



**The Official Newsletter of the Golf Society of Australia**

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**Issue Number 21 September 2005**



**THE ORIGINAL CLUB HOUSE  
OLD COURSE  
BARWON HEADS  
1907 - 1920**

## Thumbnail sketches of the beginnings of some of Melbourne's Golf Clubs

**T**his month the Long Game provides thumbnail sketches on several of the Metropolitian Courses of Melbourne, although Geelong Golf Club is also included because of its historical significance.

These notes are drawn from a supplement that appeared in the Sun News Pictorial in 1935 and was **Compiled by Kitty McEwan**

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## COMMONWEALTH GOLF CLUB

This Club originated from a small band of enthusiasts who prior to 1914 had laid down six holes in what was known as Flatman's Paddock, extending from Murrumbena Road to Koornang Road, Carnegie.

In 1914 negotiations were commenced with a view to leasing a tract of country east of Darling Railway Station. There a Club, which afterwards became known as the Waverley Club, was established with a foundation membership of 22, among whom were the following:

Dr. Atkinson, Messrs. H. Blinkhorn, O. G. Dawes, R. C. Dawes, R. A. Dawes, C. Hammond, P. Henry, W. J. Hughes, Burt Kelly, A. Knight, E. Lucas, R. Lucas, B. Parrington, T. Ryan, G. Small, Dr. Guy Springthorpe, F. D. Stogdale, C. J. Wild, C. S. Wood, L. J. Wright and L. G. Wright.

Following the outbreak of war the Club experienced those difficulties that were prevalent at that period, but with a return to more normal conditions in 1919, began steadily to expand. It was in this year that, owing to expiration of the leasehold, an effort had to be made to find a suitable freehold property, and eventually, due to the services of Messrs. H. P. Knight, L. J. Wright (the Hon. Secretary)

### Note from the President

**T**he game of golf is facing many challenges covering many facets of the game and include course and clubhouse administration, rules and equipment.

The administrative structures of the game at all levels, club, State and National are being reviewed. Rules of the game and equipment specifications continue to change. With all these changes in the air it is very pleasing that the game itself has not changed. We still hit the ball from tee to green, into the cup with varying degrees of skill and enjoyment.

The AGU Museum now has all items catalogued with the most interesting items on display at South Melbourne and Moonah Links. The Moonah Links museum area has been changed and up-graded.

The Club Historians continue with growing interest and new clubs joining the group. This is an excellent format for information gathering and a common data base is one of the aims.

Coming events include the "Hickory Challenge" against our friends from the Golf Collectors Society of Australia. This event is open to all members and is being played at Woodlands on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Please refer to your handbook for details of the next dinner in October and the AGM in November.

Good golfing to all

**KEITH H WOOD AM**  
**PRESIDENT . ●**

and the late A. J. Price (the Hon. Treasurer), the present property at Oakleigh was secured.

On February 12, 1921, members played their initial game over a temporary nine holes on the present course, and from that date the Club has made rapid progress. For the present lay-out the Club is indebted largely to the efforts of Messrs. Chas. Lane, H. P. Knight and C. J. Wild.

In 1928 the committee erected a more commodious clubhouse.

## GEELONG GOLF CLUB

The Geelong Golf Club was founded on August 4, 1892. President, Charles Shannon; Captain, R. A. A. Balfour; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, L. A. Whyte; Committee, Messrs. T. M. Dobie, J. S. B. Orr, David Strachan and Dr. J. Small; Grounds Committee, Messrs. Philip Russell, David Strachan and L. A. Whyte. The first course was situated at "Balliang," the old residence of Capt. Foster Pyans, but a move was made to Bell Park in 1893. A room was rented at 2/6 per week, at the Sale Yards Hotel, to serve as a club house.

The initial subscription was £1/1/- per annum for members, and 5/- for ladies. Thirty members were enrolled for the first season.

The first inter-club match played in Geelong took place on the old "Balliang" course on September 3, 1892, when Geelong played Queenscliff and won by 8 holes. Queenscliff were represented by Captain Reynolds, Major Trail, C. Umphelby (later killed in the South African War), Lt. Heider, Lt. Templeton and David Strachan. The Geelong players were R. A. A. Balfour, L. A. Whyte, T. C. Hope, Philip Russell, L. J. Green and J. S. B. Orr. The course, as originally laid out, was 5210 yards, with "Colonel" Bogey's score 90, the longest hole being 392 yards (bogey 6) and the shortest 193 yards (bogey 4). The first annual open meeting of the Club and also in Victoria took place in 1894, when the championship was won by W. McIntyre with a score of 6 up over 18 holes. W. McIntyre was handicapped at scratch at this time. Other well-known players competing in this event were Messrs. T. C. Hope, M. L. Anderson, Orme Masson, L. K. S. MacKinnon, T. S. Higgins, L. A. Whyte, R. A. S. Balfour, J. M. Bruce, Alister Clarke and T. Brentnall.

