



The Long Game

The Official Newsletter of the Golf Society of Australia

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From the Editor

A number of members have asked me how many issues of "The Long Game" have been produced and what is the logic of the numbering system used to date. I must confess that, with hindsight, there is no logic in the numbering system therefore I have changed it commencing with this issue which is, numbering from the first issue, number 8. Previous issues were -

November, 1996 (sample)	Issue No. 1
March, 1997	Issue No. 2
June, 1997	Issue No. 3
September, 1997	Issue No. 4
February, 1998	Issue No. 5
June, 1998	Issue No. 6
February, 1999	Issue No. 7

I hope this clarifies the issue of numbering for all.

I have included in this issue two items on Carnoustie and the Open Championship which I hope you enjoy. I must confess to a more than passing interest in Carnoustie through a reciprocal arrangement between Victoria Golf Club and Carnoustie Golf Club. Andrew Coogan (GSA and VGC member), a native of Carnoustie, was instrumental in establishing this. I had the great pleasure of participating in a match between the two clubs at Carnoustie in 1992 as part of the Carnoustie Golf Club 150th anniversary celebrations. The clubs continue to stage a "challenge" match annually. I have also included some material on the limit of 14 clubs which may be of interest in light of our President's Trophy which limits entrants to carrying no more than 7 clubs. In any event I hope you find the Long Game of interest.

Good golfing,

John Lindsay, Editor

Report on the GSA Dinner at Royal Melbourne Golf Club

The GSA Dinner was held at Royal Melbourne Golf Club on 25th March. The venue was, as usual, delightful in every way and particularly appropriate given that the guest speaker on this occasion was GSA and Royal Melbourne member Hugh Graham and his topic was his experiences as Chairman of Volunteers at the memorable Presidents Cup contested last December. Thirty-five members and guests attended.

The Presidents Cup is owned by the US PGA Tour which has Commissioner Tim Finchem as its chief. Two years prior to the staging of the Presidents Cup, the PGA Tour sent Michael Bodney to Australia to obtain sponsorships and establish the organisation to manage the event. Bodney and RMGC entrusted the organisation and smooth running of the volunteer forces for the Presidents Cup to Hugh Graham.

That Hugh did a masterful job is beyond doubt and his talk to members of the GSA was most illuminating and informative about the preparation for, the conduct of and the aftermath of the Presidents Cup. Hugh commented upon the various personalities involved including the PGA tour personnel and the Team Captains. Hugh had only the highest praise for Royal Melbourne Course Superintendent, Jim Porter.

One person who particularly captured Hugh's interest was Graham Rowland, the Channel 7 TV Director who was responsible for the pictures of the event which was telecast world wide. Rowland co-ordinated pictures from 46 cameras spread around the course. Extensive use was made of video tape to capture key shots and integrate them into the "live" action. The commentators were unaware in advance of what was to be telecast; they had to describe what they were seeing on their own TV monitors.

Attending members also learned that a forebear of Hugh's, namely James Graham was the Treasurer of The Australian Golf Club, thought to be the first golf club on mainland Australia, which was founded in 1847 at the Flagstaff Gardens although it subsequently lapsed.

Hugh summed up his Presidents Cup experience as follows -

"A huge privilege, a considerable challenge, a roller coaster of emotions and reactions over a long period, an enormous excitement and, in the end, great satisfaction. I wouldn't have missed it for anything! .. (and I even saw some golf on the Sunday afternoon)."

1999 Calendar of Events

Listed below are the remaining events planned for 1999. Please note your diaries accordingly.

30th September Dinner at Yarra Yarra GC

12th November Doug Bachli Trophy and AGM at Commonwealth GC

9th December Dinner at Victoria GC -

(Date to be confirmed due to PGA Tournament)

Report on the GSA Dinner at Metropolitan Golf Club, 20th May, 1999

Metropolitan Golf Club was the delightful venue for the May dinner of the GSA. The dinner was attended by 58 members and their guests. It was a great pleasure to have Margaret Masters attend. The guest speaker on this occasion was GSA member, Anne Court.

Anne introduced her topic as "the enigma of the inevitable evolution engulfing our existence 'ere on earth and 'ow we embrace it" or, in other words, "change and how this has occurred in Women's Golf and Golf generally".

