The Long Game

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Historians at Bendigo

Cliff George's presentation at this forum focused on the value of having an old club identified properly before any work is performed on it.

This process will put a new owner in an informed position and will help him, or her, decide how to move forward. Most mass produced clubs from the 1920s have little value, others however, left neglected for many years, covered in grime and rust, can be rare and quite valuable.

The examples Cliff used were – a Tom Stewart Massie Niblick, which carries the 'approval Dot' on the back of the Toe. RARE.

A Tom Stewart Driving Mashie with a smooth face, this club does not have the registration 'line stamp'. RARE.

A Spalding 'Crest' Niblick with a smooth face; this is an early club from Dysart in Fyfe with a head weight of 335gms. RARE.

A Spalding 'Gold Medal 3' smooth face, cupped; an early club from the US Factory, with a very unusual head shape. RARE.

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For The Diary

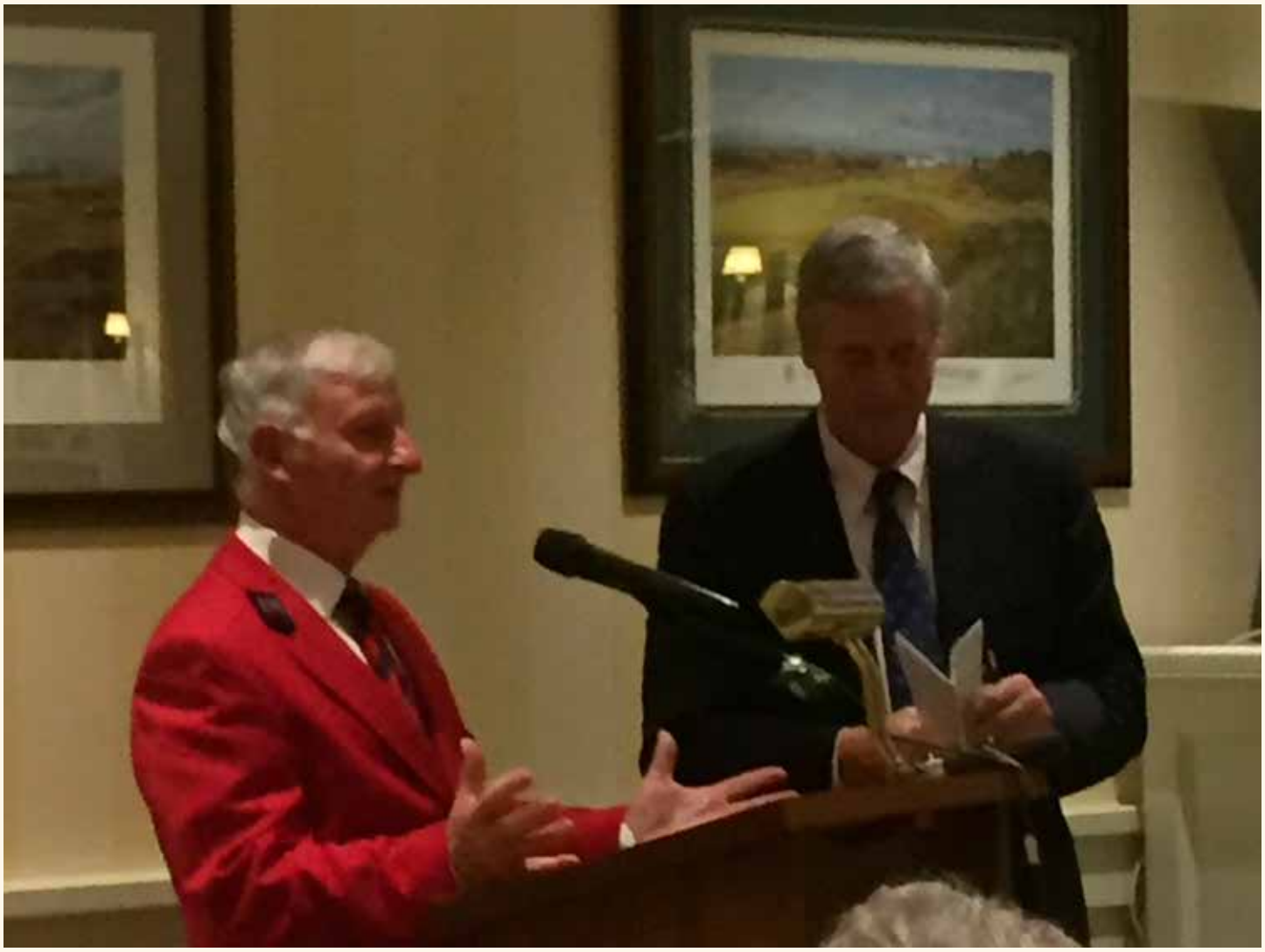
10th October
Historians Forum at Royal Melbourne Golf Club

16th October
Hickory Championships for Frank Heard and Burtta Cheney Trophies at Kingston Heath Golf Club

21st November
Doug Bachli Trophy, AGM and Cocktail Party at Victoria Golf Club

Dinner at Royal Melbourne and review of 'The Peter Thomson Five'

by Geoff Vincent



More than 80 members and guests gathered at Royal Melbourne Golf Club to hear author Tony Walker talk of his time with Peter Thomson exploring his life, golf and how he achieved Open glory in 'The Peter Thomson Five'.

Peter Thomson won five golf Open Championships. He is only the third golfer to have won five or more, behind the great Harry Vardon, who won six. He very nearly did win six and his achievements place Peter among sporting greats like Don Bradman, Rod Laver, Margaret Court and Dawn Fraser.

Tony gave us wonderful personal insights into the man himself, revealing the diverse career of a remarkable Australian sportsman, and citizen.

Tony Walker himself is a golf tragic who spent most of his career as a foreign correspondent, and political editor, of various Fairfax newspapers. He won two Walkley awards and was awarded the Centenary Medal for his contributions to journalism. This is Tony's first sporting book; he was involved in a biography of Yasser Arafat while posted to Cairo as foreign correspondent.

Tony's humble approach reveals the personality, and sensitivity, of Peter Thomson, and the difficultiesn he overcame on his way to his outstanding achievements.

Our thanks to Tony for his insights; I commend the book to all of our readers.

Hickories at Crans sur Sierre Switzerland

by Peter Coddington

Fans at the Omega European Masters were treated to an exhibition event after play on Saturday as Miguel Angel Jiménez, Lee Westwood and Danny Willett played two holes using only hickory golf clubs while decked out in traditional 1930s golf attire.