Among the lowest scores on the course about that period were stroke rounds of 81 and 82 played by L. A. Whyte and P. C. Anderson (former British amateur champion), and, considering conditions of play, clubs and ball, the golf must have been something to wonder at. In 1899 Pennant matches were first inaugurated, and the Geelong Club carried off the honours from Royal Melbourne, Surrey Hills, Kew and Essendon Clubs. Geelong also won a Pennant in 1900 and 1901, and tied in 1902. The deciding game could not be played owing to the courses being closed.

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Members of the Geelong Club who distinguished themselves in open events at this time were: L. A. Whyte, who won the Amateur Championship of Australia, and Miss E. Anderson, the Ladies' Championship of Victoria in 1900. Miss E. Guthrie won the Ladies' Championship of Australia in 1901, and Mrs. H. E. de Little won the Ladies' Championship of Victoria in 1902, and of Australia in 1903.

## **KINGSTON HEATH GOLF CLUB**

This Club was originally known as the Elsternwick Golf Club, which was formed in June, 1909, and for fifteen years played on a course constructed in Elsternwick Park. The first President was Mr. W. H. Allard, and the first Captain Mr. R. B. Whittaker. In May, 1923, the Club was reorganised and registered as a company which took over all assets and liabilities of the old club. It also acquired the land comprising the present course near Cheltenham.

D. Soutar, the Sydney professional, was appointed to lay out the new course, and M. A. Morcom, of Royal Melbourne, was responsible for the designs of the various holes and greens, and for the supervision of the construction. Subsequently the advice of Dr. Mackenzie, the Scottish course architect, was obtained on the bunkering of the course.

Play began on the present property early in March, 1925, and in the following month the course was formally opened by the captain of the Royal Melbourne Club, Mr. J. A. MacLeod.

In August, 1925, the name of the Club was changed to Kingston Heath.

The Club owes much of its present success to such men as Messrs. S. Dutton Green (many times captain), J. M. Gaunt, J. Murray, P. T. Fairway, P. A. Oakley, C. W. Seabrook, E. C. Murphy, H. C. Collingwood, and H. Vollugi.

## **KEW GOLF CLUB**

Golf was played at Kew many years before it became an organised game in Victoria and long before any of the Clubs now in existence had been formed. Some of the older residents have recollections of play over 50 years ago on improvised links in an area then known as Hyde Park, but it was not until some years later that steps were taken to form a local club.

The Kew Golf Club came into existence at a meeting held in the Recreation Hall on August 3, 1894. The conveners of the meeting were Messrs. J. C. Anderson and F. A. Fitts, and the former subsequently displayed his prowess on the links to such effect that his name appears on the Club Champion-

ship board as winner of the title in 1897, 1898 and 1899. Mr. Anderson, as representative of the Kew Golf Club, also played a leading part in the formation of the Victorian Golf Association and was a member of its first Executive, filling the position of Vice-President.

The links in use for many years adjoined the outer circle railway at Kew, but in 1923, when it became obvious that the growing value of this land as building allotments would make a move in the near future unavoidable, the Club, at an outlay slightly in excess of £20,000, purchased a n area on the banks of the Yarra at North Kew, laid out the present 18-hole course and built a comfortable Club House.

An ambitious scheme for watering the whole property from the river, which will be in operation by the time this appears in print, will facilitate the propagation of fairway grasses and greatly improve playing conditions, particularly during the drier months.

Throughout, the Kew Club has been particularly fortunate in the men who have guided its affairs. Among those who have given good service in recent years may be named the Hon. J. K. Merritt, Dr. H. O. Cowen, F. W. Thompson, Dr. H. N. Featonby and John Turner, who successively filled the position of President; the late A. F. Hiskens, Hamilton Wilson, the late Paul Wischer, F. J. Blair, H. G. Beale and Wallace Tindley in turn as Captain; as Hon. Secretary, A. H. Neale, the late Justinian Oxenham and the present occupant of the position, W. H. S. Dickinson; the late Henry Duggin, Honorary Treasurer for over 20 years, and W. Lloyd Davies, who succeeded him as keeper of the purse.