The talk focussed on the recent changes in women's golf reflected in the name change from ALGU to WGA and the adoption of a modern constitution now also embraced by all states except Queensland who are still working towards its adoption. WGA carries the responsibility for due diligence on legislative changes and policy formulation on such matters as equal opportunity, gender equity, trans gender issues, discrimination, disabled golfers, sexual harassment, grievance procedures and code of conduct.

For example, state legislation in South Australia requires a person presently considered female to be eligible for any competition whereas in NSW, competition conditions are permitted to include the words "born female". Clearly in such cases WGA must have a national policy in place.

Following a recent Canadian experience involving litigation over team selection, WGA now engages the services of a "Sports Lawyer" who advises on all relevant issues; a significant cost to WGA not previously born. In fact the WGA office is now staffed by four permanent members. Compare this with the situation up until 1992 when women's golf in Australia was administered by one person, Dorothy Brown, from a single room in her home.

Most sporting bodies are confronted with the issue of CASH or lack thereof. Corporate sponsorships are increasingly difficult to secure and, whilst the Victorian Government has been providing assistance under the "Smoke Free" banner, lack of reliable and ongoing sources of funding remains a major obstacle to achieving WGA objectives. One bright spot is the Victorian Golf Foundation which injected \$211,000 into varying and suitable golf projects in 1998. The Foundation currently has funds of about \$2.35 million.

Lack of sponsorship has had a severe effect on the Australian Women's Open and this fact alone gives us a better understanding of the problems confronting the various state bodies.

Anne spoke at length on other issues including handicapping, the introduction of "Golf Link", the AIS and VIS, changes to the rules of Golf, membership numbers, and the future of women's golf hopefully "championed" by Karri Webb, Rachel Hetherington and others.

The origin of Hickory Shafts

At our Hickory Day at Kingston Heath on 20th June last, President Daryl Cox read from Sir Guy Campbell writing in the "History of Golf in Great Britain" the following extract which is reproduced here in response to requests from members.

" In the time of Cossar, Philp and MacEwen, we know wooden club heads were mostly made of thorn, with apple, pear and beech as alternatives. They were leaded and boned, then glued and spliced with tarred twine to shafts generally fashioned out of split seasoned ash, although greenheart (heavy), purpleheart, lancewood, orange wood, lemon wood (heavy, but steely and less likely to warp), and Bloomahoo were also used according to taste, but inconsistently. The grips were made out of stuff strips wound on spirally and overlaid by leather nailed into the shaft and bound with tarred twine.

The transition stages followed: thorn for heads went out; apple, pear, hornbeam and beech came in; and hickory ousted ash, leaving the other shaft woods for such as liked them. Hickory seems to have 'happened by chance'. The original sample apparently reached Dundee from Russia via the Baltic, in ballast, about the middle of the nineteenth century; and that, so far as golf went, was that. Not long after, however, the same wood in bolts suitable for conversion into pick, shovel, rake, hoe and axe-handles and wheels began to come up the Clyde in shiploads to be disembarked at Glasgow. These bolts cut from trees grown in the central strip of the famous Tennessee Hickory Belt (the wood in the low-lying strip was too soft, and that on the high ground too 'brash' or brittle) were ideal for such use. Someone in the timber trade must have been a golfer. At any rate someone had a shaft made out of hickory, the Forgan family got wind of it and tried it out, and within a few years hickory, split and seasoned, was the perfect article for a shaft, and there was a new and important branch to an already flourishing business. Hickory had every virtue that the other woods had not. Whether 'brown' or 'white', it was light, steely, impervious to wet when varnished and oiled, and less liable to warp than anything but lemonwood, which, however, is heavy and suitable only for putter-shafts. The manner of treatment after seasoning was to split it into squares of about 1 1/2 inches by 1 1/2 inches, and from that to cut, file, plane, scrape and glass-paper it down to the required length and shape for the club, wooden or iron, for which it was destined."

Hickory day was very successful with 22 members and guests enjoying the excellent luncheon at Kingston Heath. After lunch, 18 members and guests dusted off their hickory shafted clubs and braved the elements for the annual 9 hole stableford competition. The winners were -

Frank Shepherd Trophy	Pat Field	13 points
Burtta Cheney Trophy	Lorraine Wigley	11 points

Sincere thanks to Kingston Heath Golf Club for allowing us access to their beautiful course and for their ongoing support.

From the President.