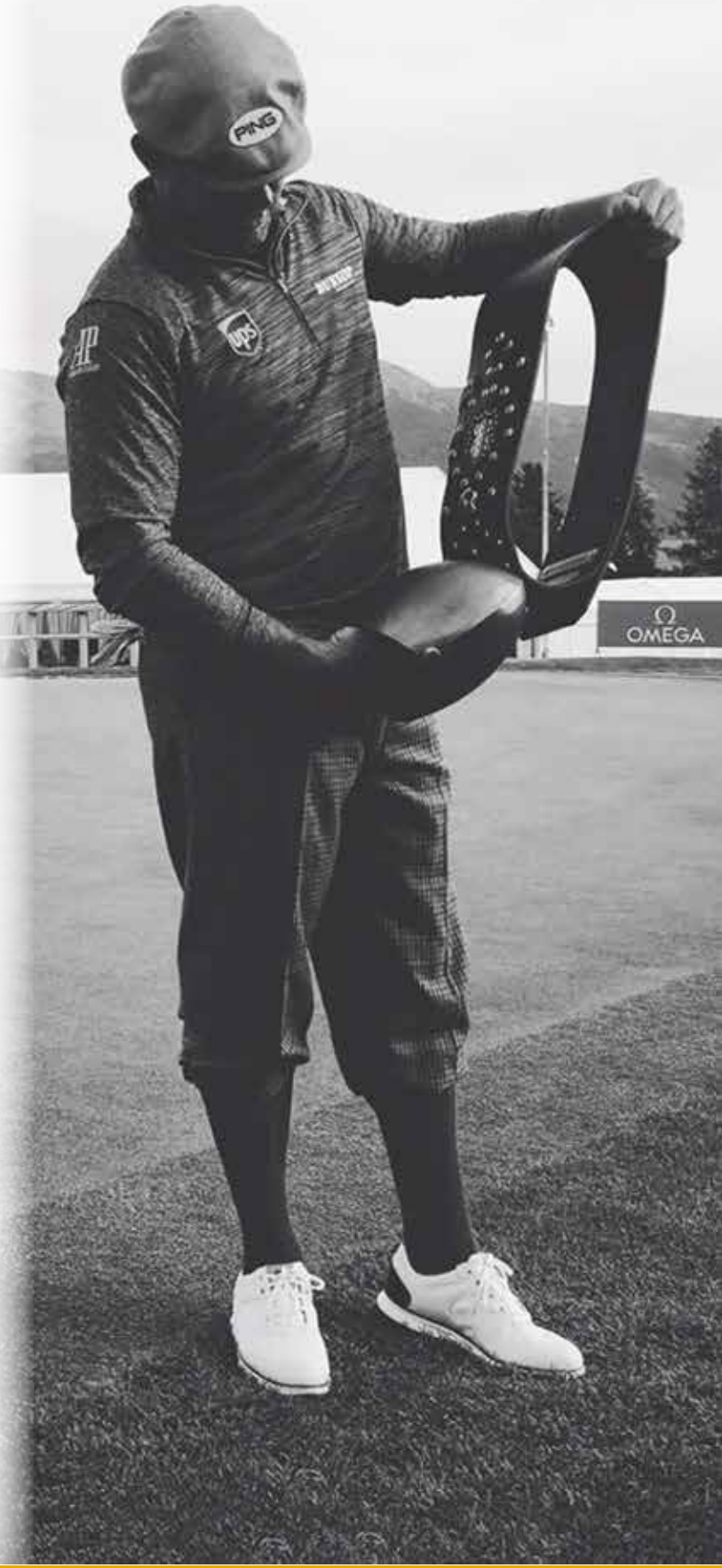
In front of throngs of Swiss golf fans, Westwood took home the cow-bell trophy for the hickory challenge; a concept created by the prestigious golf tournament to celebrate its 70th anniversary. The former World Number 1 from England also faced stiff competition from Paolo Quirici, 2013 World Hickory Champion.

All four players, dressed in 1930s plus fours and flat caps, played the tenth and 18th holes (par four and five, respectively) of Golf-Club Crans-sur-Sierre with traditional hickory clubs. The two-hole challenge was packed full of drama from the outset. Willett was the first to tee off, landing his ball in a bunker but the Omega European Masters defending champion recovered with a beautiful shot to the green to make par. Westwood finished the 10th with a superb putt to share the lead with Jiménez and Willett, celebrating with a little jig to the delight of the gallery Jiménez was unlucky at the 18th and was forced to attempt a Seve-style "great escape" from behind the fence, although he could not quiet emulate the heroics of his celebrated late compatriot and finished with a bogey.

Play ended with Westwood and Willett facing each other in a play-off, which was a nearest the pin challenge from the drop zone on the 18th, in front of the packed grandstand. After both players' balls failed to make the green (Willett's heading off to the side of the green and Westwood's dropping into the water), they attempted the shot again and Westwood got the closest for victory ."It was great fun," said Westwood afterwards. "It was a completely different feel to what we're used to normally. The hickory challenge was a good finish to a great day of golf."

More than one of the participants commented, ruefully, that playing a couple of holes with hickory clubs had slowed their metal swings down and they scored better. No names!