## **KINGSWOOD GOLF CLUB**

The Club was founded in 1913 with a membership of 25, with Dr. F. Langley as Honorary Secretary. It was originally a nine-hole course with sand greens. Early in 1922 the Club decided to move to new property, known as Kingswood, the official opening taking place on Saturday, April 7, 1923. Records show that by 1928 the membership had increased to 73 members, and associates 54. Steady progress was maintained by the Club, and in January, 1930, the services of M. A. Morcom were obtained to re-lay a new course on championship lines. At the close of the 1931 season the new lay-out was being played. Water had been installed on greens at a cost of £500, and membership had increased to 82 members and 86 associates.

On September 5, 1931, a special general meeting decided to alter the name of the Club from Dandenong to Kingswood, this alteration being endorsed by the Victorian Golf Association. In 1932 the Club first entered Junior Pennant. On November 12 the official opening of the new club house took place. The cost of alterations and additions was in the vicinity of £500.

The 1934 season showed membership as follows:—Members, 169; associates, 116. During the year lockers for members were provided and hot and cold showers installed. At the close of the 1935 season membership had increased

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to 240 members and 118 associates.

On July 11, 1935, a general meeting authorised the committee to proceed with arrangements to change the location of the club from Dandenong to Dingley. On November 20, 1935, a general meeting authorised the committee to make application for registration as a Company and approved Memorandum and Articles of Association. Following the authority of the general meeting, the committee successfully negotiated with Gartside Bros, for 120 acres of excellent land in the sand belt at Dingley. The task of laying out a course on championship lines was entrusted to Messrs. A. and V. Morcom. A scale plan was submitted to the committee and duly approved. The construction of the new course commenced on August 10, 1935, and the new course and club house was officially opened on Saturday, April 17, 1937.

## **METROPOLITAN GOLF CLUB**

IN 1901 a small group of members of the Royal Melbourne Golf Club, living in the Caulfield and Malvern districts, who did not desire to move with their Club so far away as Sandringham, which in those days was a lengthy journey, held a meeting in an endeavour to form a club to carry on at the old course.

At this meeting Mr. William Knox was in the chair, others present being Dr. Barclay Thomson, Dr. (later Sir John) Macfarland, and Messrs. H. T. Wilson, Graham, Jones, Mackie, Falconer and Colonel Elliston.

Play continued at Caulfield until 1906, when, as blocks of the land were being sold and houses built, it was decided that a move should be made. After inspection of various sites, "Barholm," a property at Oakleigh, was selected and purchased by Messrs. H. T. Wilson and H. M. Umphelby, who offered it to the Club at cost price, or on a leasehold basis. A Club was then immediately formed and the necessary financing arranged to enable the offer of these gentlemen to be accepted. The name under which the Club was first registered was "The Australian Golf Club," but as there was already a Club of that name in existence in New South Wales, it was eventually altered to "Metropolitan." From 1906 onwards the Club steadily progressed, and great credit is due to those who were responsible for the work on the course during the two first years. It is due to their efforts that the course is to-day one of the finest in the State

## **RIVERSDALE GOLF CLUB**

The Riversdale Golf Club was established at Surrey Hills in 1894 and was founded by Mr. Hugh W. McLeod. Mr. A. W. Harston was the first President and his successors have been Messrs. A. Halley, 1899; Alexander Macneil, 1900-1915; Sir George Tallis, 1916; C. M. Newman, 1917-1933; Ivor Evans, 1934-1936; and T. E. Doughton now in office. Mr. P. J. Andrew was the first Captain and Mr. W. Meader, who was Club Champion for several years, the first Hon. Secretary.

In 1907 the Club moved to its leasehold new links at East Camberwell and later, having purchased St. John's Wood property at Burwood, moved there in 1927.

An event of considerable interest in the history of the Club is that the V.G.A. has given Riversdale Championship status and authorized play there for the 1937 Amateur Championship. The Club's thanks are due to Mr. Alex. Russell for many improvements advised and made to the links.

The course is picturesquely situated at the corner of Bay-view and High Street Roads, and has the Jordanville railway station at its fifth tee.

A comfortable Club House, with its old-time avenue approach, includes residential facilities.

Winners of classic events have been A. E. Gill, Amateur Championship of Australia, and Frank Murdoch, Amateur Championship of New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria.

Early-day golfers in Victoria laid down well the traditions and principles of play, and in this connection H. Culliton is due for mention.

## **ROYAL MELBOURNE GOLF CLUB**

"The Melbourne Golf Club was founded at a ' meeting held at Scott's Hotel on Monday, May 22, 1891, the conveners of the meeting being Sir James McBain, Sir William Clarke, Mr. William Knox and Mr. J. M. Bruce. Others prominent in the formation were Messrs. Brentnall and Finlay. The first President was Sir James McBain, and the first Captain Mr. J. M. Bruce.

