Keith Wood visited Ian and whilst there received Ian's collection of golf books for inclusion in the Society archive.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Ian's family.

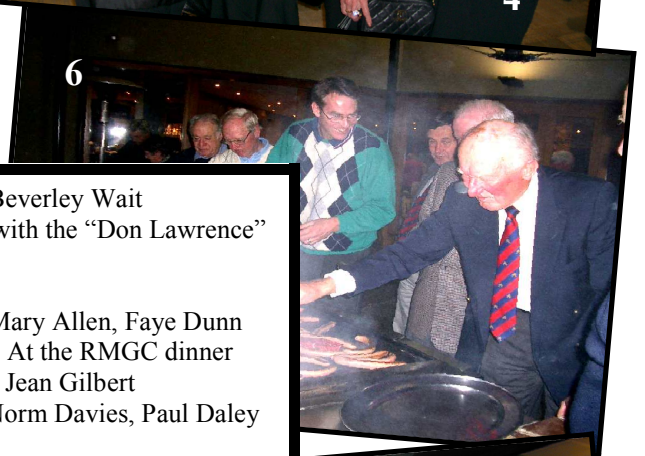
Golf Society Pullovers

The Society still has available navy blue pullovers in either V-neck or Crew-neck. These are a fine fashion item with a choice of the Society logo on the chest or sleeve.

There is a full range of sizes.

These are being made available to members at a special price of \$100 per garment. Contact Ann Reynolds, Hon Secretary at 9589 3863 to place an order.

The Picture Gallery



1 Hedley Ham and Beverley Wait
 2 Muriel Lawrence with the "Don Lawrence" winners
 3 Three Presidents.
 4 Beverley Contie, Mary Allen, Faye Dunn and Denise Dawson. At the RMGC dinner
 5 Ann Reynolds and Jean Gilbert
 6 Sausage Sizzlers Norm Davies, Paul Daley and Don Murray.
 7 Geoff Brearley, Bryan Baker and Paul Rak
 8 Janet Hibbins (Pres. WGV) and Dick Kirby (Pres. VGA)