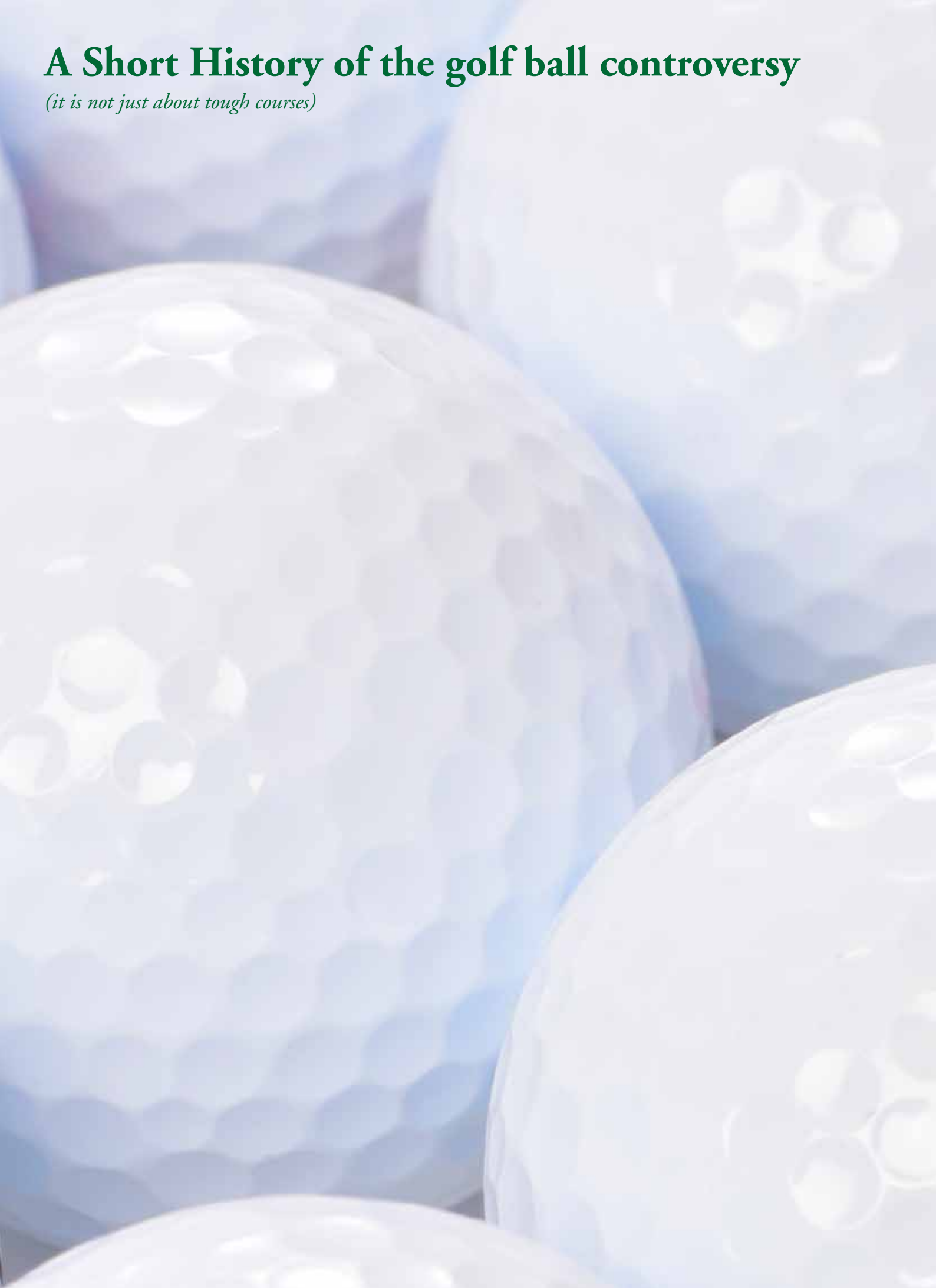
The event was set up to commemorate the 70 years that the OMEGA European Masters has been hosted in Crans-Montana, making it the longest running golf tournament at the same venue in Europe, and the second longest running in the world after The Masters. The vintage clothing and hickory golf clubs were a nod to 1939, which was the first year that the tournament was played at Golf-Club Crans-sur-Sierre.



Lee Westwood with the 'cowbell trophy'

A Short History of the golf ball controversy

(it is not just about tough courses)



The size, weight, surface covering and compression of the ball all affect how far the golfer can hit it and control it in the wind and around the green.

The ball makers have continually researched what is the most aerodynamic, durable and reactive covering and though these issues have an effect on the skill requirements of a golfer, few have suggested that they should not continue to be free to improve the ball in this area, so let us leave that to one side.

Secondly, modern golf equipment does help hit the ball farther than the old hickory clubs but though the equipment makers adverts might suggest otherwise, remarkably, equipment has only helped by some 15% in the last 100 years. So it is primarily the ball that is the issue.

Thirdly, we must also recognise that one of the reasons the ball is being hit so far by the very best players is that they are fitter and stronger, which should, in fairness, be applauded.

Nevertheless top tennis players are also fitter and their regulators saw the need to de-power the tennis ball for everyone, which resulted in a controversial, across-the-board improvements in the game of tennis.

So if it is the ball that has changed so much what are the salient historical events that might help inform the present discussion in learning how to solve the modern problem of a too powerful ball and not keep repeating the same mistakes.

History started with golf played with 'feathery' balls that were expensive, with people like Allan Robertson of St Andrews having almost a monopoly on their production.

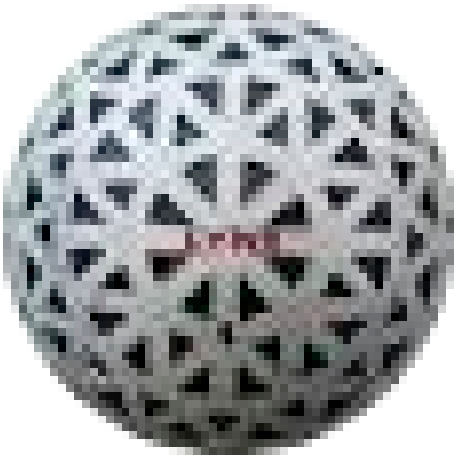
Around 1860 the gutta-percha, a type of solid rubber, which was cheaper and less cut-able took over until 1900 when Haskell, an American, invented a compressed, wound-rubber-core ball which could be hit significantly further than the gutta-percha, although it was more difficult to control around, and on the green.

After Sandy Herd won The Open Championship at Hoylake in 1902 with a Haskell, the gutta-percha gradually lost appeal and the era of how the ball should be regulated was undertaken by golf's organizers.

It was the introduction of the 'small heavy' ball around 1909 that accelerated this need for regulation, in a sport that was now growing fast.

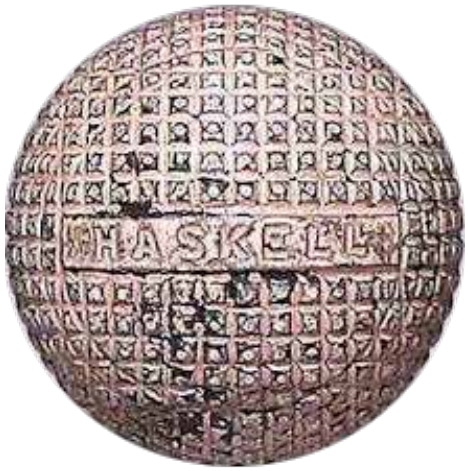
John Low of Woking GC, who had such a large and helpful influence on the introduction of 'strategic design' of inland courses at this time, was appointed chairman of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club Rules Committee and in 1919 it announced its intention **"to limit the power of the ball, in order to retain the special features of the game"**.