The original course was situated at Caulfield on an area known as Carroll's or Woodmason's Paddocks, and the opening day of the newly formed Club took place on July 4, 1891. On June 1, 1895, by permission of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the prefix "Royal" was added to the Club name. In June, 1901, the Club moved from Caulfield to Sandringham, and the new course, the preparation and lay-out of which was largely in the hands of the late M. A. Morcom, then greenkeeper, was officially opened on July 27, 1901. During 1909 further alterations and improvements were made to the course, and the club house was enlarged to provide residential facilities. In 1931 the Club moved its home from Sandringham to Black Rock, where it acquired more land and established two full 18-hole courses. The original course, now known as the West Course, was laid out by Dr. McKenzie, the leading Scottish golf architect. For the lay-out of the new East Course the Club is indebted to Mr. Alex Russell, whose Ideas were most ably executed by the late M. A. Morcom, who was acknowledged as the leading greenkeeper in Victoria.

## **VICTORIA GOLF CLUB**

THIS Club was founded on March 6, 1903, by Mr. W. Meader, and established itself at Fishermen's Bend, the foundation office-bearers being:—

President, Sir S. Gillott, M.L.A.; Vice-President, T. H. Payne, M.L.A.; Captain, Hon. F. Stuart; Vice-Captain, A.

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MacNeil; Hon. Treasurer, M. G. B. Jefferson; Hon. Secretary, Wm. Meader; Committee, Messrs. N. M. Campbell, C. W. Chapman, W. H. Craig, J. M. Joshua, Jas. McDougall, J. B. MacKenzie, A. F. Phillips, C. E. Varley and F. B. Waters.

For 22 years the Club prospered in its quaint old Club House and on the famous Fishermen's Bend links and it may be stated that one of the peculiar characteristics during the Club's life on that course was that there was no provision for Associate members and its membership consisted of full members only, amongst whom were very many prominent citizens of Melbourne.

In 1925, with the late W. L. Baillieu as its President, the Club transferred to its present property at Park Road, Cheltenham, and immediately made provision for many more members and for Associate members. Upon this site a well-designed course was laid down and a most spacious and luxurious Club House erected with residential quarters for a limited number of guests. It was not until May, 1927, that the new course and Club House were officially opened, and this was performed by the Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. S. M. Bruce). The course as originally laid out was 6550 yards, but due to subsequent alterations the total yardage was increased to 6625, which it is today. The course is laid on undulating country, some of the finest of the well-known sand belt and each hole is characterised by a distinctive feature. It may be added that it contains two of the longest holes on any course in the metropolitan area, viz., the 9th and 17th, being 575 and 580 yards respectively.

The design of the Club House lends itself to social activities of all description. Certain redesigning was necessary and this was carried out last year. It is a popular rendezvous for many members of country and inter-State clubs, who desire to spend a golfing holiday in Melbourne and the accommodation available is always well filled by visitors from these centres.

Many important fixtures have been decided on this course which is considered as one of the most difficult in the State.

## **WOODLANDS GOLF CLUB**

The Woodlands golf course was originally part of the Mayfield Estate, Mordialloc, owned by the Edward Ponceca Estate. In June, 1913, permission was given for portion of the estate to be used as golf links, and the Mordialloc Golf Club was then founded. The course was originally nine holes, being extended to 18 holes in August, 1919. The original club house was destroyed by fire in February, 1927, and the present club house was erected immediately afterwards.

In July, 1925, the property was leased to the Club for a period of 25 years, immediately after which a water system was installed and steps taken to improve the course generally. Subsequently the Club purchased the property outright. In 1925 the name of the Club was changed from Mordialloc to Woodlands Golf Club. The course is 6652 yards in length, standard scratch

score 76, and was the venue of the Victorian Amateur Championship in September, 1934.

In 1913, at the instigation of G. H. Rogers, Esq., a meeting was called to form the Golf Club, the original founders being Messrs. G. H. Rogers and F. J. Newton, T. McN. Millar, Esq., being the first President, and the first office-bearers were Messrs. J. J. Rogers (Captain), F. J. Newton (Hon. Treasurer), G. H. Rogers (Hon. Secretary).

As indicated by the name chosen for the club, Woodlands is noted for the sylvan beauty of its surroundings—fairways lined by majestic gum trees and greens nestling in delightful wooded settings.

In its earlier days Woodlands (the Mordialloc) Club used to be a favourite week-end and holiday golfing rendezvous for many golfers, who later gained fame at the game. A. W. Jackson was one of its more regular patrons in the days when he was on the threshold of a successful golfing career.

