

THE LONG GAME

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Sandra McCaw inducted into the Victorian Golf Industry Hall of Fame

By Peter Gompertz



After a long, and distinguished golf career GSA Member Sandra McCaw was recently inducted into the Victorian Golf Industry Hall of Fame.

From June 1965 when a young Sandra Williams hit her first golf shot, with a 7 iron, at Long Island Country Club, through the junior ranks to when she became Australian Junior Champion in 1971, defeating Jan Stephenson, she became Australian Champion a year later. Having married, and become Sandra McCaw, she took a year out for the birth of her son, roaring back to the top in 1974 by defeating gallery favourite, Jane Lock to become Australian Champion again; repeating her win in 1983 and again in 1984. In 1975 Sandra also reached the final of the British Amateur, at St Andrews, played over The Old Course.

As well as becoming a mum early in her career, Sandra was the winner of several State Championships in Victoria from where she moved smoothly on to the international stage, her major achievement there being runner up with Sue Tonkin at the World Pairs Championship at Cali, Colombia, South America in 1985.

As part of a government move to improve relations with Japan, matches were arranged between Australia and Japan by the Australia Japan Friendship Committee. These matches, involved men and women golfers, amateur and professional. Sandra captained the team in 1985; in that team was a young Greg Norman. It is possible that the appearance of golf in Hansard at that time was the first occasion that golf was recorded in a parliamentary debate.

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Australian Amateur Championship 2016

FOR THE DIARY

19th April

Don Lawrence Trophy at Woodlands Golf Club

10th May

Al Howard v AGHS at Kingston Heath Golf Club

23rd May

Dinner at Kingston Heath Golf Club

27th June

Golf Historians at Bendigo Golf Club

Golf Collecting Metallurgy

by Pete Georgiardy

(originally published in the Golf Collectors Society Bulletin)

One of the faults of television golf tournament announcers that rankles me about as much as finger nails screeching when rubbing against a blackboard is the term “three-metal” or “five-metal.” Those are 3-woods and 5-woods regardless of the current head material. They have no problem referring to the other clubs as 3-Iron or 5-Iron even though they have been made of steel, an iron alloy, for over 150 years. No announcer ever said, “He’s hitting his 9-copper beryllium...” It’s still an iron, right?

One of the fascinating parts of the history of golf equipment is the explosion in the application of technology to golf clubs that began in the 1890s. This was manifest in the new shapes of irons testing different concepts of weight distribution, patenting designs to catch the eye and experimenting with new materials, especially metals that did not rust like steel.

Here is handy information on different metals used in making golf “iron club heads” in the hickory shaft era. It may not be entirely comprehensive but it should cover at least 99.5% of all clubs.

Generic (used by many makers)

Aluminum (Aluminium) – First used in driver/fairway wood club heads by Reginald Brougham in England in 1894. Popularized by William Mills’s Standard Golf Company line of ‘metal woods’ and putters. Most of the major club manufacturers made aluminum putters at some point. Arguably the most popular was Arthur Knight’s Schenectady Putter.

Brass – Not used for club heads but it is used for sole plates on wooden clubs and occasionally as a face insert. Brass is primarily copper with 20-35% zinc content.

Bronze – also see Gun Metal. Bronze is primarily copper with 5-8% tin content.

Chromium – Some clubs are marked “Chromium” or “Chrome Plated.” Both of these legends imply a steel club head that has been chrome plated to prevent rusting.

Gun Metal – it is unclear whether putter heads made from a yellow metal are Bronze or Gun Metal. The metallurgical formulas are very similar. Mostly used for putter heads there were a few fairway irons made with this metal in the late 1880s and 1890s. Gun Metal is 56-65% copper, 8-10% tin and 2-4% zinc content.

Phosphor Bronze – Spalding advertized it was making irons from Phosphor Bronze in the “The Spalding” line around the turn of the century. It appeared used by other club makers occasionally. Phosphor Bronze is 90% copper, 9.5% tin and .5% lead content.