Bernard Darwin in 1920 called for "a ball that demands, and responds, to greater skill and variety of stroke"; but the implementation of these guiding principles was frustrated at every turn.

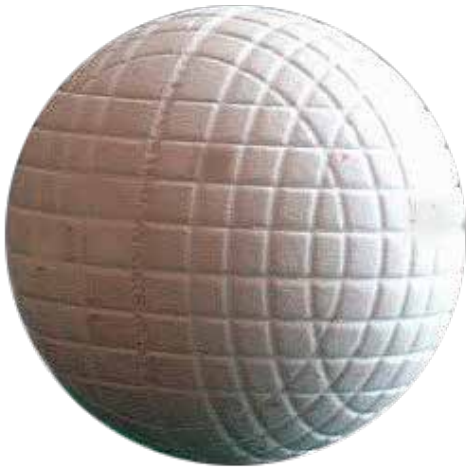


A small heavy ball

A pre 1850 average size feathery



A Haskell ball



A gutta percha ball

A Short History of the golf ball controversy continued...

At this time 'regulation' was seen in terms of 'limitation' on minimum size and maximum weight. The USGA (who continue to be the regulators of the game in the USA) were not in full agreement with the R&A on what needed to be done and it is most commentators' opinion that the result in 1921 was a compromise, based on 1.62oz maximum weight and 1.62 inches minimum diameter.

John Low nevertheless announced that "**an important principle had been established that the players, not the manufacturers, would henceforth decide the sort of golf that shall be played"**, which as history was later to show, proved a wildly optimistic proclamation. John Low emphasised that the 'limitation' was not a 'standardisation' of the ball. He went on to assert that "If, or when, experience proves the weight too high or size too small it is a simple matter to alter".

Soon after the announcement of the 'limitations' Abe Mitchell and George Duncan, two leading players of the era, played a match at North Foreland with 1.62 balls and found they travelled further than any other ball on the market!

John Low replied to the ensuing criticism "we desired to cause the least possible inconvenience and financial loss to the ball makers. Therefore we set the minimum limit size at a figure which will not involve the scrapping of any moulds now in use."

J H Taylor, arguably the most respected professional golfer of the era, was scathing in a letter to The Times saying "a mistake has been made which must be frankly owned as such by the Rules Committee". He called for the ball to 'float' when in water i.e. be lighter and larger, and **"we should be compelled to learn and re-learn how to control the flight of the ball in every kind of wind and circumstance, which is the quintessence of golfing skill, an art that is now being lost simply because there is no occasion for its employment"**.

The ball makers were in apoplexy over Taylor's letter and the national newspaper letter columns ran hot with argument. Harry Vardon gave the most concise thoughts on the subject, saying that **"an overall distance limit should be applied"** – a suggestion well ahead of its time.

Throughout the 1920s golfers could use their knowledge and skill in choosing to use different balls on different holes, for example a 1.62 inch ball into the wind and a larger, lighter one for greater control on firm ground downwind.

In Britain and the USA exhaustive tests were carried out to find a 'suitable' golf ball, but little progress was made and the 1.62 'limitation' turned into the 'standard'

In 1929 the USGA broke away from the R&A and announced "From extensive and constant research, the conviction has grown that a 1.68 inch minimum and 1.55oz maximum ball, best meets all requirements of play". They felt it was: **"fair to the average golfer and a little more exacting for the expert and complimentary to the architecture and playing values of the course"**.

The new larger, lighter ball would better respond to the skill and control of top players and the longest hitters would lose some length. Until, that is, the ball makers found a way round the law, and the 'resilience' factor was still unrestricted!

The American, baked, summer fairways had been a main factor behind pressure to change the ball. The USGA then found the need for change eroded by the new idea of fairway watering, an inevitable extension of the practice of watering greens.

The clubs with money had been introducing soft fairways on which the heavier ball was easier to control and it comes as no surprise, therefore, to find that the 1.68 inch x 1.55 oz ball introduced in 1931 in America was a failure, even though the USGA conducted a strong PR campaign to promote it. Only one year elapsed before the USGA amended the dimension to the heavier 1.68 inch x 1.62 oz.

The New York Times reported the new ball specifications were "Brought out as an attempt to curb long driving and to prevent old courses from becoming obsolete as a result of the 1.62 x 1.62 balls' constantly increasing ballistic properties. The new sphere, quickly dubbed the 'balloon' ball, immediately aroused a storm of criticism…. although at the end of the season it was not as violent as it was at first".

The best golfers could use either the 1.55oz or the 1.62oz weight and their overriding concern was that golf be played on challenging courses which allowed the cream to rise to the top.

Watered fairways restored the challenge for them more effectively than the lighter ball. For the recreational golfer increased skill was needed to control the balloon ball in the wind and everybody had long since forgotten that up to 1909 and the arrival of the 'small heavy', all golfers faced that extra difficulty as a matter of course. A typical ball in 1909 would have been both larger and lighter than the one which all classes of American golfers rejected in 1931.

By 1930 both John Low and Arthur Croome, who had also been a leading figure in trying to control the ball-makers, had died which marked the end of an era and the R&A Rules Committee confirmed Britain would not follow the Americans in their choice of a bigger ball, justifying themselves by declaring: "The advantages of the proposed change are not commensurate with the disturbance of conditions of play and manufacture likely to result there from".

The ball makers were pleased their moulds would be spared, though ball-maker A.E. Penfold noted that "UK manufacturers will undoubtedly lose a distinct trading advantage and exports will fall."

After almost continuous argument across the 1920s, the 1930s years of depression saw the debate fall silent until ball-maker Spalding in 1935 announced an injected lubricant which enabled the rubber windings to deliver more power.

Robert Harris of Carnoustie, the new chairman of the R&A Rules Committee, organised more tests and the R&A announced in 1938 "the adoption of a less powerful ball would be to the advantage of all classes of golfers", but nothing came of it as the second world war soon intervened.

Nevertheless, in 1941 the Americans overcame the technical difficulty of measuring a ball's resiliency with the Armour Machine, a breakthrough, as Nick Park says, that should figure prominently in any golfing Hall of Fame.

No ball would be legal from 1942 if it proved capable of leaving the club face at more than 250ft/second (at 70 degrees Fahrenheit and at sea level).

This inclusion of resilience meant that for the next 30 years only minimal additions in length would be achieved, even if the ball makers' adverts did not reflect this harsh truth in the years to come.