Although the club has produced no outstanding champion, it has many skilful young players from whom champions should emerge in the future.

## **YARRA YARRA GOLF CLUB**

This Club succeeded the Eaglemont Club which played over a course on the Eaglemont Estate for many years prior to 1911. Owing, however, to the land being built over, it was decided at a meeting held on August 20, 1910, to purchase a site at Rosanna. In May of 1911 the purchase of 101 acres was effected, and the official opening took place on November 25, 1911, when the first ball was driven by the first President, Mr. H. Darvall. On this date the membership was 26, with nine associate members.

It is interesting to note that Messrs. R. G. Ball (now President), D. L. Stirling and K. Darvall, who were members of the Eaglemont Club, are still members of the Yarra Yarra Club.

During the war years the Club experienced those difficult times that were common to all, but in 1920 and 1921, as a result of a definite policy in which the building of a new Club House was included, it began to prosper considerably.

On December 15, 1928, the Club moved from its Rosanna property to Bentleigh, and took over its present Club House and Course. The efforts of the committee in presenting to members a course which had been converted from market gardens 20 months after purchase, was highly commended, and for the excellence of its lay-out the Club has to thank Mr. Alex. Russell, whose plans were enthusiastically adopted and carried out with the assistance of Messrs. E. W. Scott and L. G. Shaw, then members of the Green Committee.

Among others prominent in the Club's history. Mr. H. G. McRoberts, the late President of the Victorian Golf Association, deserves special mention. For 17 years he was President of the Club, and in that period rendered very valuable services. His successor was Mr. R. G. Ball, who is still President and during his term of office the Club has made further progress, and the membership now stands at over 300 Full Members with 150 Associates.

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One of the culminating and lasting benefits of the efforts of the committees mentioned in the foregoing pages is the wealth of beautiful clubhouses enjoyed by the members of these metropolitan golf clubs. The Melbourne golfing community has a component in the fabric of its social life that is sometimes undervalued. The following are just a few of these havens.



Top— Commonwealth Golf Club

Bottom— Victoria Golf Club





Top— Wood-lands Golf Club

Middle— Metropolitan Golf Club.

Bottom— King-ston Heath Golf Club

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To the difficulties with which every Club was faced during the depression, the Yarra Yarra Club had the additional trouble of having the Rosanna property revert to its control, and it is largely due to the efforts of Messrs. S. J. Salmon and J. R. Fullarton, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively, together with the whole-hearted support of the Committee, that the Club eventually emerged and attained its present position.

Among the prominent players of the Club should be mentioned W. L. Hope, Amateur Champion of Australia 1933, who, together with L. Duffy, won the Australasian Foursomes in 1935, and A. V. Rae, runner-up in the Victorian Amateur in 1932 and Australian Amateur Championship in 1935. The Club also won the Senior Pennant Matches in 1935 and the Junior Pennant in 1921. ●

**C**hampion, and artist of golf-club making, Arthur Le Fevre, was an Englishman but learned his art here, and from an Australian.  
**John Fawcett**

**A**rthur Le Fevre was a huge hitter in his heyday, but got more length with top class hickory than with steel shafts. When he won the 1921 Australian Open he carried only six clubs.

After 30 years at Royal Melbourne, Arthur handed over the keys of the professional's shop to Ossie Pickworth, who was Le Fevre's assistant for two years and had been trained for this big job.

Le Fevre arrived in Sydney from England in 1912 and joined Dan Soutar at Manly. There he linked with Victor East, who was greatly to influence his career. They toured successfully, and when Arthur returned from the First World War he joined East at Royal Melbourne.

East, in addition to being a notable businessman was a magnificent club maker. He inspired and taught Le Fevre and the young Englishman was a most apt pupil.

In 1921, East went abroad as Joe Kirkwood's manager. The following year he accepted a job on the expert staff at Spaldings, in the USA, and later became an executive of the famous sportsgood firm, Wilsons.

East and Le Fevre, in Victoria anyway, started the rise of the professional golfer from the "servant" to the business sphere. Before them, even at national championships, a tin dish, cold (and limited) water, and a bar of soap in the pro's shop (or shed) were considered adequate as toilet and personal cleanliness requisites for professional competitors.