Our Society is one where discussions on golf matters are more meaningful than those one has with other golfers who rarely participate in golf activities beyond their weekend game. So that when one comments on the importance of the the status of amateurs in golf for example, one can expect a response backed by experience. In this instance one might assume the reply would embrace the status quo. Outside the Golf Society however, one might anticipate that some consider the laws governing amateur status somewhat antiquated and accordingly are there to be plundered for perceived commercial opportunities.

However, within the Society the majority of our members have had a long involvement in golf and are quite sophisticated in each and every aspect of the sport. As with any organisation, our success depends upon the qualities of the individuals involved. As it has been from its inception, long may the Golf Society of Australia be composed of members who have already made a contribution to golf. In this regard members might be appreciative of the reality that our continuing success will be due to what proposed new members will have done for the game in previous days.

Daryl Cox, President

Golf Trivia Quiz

(Answers on Page 8)

1. At our special Presidents Cup dinner last year, our guest speaker was John Beharrell, Captain of the R & A. John won the British Amateur Championship in 1956. He is one of five Amateur Champions to become R & A Captain. Name the other four, when they won the Championship and when they were Captain.

2. What kind of golf club was a president?

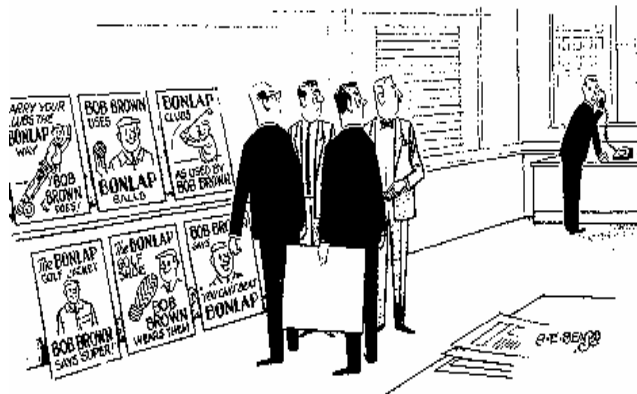
3. If a golfer is accused of being pedetentous, what is his crime?

4. Which monarch conferred the title Royal upon the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews? When?

5. When the stymie was an integral part of match play, did it apply regardless of the positions of the balls on the green?

6. When, and by whom was the stableford system of scoring devised?

7. Who was the first Australian born golfer to win the British Amateur Championship? No, it wasn't Doug Bachli!



He Lost!

President's Trophy

The annual President's Trophy was again held at Victoria Golf Club on 26th April, 1999. Eighteen players competed in the 9 hole stroke qualifying before lunch. Members are reminded that the conditions of the competition are -

- Only 7 clubs may be used
- The 1.62 inch ball must be used
- 1952 rules apply eg. the ball may not be cleaned on the green, ball marks cannot be repaired (until after play has finished), stymies apply in match play play-off.

The qualifiers were -

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Margaret Reid (12) | 36 strokes |
| 2. Daryl Cox (11) | 36.5 strokes |
| 3. Lorraine Wigley (36) | 38 strokes |
| 4. Libby Hodgkins (16) | 38 strokes |

After a very pleasant lunch, the qualifiers commenced the sudden death match play eliminations. Margaret Reid and Lorraine Wigley were the respective semi final winners. Margaret then defeated Lorraine in the closely fought final. Congratulations Margaret.

All players found the challenge of playing with only 7 clubs and the small ball an interesting experience. The issue of number of clubs is addressed at some length

elsewhere in this newsletter. The small balls for the day were kindly donated by Lindsay Gitsham and we were again reminded of the different playing characteristic of the 1.62 variety. In keeping with the “number of clubs” sentiment and our article on Carnoustie, it is becoming more and more critical that the law makers address the issue of ensuring the long term

viability of our championship courses by insisting on a standard, lower performance ball for tournament play.

Don Lawrence Trophy

The annual Don Lawrence trophy was conducted at Frankston Golf Club on 19th March. Sixteen players including 1998 winners Joan and Max Eise contested the 4BBB stableford trophy and the winners were -

18 holes	Grace / David Rew	49 points
Out 9	June Griffiths / Daryl Cox	20 points
In 9	Joyce / Fred Dawborn	24 points
Secret 9	Lorraine Clothier / John Wakeham	22 points

Following the golf, the trophies were presented by Muriel Lawrence and all present enjoyed a barbecue dinner to round off the afternoon. A delightful day was had by all present.

Feedback Wanted

Members are invited to provide feedback on the content of this issue to any member of the GSA Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact us. It's your newsletter!