Rustless – Another name for Stainless Steel.

Steel – The actual material of “iron” clubs from the oldest days to the advent of Stainless Steel and more modern alloys. Steel is all iron with trace amount(s) of other metallic element(s) like chromium, manganese, molybdenum, tin, etc., depending on purpose.

Stainless Steel – First appeared in the early 1900s, sometime between 1909 and 1912 in different places, as an alternative material to iron heads which required periodic rust removal, usually by caddies. Ultimately most iron clubs were utilising Stainless Steel by 1920. Stainless Steel is mainly made up of 78-86% iron, 12-20% chromium and 2% nickel; there are many other variations.

Proprietary Stainless

Challenger Stainless – The proprietary brand used by J P Cochrane’s of Edinburgh.

Duralite – The MacGregor brand of iron clubs made from a specific stainless steel.

Everbrite – Brand name stainless from the Curtis Bay Copper and Iron Works, Baltimore.

Granger Steel – An alloy that had a high nickel content. When polished it had an extremely high gloss resembling sterling silver. Also called German Silver and used in some clubs from Mac & Mac and Dint.

Hawkins Never Rust – Provider of a premium non-corrosive material that was in general use for other items like horse bits. The Hawkins Company was located in Walsall, Staffordshire.



Mild English Steel – Material used on many Spalding Kro-Flite iron clubs.

Osborn's Rustless – A stainless steel for golf clubs from an old line Sheffield company, Samuel Osborn Company, manufacturing specialty steels for knives, razors, tools and other items requiring sharpness. Their own brand mark of the small hand and heart often are stamped on club heads.

Radite – MacGregor proprietary stainless steel.

Saville Stainless Steel – A proprietary stainless steel used in some British-made club heads in the late 1920s.

Silverite – A shiny stainless steel with high chromium and/or nickel content from a small New York metals house. Clubs date from the 1920s.

Staynorus – A brand name Stainless Steel used by F.H. Ayres in the 1920s.

Stellite – Used by Burke as a very premium quality face insert option in woods. The composition of Stellite is 43% cobalt, 43% chromium and 14% tungsten content.

Waverly – A variety of steel that oxidizes in a deep red color as opposed to the more common orange rust. Used by some British club makers including George Nicoll in the 1900-1920 period.

Yellow and Grey Alloys

Alcumite – A rarely seen aluminum + brass alloy used by MacGregor.

Ampco – Ampco metal was an aluminum bronze alloy made by American Metal Products Company with a very gold-like sheen. Many Ampco clubs were also stamped “Harder Than Steel”.

Dow Metal – a brand name applied to any of various magnesium alloys containing more than 85 percent magnesium and the remainder aluminum and is characterised for its extreme lightness. The primary maker was the Eagrow/Ampco Golf Company which used Dow Metal for their early metal woods.

Em-An-Em – A MacGregor proprietary metal that resembled a bronze-like alloy.

Hunt Nonrustable – A very early American attempt at a rust proof club head the Hunt material was more Monel in appearance than Gun Metal. Hunt clubs were made in Westboro, Mass.

McGill Metal

Exclusively used by the Klin McGill Co. it greatly resembled the bronze-like Ampco metal.

Monel Metal – A very popular non-rusting material for golf clubs, the International Nickel Company (INCO) had an exclusive contract with Spalding, then with Burke. Monel is comprised of 68% nickel, 29.5% copper, 1.5% iron content.

New Metal – Another pale yellow alloy used in a few club heads from G.G. Bussey in the 1890s.

Nu Gold

Another bronze-like alloy used in Aristocrats golf clubs, 1930s.

Rossoid – Another yellow alloy from the 1890s. Maker unknown but clubs made from it were sold by R. Anderson & Son, Edinburgh.

Rustless Golf Company – Turned out golf clubs in Chicago beginning in 1908 or 1909. The gray metal they used resembled Monel and their brand mark was a circular face with features made from the letters R U S LESS.