In 1946, in Britain, before the ball makers had geared up their peacetime ball production lines, Roger Wethered, a champion amateur golfer and long-time member of the R&A Rules Committee, admitted later that he made the mistake of being talked out of supporting a move to go to the American larger 1.68 inch ball. The moment was lost and it was not until much later that Britain eventually fully came into line again with the Americans.

During this period Henry Cotton and 'Laddie' Lucas came out in favour of the larger ball that required more accurate striking, while Lord Brabazon of Tara continued to argue for the small ball.

The arguments were quite confused but it was generally recognised that the small ball was easier to strike into the wind but more difficult downwind and around and on firm seaside greens. The smaller ball enthusiasts argued without much objective evidence that it suited dry British seaside courses.

Nevertheless with automatic watering systems coming into the U.K., soon British greens no longer remained firm during dry summers and lush American inland type golf was soon to carry all before it with the era of target golf reaching its peak of appeal in the 1980/90s.

In 1964 the British PGA made the 1.68 ball compulsory, in 1974 the R&A brought it in for The Open Championship and in 1990 it eventually became the standard for all amateur golf.

In summar, what makes a ball better or worse to play?

The choice is between a 'small heavy' for distance, or a 'larger lighter' for control around the greens.

Historically the gutta-percha and the floater increased the requirement of skill and reduced distance, giving the advantages of being able to play in a smaller area and quicker, and it was these issues that seemed to exercise Nick Park's (one of the founders of the REAL campaign for better golf) thinking of where the future lay as can be read in the concluding chapter of his Golf Monthly 1988 Series.

He presciently summarised "We must get round more quickly – on less land – if golf is to retain its share of participation in 20 years time."

Does the evolution of the golf ball suggest that whenever the 'limitations' on size and weight of the ball were attempted by the regulators they were overtaken by argument and confusion (perhaps enhanced by the ball-makers)?

Add to that, the fact that little was achieved but a continual lengthening of courses and the time it takes to play a round as the ball became more powerful.

Does the forgoing suggest that now that accurate measuring machines are available, a simple regulation should be introduced that in a standard test the ball should not go further than a certain, defined distance?

Such an introduction would continue to allow innovation in ball-making in construction and cheaper manufacture, while being a simple control that would encourage other helpful developments like:

1) natural (that some call sustainable) greenkeeping for fine, firm, quicker-running grasses, with the use of less water and chemical fertilisers and pesticides,
2) the building of shorter courses that require less land and maintenance cost,
3) the return of the 2.5 hour round of golf, at the same time as,

4) enhancing the skill and challenge required.

Is the modern golf game so focussed on maximising the short-term, commercial interests of the equipment and chemical manufacturers and putting more and more money into the TOP players pockets via TV that these aspects have come to dominate the sport?

Will the recreational game continue to wither, and suffer, or will the regulators stand-up to these powerful forces and start putting the interests of 95% of golfers first?

John Philp of Carnoustie was not the first person to call for:

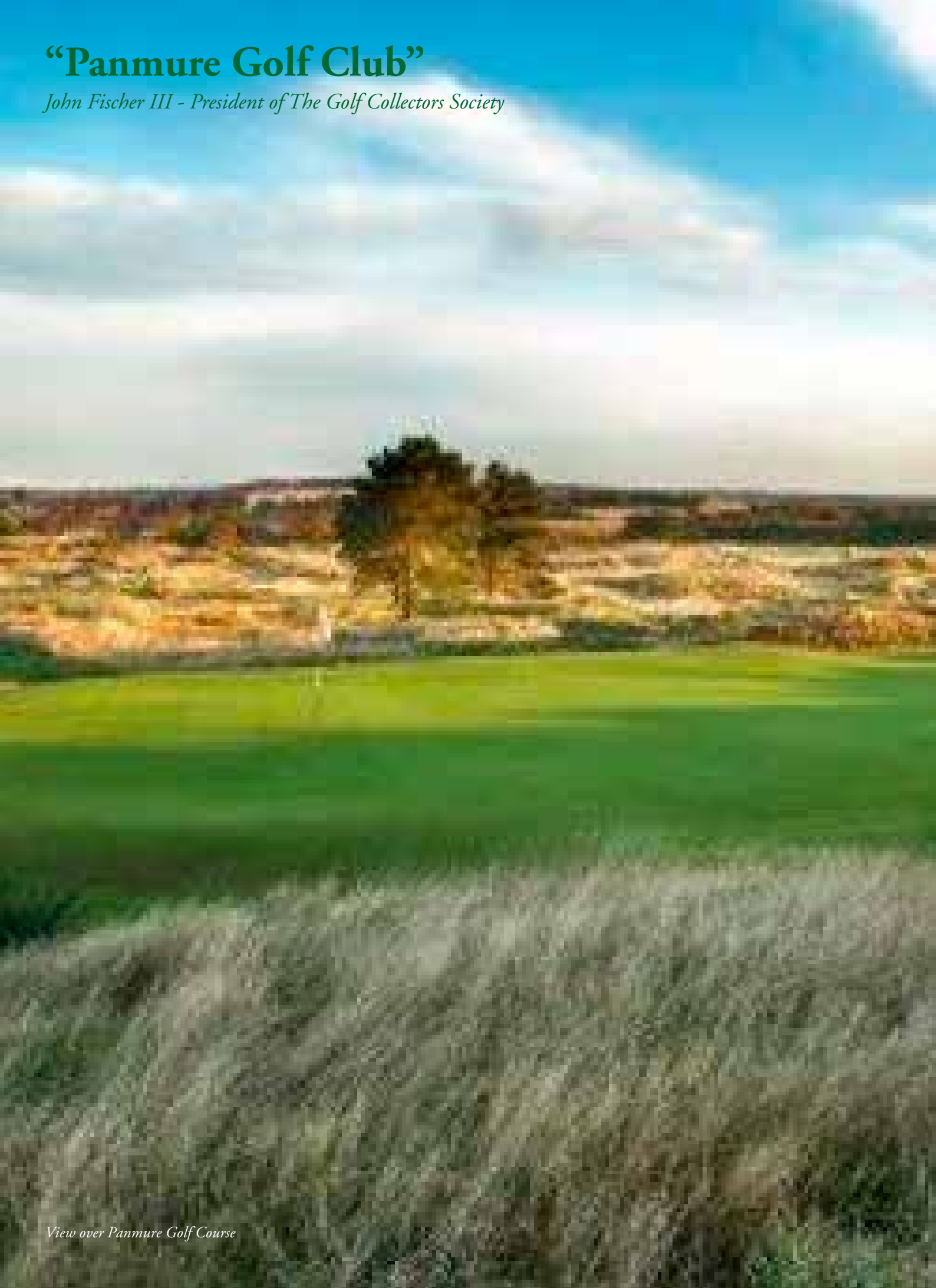
1. "The ball should be designed to fit the courses – NOT the courses to fit the ball"
2. "Skill and craft in winning championships should be that of the golfer – NOT the manufacturer".