Le Fevre for years had his suits and plus fours tailored in London. Some diehards in golf viewed it as positively

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## Harry Hattersley, the Life and Journey of an Australian Golfing Legend —Book Review

**B**rendan Moloney's latest book, on the life and times of the great amateur Harry Hattersley, reads more like a gripping novel with a good sprinkling of humour than a biography. It takes us back to the golden age of golf when many of the top amateurs did not turn pro and had careers lasting 40 years or more. The professionals of the time had to be very good to compete against them and possess a touch of the showman to attract paying customers through the gates to see their exhibition matches. Among the many characters found in the book are Walter Hagen, Joe Kirkwood, Jim Ferrier and Gene Sarazen who are today regarded among the greatest golfers ever to have played. To think that Hattersley and the other leading amateurs of his time could hold their own in this company shows what a great golfers they must have been.

The book is beautifully illustrated and the period photographs are among the best we've seen in a golfing biography. Nearly a century after his birth and 67 years after the main events of the book, playing in the 1938 British Amateur and Open, the illustrations help bring the story to life. It is an in-depth account of Hattersley's character and life with personal stories from infancy, through school (where he was briefly a classmate of movie star Errol Flynn) to his golfing successes at home and abroad and, later in life, shooting his age when he was 57. Brendan was fortunate that the Hattersley family had so much material to draw from, ranging from scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings kept by Harry's wife, Gwen, to family photograph albums, old tournament programs, letters and scorecards recounting games played on some of the most famous courses in the world. The book also contains the complete diary kept on his trip to Britain with Tom McKay, Mick Ryan and Len Nettlefold to represent Australia in 1938 and is a fine record of how amateur golf was respected in those times.

Brendan is a member of the Golf Society and two other members have given his book warm reviews: Mike Clayton in 'Golf Victoria' described it as "beautifully crafted" while Neil Crafter in 'Golf Architecture' wrote, "while not a golf course architecture book, author and journalist Brendan Moloney has produced such a delightful book on Harry Hattersley, the NSW amateur great of the 1930s and 40s, that we couldn't help but review it.

This is a must read for all golfers interested in the life stories of the great amateurs matching it with the world renowned professionals.

Review by **Ian Rennick and Keith Wood**. Copies are available from IMG, 5 Hurstmon Street, East Malvern 3145, for \$55 which includes postage and handling and can be signed by the author on request. ●



## Journey of an Old Putter

Some months ago I was visiting some friends and noticed an old golf club leaning against the wall in their hallway. I picked it up, examined it and asked the obvious questions, as it was a very old club and I knew neither had ever played golf. He told an unusual story of having found it some time in the last few months in their back garden. Their house is situated on a T-junction and he assumed the club had been hurled over the side fence.

He had cleaned the club, treated the leather grip and kept it as a weapon of defence in case of an intruder as it was very solid and heavy. It was a number 10 iron, a putter with a brown metallic shaft and on the back inscribed 'forged in Australia' and the name "Ernest something Kingston Heath Golf Clu".

With my friend's permission I photographed the club and wrote to the President of Kingston Heath for further information and asking if perhaps they were interested in being given the club.

Almost by return post I received a letter from the President, Mr. Andrew Jamison, identifying the putter as being a hand forged iron made for their professional Ernest Wood and that Ernie (as he was known) was the club professional from 1931 to 1960. They were delighted to be offered the iron as they had only a very small collection of memorabilia. This club is thought to have been made about 1932.

My son Russell happened to come up to Brisbane for the 30 year reunion of his old school a few months ago so took the precious iron back to Melbourne with him. They were sufficiently chuffed that they have invited Ann and me to Tea when we are in Melbourne and have presented me with a Club tie and a *copy* of the "Test of Time" - The History of Kingston Heath Golf Club. We happen to be going to Melbourne in September -so I am taking a copy of 'The Fairway is Mine' to present to the President.

The puzzle remains. How did the putter journey from Melbourne to Taringa in Queensland. The blade has been well used as the word 'Wood' has been almost worn away. Perhaps it has been resting in an attic or storeroom in one of the very old houses around Taringa and when the old house was removed or demolished the iron was found by a non golfer and discarded as being worthless.

At least it has found a home where it will be treasured and I only wish I knew what happened to the other clubs from the set. The set would have consisted of a wood, a driving *iron*, a mashie, a niblick and if wealthy, a brassie, a cleek, perhaps a mashie-niblick and of course a small canvas golf bag.

But above all who was the Member of Kingston Heath who migrated to Queensland in the 1930s with a set of Ernest Wood's clubs and whose family kept this iron for many years after his death until the year 2004?

**Brian O'Sullivan. ☺**

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indecent that East, in manner and attire, could have been mistaken for a business executive or professional man!

The team of East and Le Fevre - "looking and acting like English gentlemen," it was suggested - set standards which other professionals to their own great advantage were not slow in emulating.