Nocturnal Golf

I played a wonderful game, for me
And found, when I'd got all through,
That I'd cut my score to a 43
From my usual 62.

On the first, which commonly takes me 8
Because I am not warmed up,
My drive and brasseys were long and straight
And my fifth dropped into the cup.

On the second, where I so often dub
With both of my wooden sticks,
I was there like a duck with either club
And holed in a bogey 6.

On the third, where one of the apple trees
Habitually stops my drive,
I missed the fruit with the greatest ease
And was down in a nice par 5.

I shunned both hazards on No. 4,
The bois and the deep ravine,
And trimmed two strokes from my normal score
By mashieing to the green.

On the fifth, where I frequently take a dip
Or two in the seething foam,
Two aerial swats and a mashie chip
Were plenty to bring me home.

On the sixth, where my second is wont to seek
A nest in the tall uncut,
I stopped at the edge with my third, a cleek,
And was in with my second putt.

On the seventh (They call it a mashie pitch,
And, Lord! how you've got to soar!)
I flew it high over the hellish ditch
And was down in a couple more.

On the eighth – it's one of them tricky holes,
And a 6 is my common lot –
I cleared the cunning but nasty knolls
With a beautiful mid-iron shot.

On the ninth, where in every unfriendly match,
I chum with the Horti Cult,
I scorned Mrs. Wiggs and her cabbage patch
And a 6 was the sweet result.
I made the nine in a 43,
Last night, as I lay in bed.
O, golf is no trouble at all for me
When I play a round in my head.

Anon



David Purdie at RMGC

David Purdie Lunch

By Peter Gompertz

On a sunny Sunday in late February I was privileged to be present at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club for lunch in the clubhouse, followed by an address by arguably the best after-dinner speaker of the moment. Professor David Purdie MD FRCP Edin. is a low handicap golfer and a former speechwriter for Sam Torrance when Captain of the European Ryder Cup team with an encyclopaedic knowledge of early golf from around the world.

An audience of over 150, including 55 GSA members, were treated to an erudite, witty and well illustrated version of early golf history interspersed with well told golfing stories suitable for the mixed audience. No doubt there will always be debate about whether golf started in China with Chui Wan (hitting ball with stick toward hole with flag in it) and then migrated to Scotland or started in Scotland with shepherds passing the long hours watching their sheep knocking stones along the ground, eventually into a hole in the ground, or our Dutch cousins claiming that Kolf on ice was the seminal game. Along the way some golf sticks found their way to Australia in the baggage of early Scots sent out to administer New South Wales, while David Purdie came to talk to us of his own free will observing the golden rule of all speechifying – leave the audience wanting more. He certainly did that.