Welcome to new members

Katryna Economou, Warwick Hill-Rennie, Peter Maher, Anthony Rule, Andrew Thomson

"Panmure Golf Club"

John Fischer III - President of The Golf Collectors Society



View over Panmure Golf Course

On October 10-14, 2016, the World Hickory Open will be played in Scotland at Panmure Golf Club just down the road from Carnoustie Golf Links, and its celebrated Championship Course. The Championship Course has hosted seven Open Championships and is the site of the 2018 Open, but Panmure holds a unique place in the history of The Open Championship, although it has never hosted the tournament.

Panmure Golf Club was the site Ben Hogan chose to prepare for the 1953 Open Championship at Carnoustie which he would win. How Hogan selected Panmure is an interesting sidelight to his Open victory.

Ben and his wife, Valerie, arrived at Prestwick Airport two weeks before the start of The Open. They had hired a car and driver who drove them to the Bruce Hotel in Carnoustie where the manager took them to a room with a superb view of the Championship Course, the Firth of Tay and the North Sea beyond.

However, the room had no bathroom. It was down the hall. Hogan said they couldn't stay at the hotel, and while he didn't explain why, he was not assuming the role of the "ugly American." After his horrific auto accident four years earlier his legs were so badly injured that he had to soak in a hot tub every evening after playing, and a room with a bath was essential.

Through a friend who had a contact with National Cash Register Company, the Hogans found a house at Tay Park, about 11 miles away, with perfect accommodations. It was owned by the company which had a plant in nearby Dundee and used the house for visiting executives.

Hogan had never played in Scotland before and was not used to links golf. But after winning both The Masters and the US Open in 1953, there was some pressure to try for The Open Championship, and he was encouraged to do so by golfing friends, including Walter Hagen who had won The Open Championship four times. If Hogan was the best golfer of his day, he should close the deal by winning The Open. And the fact that Hogan's rival, Sam Snead, had added The Open Championship to his resume in 1946 gave Ben an added reason to go.

Hogan, however, was reluctant to go. It was a long trip even by air; practice time and the tournament itself could result in a trip of three weeks or more, lost time for tournament golf in the United States. Plus the winner's check was small and wouldn't do more than cover the cost of the trip.

Hogan had long had another reason for not going. He used a centre-shafted putter which was banned in Great Britain after American Walter Travis won the British Amateur Championship in 1904 using a centre-shafted Schenectady putter. However, in 1952 the United States Golf Association and the Royal & Ancient Golf Club came out with a uniform set of Rules which allowed the centre-shafted putter. Hogan could now play in The Open Championship without having to change putters.

Hogan was not one to seek, or take, golf advice from anyone, but he did take advice from Dick Chapman and Harvie Ward on the choice of a caddie. Chapman and Ward had won the British Amateur in 1951 and 1952, respectively, with Cecil Timms on the bag, and Hogan lined Timms up for The Open. Timms was a professional caddie specializing in important tournaments who knew his way around Carnoustie's Championship Course, and was also a fine player in his own right.

Hogan played a practice round on the Championship Course and was disturbed by two things: the crowd which followed him, and the links turf. Hogan wanted to find a way to play the required shots with the smaller British ball, and he wanted to do it in private. A British journalist suggested shifting practice to Panmure Golf Club. It was close by, but pretty secluded. Panmure was not well known to many visiting golfers. The club, founded in 1845, had a very restrictive guest policy and preferred its anonymity.

But the club was happy to have Hogan practice on its grounds. Hogan was known for working his swing out "in the dirt," that is, practice, practice and more practice. To cope with the firm links turf, Hogan changed from hitting his iron shots with a long, deep divot to picking the ball off the turf. He also had to adjust clubbing each shot. The smaller golf ball flew further, sometimes as much as two clubs difference. To complicate matters, while the greens were slow, they were also hard, requiring run up shots in many instances.

Hogan may have found some similarities between Panmure and the Championship Course at Carnoustie. James Braid, the five-times winner of The Open Championship, had made several changes to Panmure in 1921 and, in 1926, made significant changes to the Championship Course at Carnoustie which brought it up to a high enough level to host The Open.

Timms surprised Hogan when he told him that the practice rounds he played on the Championship Course were not being played from the back tees, known as the "Tiger Tees," tucked back amongst the heather and gorse, which were being saved for the tournament itself. The tournament course would play 7200 yards, not the 6700 yards the course was set up for practice.

Hogan and Timms continued practicing at Panmure and then playing at the Championship Course. Hogan would hit three tee shots on each hole at the Championship Course, one on the right side of the fairway, one on the left and one in the middle. He would then figure the best angle to approach the green.

"Panmure Golf Club" continued...

In the evenings, Hogan walked the Championship Course backwards starting at the 18th green and ending at the first tee. He noted locations of bunkers, Jockey's Burn which meanders through the last three holes of the course and other landmarks, memorizing the yardages. Hogan also took a mental snapshot of each hole.

Carnoustie, and Panmure, had fairways guarded by wicked patches of gorse and heather, but Hogan never tried practice shots from those areas, commenting that any player who hit there would end up shooting 77 or more and wouldn't be in contention. He planned to win.

Back at Panmure, Hogan wanted to practice his putting more but felt that the Panmure greens weren't cut as closely as those at the Championship Course, so he asked the greenkeeper if the 17th green could be cut for his use. The greenkeeper pointed to a mower and Hogan cut the green himself, cleaning the mower before returning it.

After playing Panmure in practice, Hogan suggested the sixth hole could be improved if a small pot bunker where placed in front of the green to the right. The suggestion was accepted and the members were pleased with the addition of the bunker. The sixth hole now goes by the name "Hogan" and the bunker is called "Hogan's Bunker."

Timms, known to all as Timmy, was told by Hogan to keep the clubs clean and not ever to offer advice on clubbing. Hogan would make those decisions. Timmy felt his strong points was being able to "club" his player, but Hogan did not want advice, or distractions. However, Timmy was in charge of keeping Hogan's cigarettes at the ready. When Hogan would tap at his pant leg, it was the signal for another Chesterfield.