It is often quoted with amazement that Kirkwood used only seven clubs to win the Australian Open of 1920. Le Fevre in winning the 1921 Open had driver, baffle, mid-iron, mashie, niblick and putter.

From all states of Australia and often from abroad, notable golfers came to Le Fevre for clubs.

Miss Joyce Wethered (Lady Heathcoat Amory) and Miss Cecil Leitch, the greatest women golfers Britain ever produced, had sets of woods made by Le Fevre. A member of the royal family of Siam proudly showed his Le Fevre clubs to his opponents the world over. After their return to England, Lord and Lady Somers and Lord Forster had new sets of clubs made by Le Fevre.

Le Fevre rated Kirkwood as the greatest controller of a golf ball that Australia has ever had. He said he would not like to separate Ferrier, von Nida and Pickworth.

Of all the great golfers who visited Australia he rated Hagen first and Sarazen next.

Looking back on Melbourne club golf, Le Fevre rated the greatest pennant combination that which gathered at Royal Melbourne in the-20s, when three national and two state championship winners were available - Ivo Whitton, Alex Russell, Billy Nankivell, CH "George" Fawcett, Eric Quirk, Foster Rutledge, Norman Lockhart and "Peter" Headlam.

Asked which of his thousands of pupils was the best, Arthur at once remarked: "I started a young fellow as a caddie at Manly. He turned out pretty good. His name was Kirkwood." "Your next best?" he was asked. "Miss Mona MacLeod," he replied. Mona MacLeod was Australian Champion and Associates Champion at Royal Melbourne seven times - 1921, 1922, 1924, 1925, 1928, 1933 and 1950. ☺

## Correspondence between a member and the Royal and Ancient

**The Secretary** 07.07.04.  
**Royal and Ancient Golf Club**  
**St. Andrews, Fife. KY169JD**

**Re; Rules of Golf...prior to 1930.**  
**Hickory Shafts...only ones 'permitted'**

Dear Sir,

I am currently reading a book by Sidney L. Matthew's, published in 1992, on 'The History of Bobby Jones' Clubs'.

IN chapter 111 (3), page 33, he states the following... quote 'Hickory shafts were the only ones permitted by golfs rulers until 1924 when the steel shafted putter was allowed by the USGA. In 1926 the USGA further relaxed the prohibition upon the steel-shafted irons and woods. The R&A, however, resisted legalizing steel shafts until 1929.

I would like to know, if Hickory was the 'only' timber permitted or if other timbers were permitted, but seldom used as hickory was considered superior... ?

Is there a Rule of Golf covering this matter and would you be kind enough to forward a copy of the text... ?

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated... I am keenly involved in restoring Antique Golf Clubs and this matter is often raised when a replacement Hickory shaft cannot be found and Hickory is not available to make a new shaft

Thank you for your help and Best Wishes for a successful Open Championship at Royal Troon... for 2004.

Regards...

**Cliff George...**

**Response**

**Subject:** Hickory shafted clubs

Dear Mr Cliff

Hickory shafted clubs - enquiry

Thank you for your letter of 7th July, regarding hickory shafted golf clubs, which has been passed via the Chief Executive of The R&A, to the Heritage Department.

I have checked in the Rules of Golf books we have here at the Club, prior to and including 1929 and under 'Form and Make of Golf Clubs' there are only references to "traditional and accepted form and make of golf clubs" 1906} or "[clubs] which, in its opinion, consist of a plain shaft". I could find no mention in the

Rules books of the exclusive use of hickory to make wooden clubs.

In Behrend, J., Lewis, P & Mackie, K. Champions & Guardians: The Royal & Ancient Golf Club 1884-1939, 2001 the story of the legalisation of steel shafted clubs is told. There are some mentions of the Rules of Golf Committee discussing hickory clubs (as opposed to any other type of wood), but this does not mean that the Rules themselves included the mention of this type of wood:

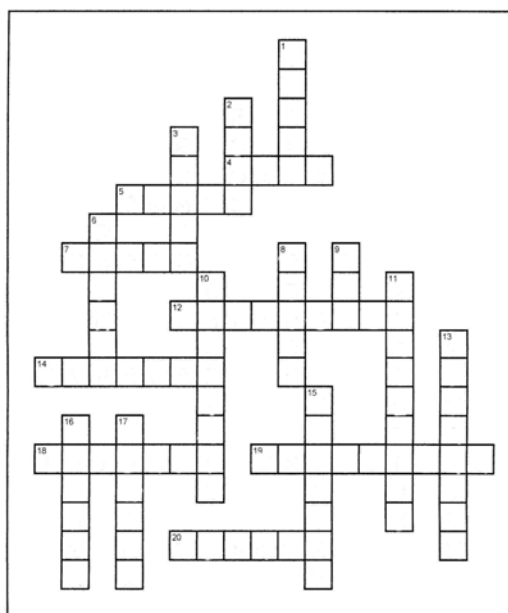
" Meanwhile requests for permission to use steel shafts continued to arrive in St Andrews and at the Business Meeting in September 1929 the rules committee reported that in the past its policy had been to allow steel shafts where for climatic or other reasons it was difficult to obtain and keep good hickory shafts". (Chapter 29, p212)