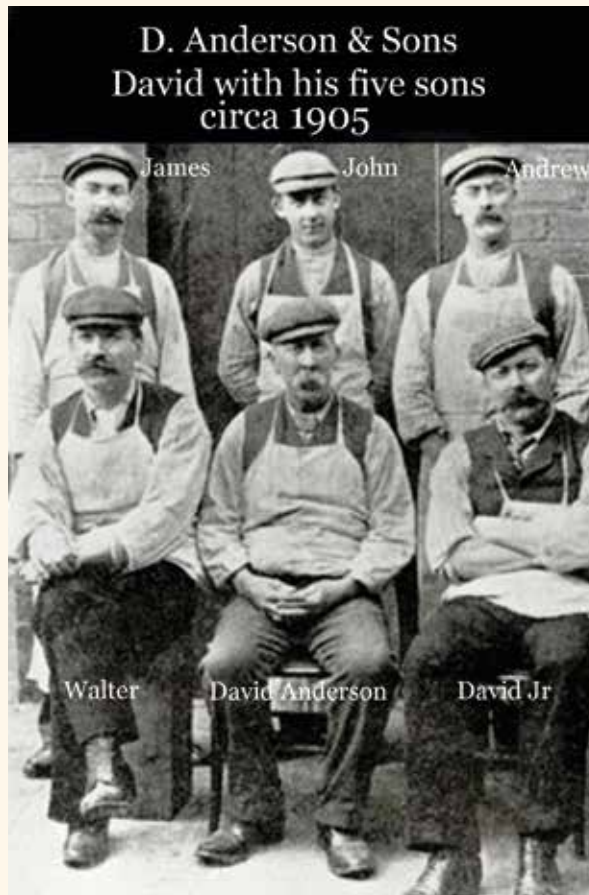
The Golfing Andersons of St. Andrews

by John Lovell with input by David Anderson

David ‘Old Da’ Anderson was the third born child of James and Elizabeth, nee Alexander, and became a weaver prior to joining the men in Allan Robertson’s home, making feather golf balls alongside ‘Old Tom’ Morris. Both ‘Old Da’ and ‘Old Tom’ caddied for Allan Robertson, and both became greenkeepers on the Old course at St. Andrews.

‘Old Da’s’ father, James Anderson, was born at Alyth, Perthshire, Scotland on 2nd September 1789 to Robert and Amelia, nee Craigie. James joined the military and saw service in the Peninsular War on the Iberian Peninsula. Upon his return to Scotland he married Elizabeth and they had four children — James born 1815, Anne born 1817, David born 1819 and Amelia born 1821. In November 1830 James pleaded guilty to endeavouring to pass a vending coin after being arrested in Coupar Angus, Perthshire and was transported to Perth, Perthshire where he faced court. He was transported on to London and sailed on the ‘Camden’ on 21 st March 1831 to serve seven years in Australia. James arrived at Sydney Cove on 25th July 1831 and was put to work in the hospital as a butcher. In March 1836 he was granted his ticket of leave and, in January 1844, his certificate of freedom. Sometime after 1837 James got into a bigamous marriage with the Irish convict Betty Agnew and died at Cumberland Street, then called York Street North, in Sydney on 29th June 1857 due to disease, neglect, and intemperance.

Allan Robertson’s cousin, Elspeth had a daughter Margaret Alexander and she and ‘Old Da’ married and had four children — James, or Jamie, born 1842, Elspeth born 1845, David born 1847 and another Elspeth born 1852, the first Elspeth having died in 1848.



Both Jamie and David married and had 11 and 14 children respectively. Elspeth looked after ‘Old Da’ after Margaret died and at this time ‘Old Da’ ran the ginger beer stall at the fourth green of the Old Course with such ginger beer believed to have been laced with brandy from the clubhouse.

James, known as Jamie, Anderson commenced playing golf when he was ten years old and soon became known for his rifle-like straightness with every, shot and his deadliness with his putter. From 1877 Jamie won three successive Open Championships; in the 1879 Open Championship at Prestwick, he teed-up on the seventeenth hole only to be warned he could be disqualified if he played the ball from its position which was in front of the markers. Jamie calmly replaced his ball, re-addressed and holed out. He died a pauper in 1905 at the Dysart Combination Poor House, Perth, Scotland.

David, ‘Old Da’s’ other son, commenced a club making business in St. Andrews — D. Anderson & Sons, and the family actually took over the Tom Morris Golf Shop and ran it until 2010. All of ‘Old Da’s’ grandsons became professional golfers.

A professional golfer of particular interest is Jamie’s son, David Dyson Anderson born 1874 in St. Andrews. Having learnt his trade at Forgans he went to the United States of America, was the professional at a number of clubs, married, and had a daughter, but returned to Britain in the late 1890’s alone. In 1900 he married Maude Edith Holman in London and they had a son named David Fettes Anderson during 1913. From 1914 until 1920 David D. Anderson was a member of the Royal Flying Corps; in 1925 the family moved to Perth, Western Australia to start a farm. Instead, he was enticed to

become professional at the Cottesloe Golf Club and, in fact, designed the second nine holes at that club’s new layout at Swanbourne. In 1928 he became the professional at the Perth Golf Club, now Royal Perth Golf Club; a post he held until retiring at the end of 1938. He redesigned some holes at the Royal Fremantle Golf Club, designed eighteen holes for the Mt. Lawley Golf Club, and nine holes for the Sandridge Park course in Bunbury. His son, David F. Anderson became a professional golfer. David D. Anderson died at Como, Perth in March 1939 and Maude E. Anderson died at Subiaco, Perth in June 1947.