Hogan and Timmy worked well, although Timmy nervously ate the lemon drop candy Hogan kept in his bag for energy during a round. Hogan had trouble putting and sometimes seemed to freeze over the ball, unable to take a stroke. Timmy couldn't watch and looked the other way, or at his feet when Hogan was putting until, that is, Hogan caught Timmy at it and told him to stop.

Timmy followed instructions until reaching the 10th hole of the final round. On the final day, 18 holes were played in the morning and 18 in the afternoon. On the 10th hole in the morning round, Hogan had played a 6-iron to the green. In the afternoon, the wind had come up and Hogan was debating between a 5-iron and a 4- iron, when Timmy violated the no advice rule. Timmy told Hogan it was a 2-iron, that the wind was stronger than it seemed standing on the fairway.

This was an important shot. A par here would cement a victory, but a bogey, or worse, could be disastrous. Hogan fixed a cold stare on Timmy and took the 2-iron with the comment that if the ball went over the green, he'd bury the club in Timmy's head. Timmy later said Hogan hit the ball so hard it was almost as if he was trying to hit over the green, but the ball landed on the putting surface for a two putt par.

Hogan would win at six under par, four strokes ahead of his nearest competitors. Timmy would dine out on the 2-iron story the rest of his days.

Hogan went with his wife to Paris for a week before sailing home on the SS United States. He never played another golf course in Great Britain, even skipping St. Andrews which is just a short drive from Carnoustie, and he did not return to defend his title.

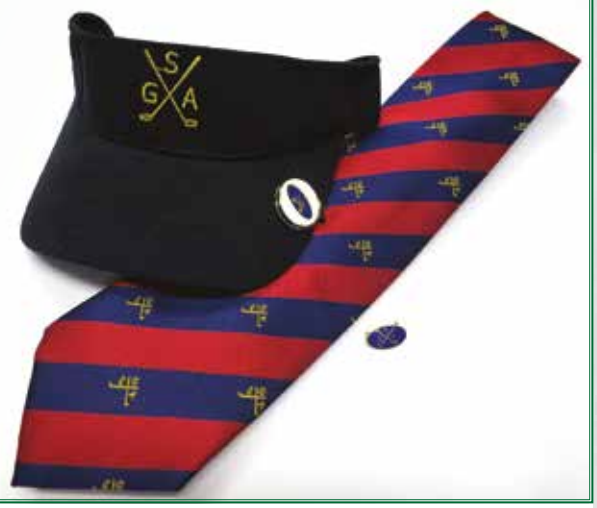
Cecil Timms would caddy the following year for Australian Peter Thomson in The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale in England, guiding Thomson to victory. It was two wins in a row for Timmy.

Hogan is often viewed as cold, quiet and remote. But he also had a kind and thoughtful side, and had a warm spot for Timmy. Hogan arranged for Timmy to get assistant professional jobs at Thunderbird Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California and at Seminole Golf Club in Florida.

Society Merchandise

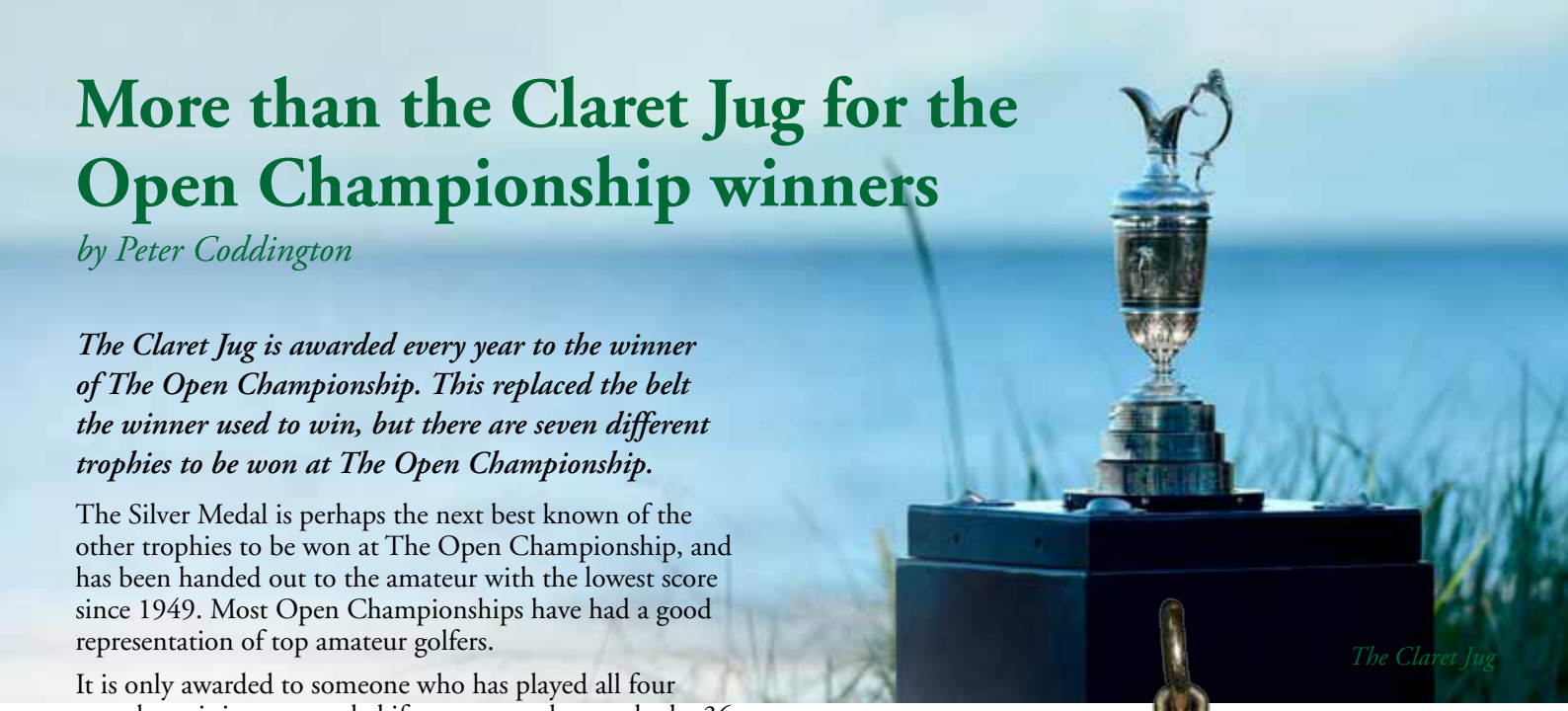
Society ties, visors, ball markers and pins are available for purchase at all Society functions.