"... a letter from Herbert Jacques, Chairman of the implements and ball committee, which went in to more detail - 'Reasons governing the decision of the United States Golf Association for adoption of the steel shaft were: first - no noticeable playing advantage over good quality hickory shaft; second - more uniform quality than poor grade hickory shaft; third - less loosening repair work necessary'. ". (Chapter 29, p213)

**Emma Jane McAdam**

**Assistant Curator - Golf Heritage Department R & A**

## Crossword



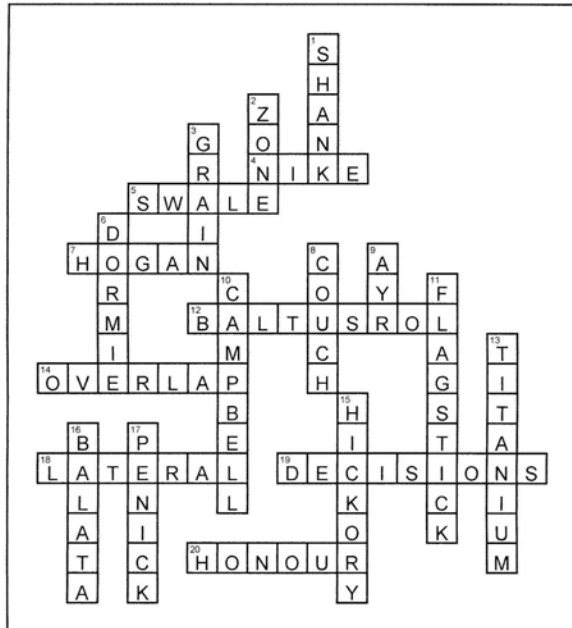
### Across

4. Goddess of Victory
5. dip in ground
7. Known as the "wee ice mon"
12. Venue of 4th major
14. type of grip
18. Hazard
19. R & A rule precedents
20. order of play

### Down

1. unpopular shot
2. place where players want to be
3. Direction of grass growth
6. unloseable position
8. Very popular grass
9. Karrie Webb's home course
10. 2005 US Open winner
11. Attended on green
13. Metal head
15. used in old shafts
16. type of rubber
17. Author of little golf books

## Crossword



## Crossword Solution

## Grips with Pride

### To the Editor

**Y**our piece in May issue of the "Long Game" about Golf Pride grips reminded me of pleasant memories growing up in Camoustie, I was five years old in 1953 when Ben Hogan came to play in and win the Open. Of course life was unavoidably connected to golf and the links, my education enhanced by being a caddy and meeting so many pleasant people from all parts of the world. **One** day around 1960 I caddied for a group from Lancaster Pennsylvania. Apart from their obvious enthusiasm for playing golf in Scotland one thing I noticed was the unusual white rubber grips the pro had on his clubs. Never seen grips like them before. When asked about them he said "son wnte your name / address - I'll send you some" About a month later a package arrived with beautiful Golf Pride slip-on grips. It's doubtful he would have been impressed with the rag tag set of clubs I had to fit them to, however I do remember feeling immensely chuffed with them.

I'm forever grateful for my wonderful upbringing in the small town on the east coast of Scotland and for so many other joyous experiences through golf which eventually led me to America in 1963. ●

**Andrew Coogan**

## *The Champions and The Courses they Played*

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## Program for 2005

### Dinners

**17th October—— Huntingdale Golf Club**

### AGM and Cocktail Party

**14th Nov—— Victoria Golf Club**

### Other Events

**11th October—— Hickory Challenge– Golf Collectors at Woodlands Golf Club**

**Mon 14th November — Doug Bachli Trophy Victoria Golf Club**

## Acknowledgements

**T**he 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.

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## Don Lawrence Trophy 2005— Commonwealth Golf Club



Top Don Lawrence Trophy 2005 Bev Wait, Denise Dawson, Leila Robinson, and Des Dawson Putting.

Right Norm Davies, Bernice Davies and Simone Kelly

Bottom— Don Lawrence Trophy Winners 2005 Marjorie Nadalin and John Wilson with Keith Wood