References and Sources

1. Scott Anderson of Aberdeen, Scotland. Great, great grandson of ‘Old Da’.
2. David Anderson of Townsville, Australia. Great, great grandson of ‘Old Da’.
3. James Fagan of Canada. Great, great grandson of ‘Old Da’.

Mrs Forman's is No More

By Peter Gompertz (from notes provided by the BGCS)

Mrs Forman's hostelry, which has been serving golfers at Musselburgh for almost 200 years has closed and will be converted into houses. Part of the old pub is to be demolished.

George Forman's father built, and ran, a pub at Levenhall from about 1822 on the east of Musselburgh Links, which would be world famous until it was closed by Punch Taverns in 2015. For several decades, it was known as Blucher Hall, as it was built on the stable land of a cottage called Blucher's Hall, which still exists next door. The cottage was named in honour of Count Blücher, joint victor of Waterloo, who had a personal connection to the owner of Blucher's Hall, according to his descendants.

In 1826, George Forman married Marion Bowman, from West Barnes, who became Mrs Forman, after whom the pub would be named.

At some point, George took over the pub from his father and ran it until he died in 1843, aged only 41. George and Marion had nine children, whom Marion then had to work to look after all by herself: George (16), Peter (14), Margaret (13), Ann (11) James (9) Mary (7) Betha (5), Charles (3) and Cath (1). Sadly Cath died in the following year and a several years later James drowned and others moved away, including George who died in Australia, aged 78. However, some of the children would continue to live in Musselburgh, and work in the pub, all their lives.

Mrs. Forman would not serve anyone who was drunk. She had a unique way of dealing with her male customers and would frequently refuse their money, saying: 'Tak yer money hame tae yer wife, she has mair need o' it than me.' In all the years she ran the pub, the police never had any cause to complain and there were never any problems with of renewal her spirit licence. She served Lords and commoners alike, though VIPs dined in the kitchen and others had to make do with garden if she was full.

Mrs Forman's 'speciality of the house' was Welsh Rarebit - that is spicy toasted cheese, but she was equally renown for her fresh poached eggs, fish and bread and cheese.

The high quality of Mrs Forman's fare is evidenced in the amusing tale of when Sir David Wedderburn dined there, told in the *Reminiscences of the Old Bruntisfield Links Golf Club*. Intending to congratulate her on the freshness of her eggs, but catching sight of the leeks hanging from the kitchen rafters, Sir David said 'What beautiful legs you've got Mrs Forman!'

Mrs Forman's was the site of a major golfing incident in 1870, when Old Tom Morris, from St Andrews, and Willie Park Snr were playing a close match for high stakes. Willie was from Musselburgh and the local crowd were interfering with Old Tom's play. The umpire halted the match until the following day during the refreshment break in Mrs Forman's, which Willie Park refused to accept. Willie finished the match and the day after, when Old Tom walked the course and was declared the winner, Willie 'arrested' the stakes. After arbitration the match was declared void

Mrs Forman's was one of the pick-up points for the local mail. The mail coach from Berwick would come galloping past, without stopping and 'the guard dexterously picked up the Prestonpan's' letter-bag, which was lightly fastened on to a pole and held out by Mrs Forman's son, Peter. The 'Union' coach, painted yellow, used regularly to pass Forman's at eight in the evening, whirling along amid a cloud of dust in its journey from Berwick to Edinburgh.'

Mrs Forman's was at the terminus of the trams.