If you would like to obtain any of our logo items between functions please contact Peter Swan, whose number is in the members' handbook.



More than the Claret Jug for the Open Championship winners

by Peter Coddington



The Claret Jug

The Claret Jug is awarded every year to the winner of The Open Championship. This replaced the belt the winner used to win, but there are seven different trophies to be won at The Open Championship.

The Silver Medal is perhaps the next best known of the other trophies to be won at The Open Championship, and has been handed out to the amateur with the lowest score since 1949. Most Open Championships have had a good representation of top amateur golfers.

It is only awarded to someone who has played all four rounds, so it is not awarded if no amateur has made the 36-hole cut.

All the other amateurs who make the cut are awarded a bronze medal if they do not win the Silver Medal.

This medal is silver as the winner of The Open gets a gold one. The award of a gold medal was first made in 1872. Up until 1870 The Challenge Belt was awarded to the winner, but when Old Tom Morris won it three times in a row he was allowed to keep it. There was no Open in 1871. For 1872 a new trophy was to be provided, The Golf Champion Trophy' which was to be a Claret Jug; however,this trophy was not ready when The Open of 1872 was held, so the winner was given a gold medal instead.

This started the tradition of the winner being also presented with a gold medal.

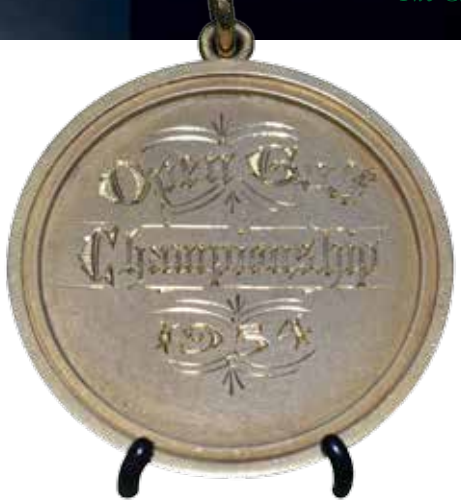
The Tooting Bec Cup is in fact another medal rather than an actual cup. The Tooting Bec Cup was presented by the Tooting Bec Golf Club, since disbanded, for a 36-hole tournament. This was organised by the London and Counties Professional Golfers' Association and held at Tooting Bec Golf Club in 1901.

That year the PGA was formed and this body took over the administration of the tournament. The trophy was still competed for over 36 holes, no longer as a stand-alone tournament, but was awarded to the winner of the southern qualifying section for one of the big national tournaments.

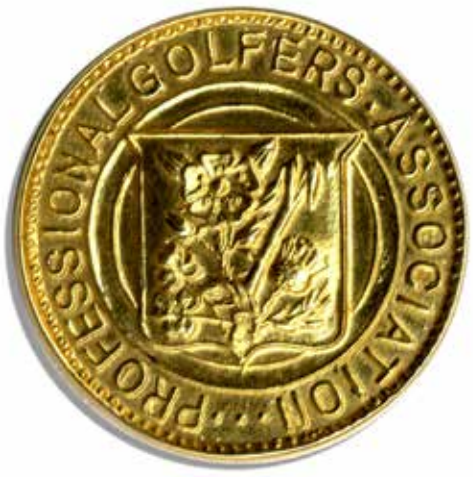
Then in 1924 it was decided to award the Tooting Bec Cup for the lowest round by a qualified golfer at The Open. The qualification is currently an "Association member born in, or with a parent or parents, born in, the UK or Republic of Ireland". In the past the winner has also had to be resident in the UK.

The Ryle Memorial Medal was instigated in 1920 in memory of Arthur Ryle, a former chairman of The PGA, and is awarded to a PGA member who wins The Open.

The Braid-Taylor Memorial Medal is awarded to the PGA member who finishes in the highest position in The Open Championship. It is named after two of the founding members of the PGA, James Braid and JH Taylor and was first awarded in 1966.



Open Golf Championship Medal won by Peter Thomson in 1954



Braid Taylor Memorial Medal

The Challenge Belt

Presidents Trophy finalists: Max Findlay Paula Gompertz Richard Fellner David Ryan

President's Trophy Royal Melbourne Golf Club 8th August 2016

Max Findlay

The competition was a 9 hole stroke round over the West Course in the morning followed by a light lunch.

Four players, with the best net scores, qualified for sudden death match play over the East Course and they were.

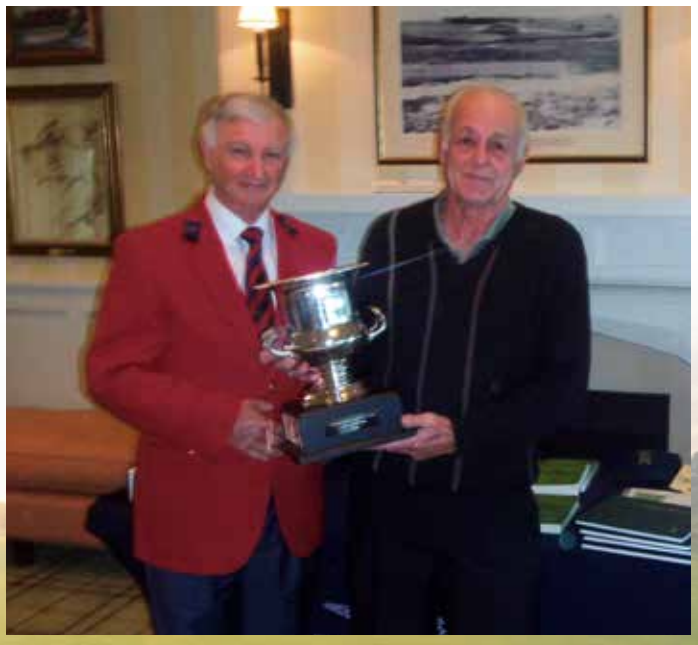
Max Findlay	33
Richard Fellner	37
Paula Gompertz	38.5
David Ryan	39.5

There was some great golf played. Max Findlay defeated Paula Gompertz on the 2nd hole and David Ryan defeated Richard Fellner, also on the 2nd hole.

Max Findlay defeated David Ryan on the 4th hole after David chipped in for par on the 3rd hole to stay 'alive'.

The weather was perfect. Royal Melbourne turned it on. Lunch, course – excellent.

All players had a wonderful day.



Geoff Vincent presents The Presidents Trophy to Max Findlay

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.