Mrs. Forman ran the pub until her death in 1888, aged 84, when her spinster daughters Ann and Bethia, with John Forman, took over. The Inn remained in the Forman family into the next century. Golfers were served drinks through one of windows. It is believed to be the only place in the world where you could order and have a drink on the green during a match. One of the most famous drinkers was Bobbie Jones who visited in 1930 to sketch the Sea Hole which he wanted to reproduce in the States. George Colville tells the story in his book on the five Musselburgh Open champions of how he drank a pint with Bobbie at the window of the pub while discussing putting techniques.

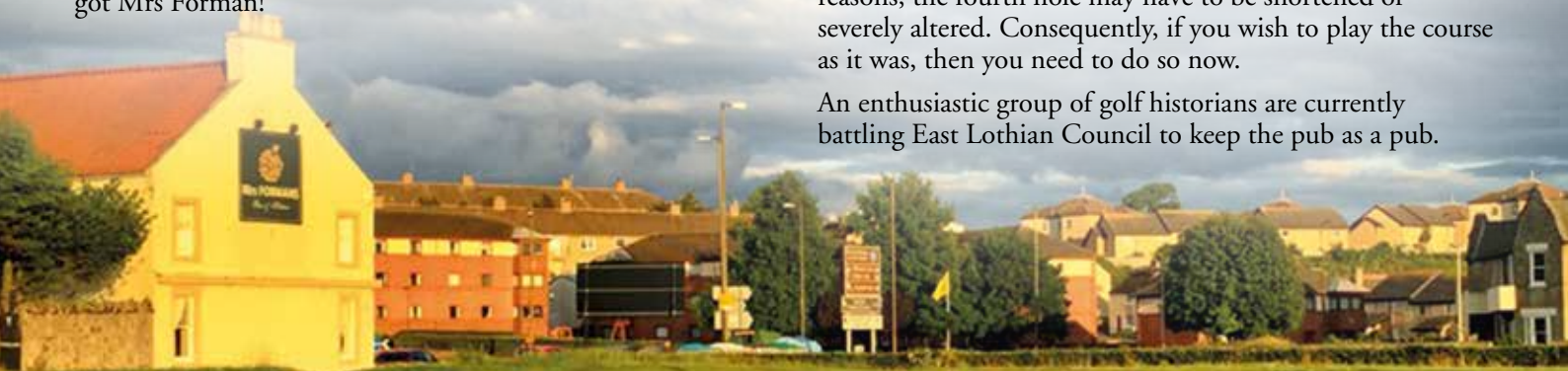
The 4th hole on the Old Course is called Mrs Forman's and it is the signature hole of the Musselburgh course and best known, certainly the most testing.

Many famous golfers have dined at Mrs Forman's during, and after, her reign and the pub has changed hands several times. A few years ago it was renovated and modernised. Its loss will be sad blow to Musselburgh, which already struggles to attract business.

For a sincere and moving tribute to Mrs Forman's and walkthrough of the 4th hole at Musselburgh then play the video by Geoff Shackelford on Ru (Ruairidh) Macdonald's website or at *Golf Digest*.

If the planning application goes through, then, for safety reasons, the fourth hole may have to be shortened or severely altered. Consequently, if you wish to play the course as it was, then you need to do so now.

An enthusiastic group of golf historians are currently battling East Lothian Council to keep the pub as a pub.



Mrs Formans and 4th green

Golf Historians

By Peter Gompertz

A meeting of golf historians was hosted by Kim Hastie at Heidelberg Golf Club on 21st March.

The speakers were Neil Walker, Norm Shearer and Jan Balgowan from Heidelberg G C, and Murray Cropley from Latrobe G C.

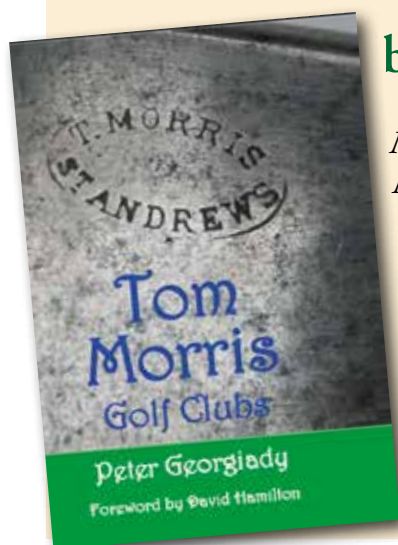
GSA Curator Cliff George talked about two hickory golf clubs, past committee member Paul Burgess showed a book on golf memorabilia by Sarah Baddiel and past President Ian Rennick spruiked a reprint of *The Australian Golfer* by Dan Soutar. There will be a fuller report in the next issue.

Tom Morris Golf Clubs

by Peter Georgiady

Much has been written about the Grand Old Man of golf but very little has been written about his club and ball making business.

This book collects the most information on Tom Morris's club making business ever assembled in one place. There are over 190 pictures, some of which have never been seen by Morris collectors. Published by the Airlie Hall Press and available direct from Peter Georgiady airliehall@earthlink.net or Amazon for about US\$45.



Royal Blackheath

By Peter Gompertz

Lemuel Francis Abbott's renowned portrait of Henry Callender standing in a landscape, attired in the red coat of Captain General of the Blackheath Golf Club, and holding a putter, is now the most valuable golf portrait ever sold at auction, reaching £722,500 (A\$1,455,400.)

Golf at Blackheath is the earliest ever recorded in England, dating from 1608, and the Club decided to sell its painting to fund the acquisition of the freehold of its course, and clubhouse, from The Crown Estate – a one-off opportunity that ensures its future.



The Australian Golfer

by Dan Soutar

The most important book published on the early history of golf in Australia. The author, D.G. (Dan) Soutar was one of the first professional golfers in Sydney having arrived there, from Scotland, in 1903.

“Easy fluency, conciseness, excellent arrangement of material, a gift of expression that puts even the complexities of a golf stroke into a form that looks almost simple – all of these are found in Mr Soutar's book. It was only to be expected that Mr Soutar would have a great deal of valuable information at his finger's ends on the subject of golf in Australia. This is a book which golf players of every degree of proficiency, or ineptitude, may study with advantage, and the explanations are so simple that the veriest duffer, after reading them, will be utterly unable to account for the regularity with which he either miss the ball altogether or misplaces the turf and the Secretary's temper simultaneously. *Sydney Daily Telegraph*

Available to order from the following websites or purchase a copy at a Dinner, or a Historians meeting (cheque or cash preferred):
www.portcampbellpress.com.au
www.bookdepository.com
www.booktopia.com.au
www.ebay.com.au



Cliff George and Korean girl golfers

Australian Amateur Championship 2016

by Cliff George

This famous Championship was held this year at the Metropolitan Golf Club in South Oakleigh, and attracted competitors from all over Australia, Asia, Europe, and the US. During the final four days of the competition, in January, Golf Australia gave approval for the GSA, to have a small 'History of Golf' exhibition, inside the club house from 10am to 4pm each day.

The purpose of this exhibition was to display the hickory golf clubs used by Louis Whyte in 1894, who won this competition for the first time.

The exhibition was welcomed by Metropolitan Golf Club and created much interest with the golf club members, and the visiting teams from around the World

Also on display was a selection of books including *The History of the Geelong Club* and *The Australian Golfer*, all related to the start of this great event. The display also included some old pictures of Louis Whyte.

This was a great opportunity for the GSA to stimulate interest in the 'History of Golf' and I would like to thank Golf Australia and the Metropolitan Golf Club for their help, and support, in allowing this exhibition.

The Golf Society of Australia was formed in 1982 to research and preserve the history of golf in Australia. As part of this role, the Society manages the Museum and Library for Golf Australia. Golf Australia supports the Society by providing office space and administrative assistance.