The Rebirth of Carnoustie - The Open Championship of 1999

In the aftermath of the recently contested Open Championship, I thought it might be of interest to GSA members to read a little more about the great links at Carnoustie. I have included the 1910 description by Bernard Darwin to demonstrate the long held view that Carnoustie is one of the most formidable tests of a golfer's skills and endurance. By courtesy of GSA member Paul Daley, I have added an extract from his book "The Compleat Book of Links Golf" to be published in October this year which details the work of Course Superintendent, John Philp in preparing the great links for its re-introduction into the Open Championship Rota.

I do hope you enjoy these items. Ed.

Carnoustie

By Bernard Darwin (extracted from "The Golf Courses of The British Isles"- 1910)

Forfarshire, too, is a county of many courses. Barry, Broughty Ferry, Edzell, Monifieth, Montrose, and, best known of all, Carnoustie. Carnoustie is comparatively unknown, save by name, to the English golfer, but very popular indeed in its own country. So much so that its popularity has rendered necessary an auxiliary course, and the auxiliary course has taken a piece of good golfing ground that could ill be spared. It is a fine, big, open sandy seaside course; very natural in appearance; and in places, indeed, natural almost to the verge of roughness; but it is none the worse for that, however, and indeed it is altogether a very delightful course.

There is one curious feature, in that the taking in of some new ground has caused one hole to be of a completely inland character. Certainly this hole seems at first sight to be dragged in by the heels, but we readily forgive it its inland character, because it is really a very good hole indeed. This is number seven, 'South America' by name. It is a good long hole, well over four hundred yards in length, and the green is on an island guarded by a ditch. The soil is completely inland in character—the green once formed part of an old garden—and as if to emphasize that fact, a solitary tree has been left as a hazard, and naturally plays a prominent part in the landscape.

Burns, *anglice* streams, are a great feature of Carnoustie. Indeed one friend of mine returned from a visit there declaring that he had got burns badly on his nerves, and that the entire course was irrigated by them. However, it is not so much burns as sandhills that are likely to cause our downfall at the beginning. Of these hilly holes, the second, by name the 'Valley,' is a really fine one, and decidedly one of the best on the course. It is dog-legged in character, and has a distinct favour of some of the holes at Prince's, since with the tee-shot the player carries just as much of the hill in front of him as he dares, and gains a proper advantage for a bold and successful shot. The drive is directed towards a guide flag on a hill top, and if all goes well we are over in the valley. Then follows a beautiful second shot up a narrow neck, with a bunker on the left and other trouble on the right; 385 yards is the Valley's length, and Bogey does the hole in four. It is certainly one of the holes that he plays in his best form, for he very often takes five over holes that are no longer and not nearly so difficult or so interesting. Of the other holes on the way out, most are decidedly long, except the fifth, which is a simple enough short hole, and 'South America,' before described, is as good as any of them.

On the way home there is a somewhat awe-inspiring second shot at the tenth, where we have to carry a hill, out of the face of which two bunkers have been cut out and appropriately christened the 'Spectacles'. The twelfth has a pleasing name, 'Jockey's Burn,' and the thirteenth has a pleasing putting green. The fourteenth, by name the 'Flagstaff,' is a good long and narrow hole, where the hills crowd in close upon us, and we

must keep straight along the valley. The best hole on the way home, however, is probably the sixteenth, or 'Island,' where there is but one way to secure an easy and comfortable approach, and that consists of pushing your tee-shot out to the right so that the ball comes to rest upon a very narrow neck. Take an easier route from the tee, and you will be left with as unpleasant a pitch as need be, and the greedy waters of a burn running between you and the hole. Burns play an important part at both the last two holes also, for one has to be carried



Carnoustie - "South America" - Harry Rountree 1910

from the seventeenth tee and another menaces the pitch on to the home green. There really is some justification for the nervous golfer who has water on the brain after a round at Carnoustie.

Preparing for The Open Championship

By GSA member Paul Daley (in consultation with John Philp, Links Superintendent, Carnoustie)

Sadly within a few years of hosting the 1975 Open Championship, Carnoustie fell victim to the malaise that can beset an Open Rota links complacency! In short, their once famous championship links was being "run into the ground." After a concerted effort to right the wrong, coupled by an inspired selection of new Links Superintendent in 1985, John Philp, they began figuring again in Rota discussions. The R&A relented after observing their handling of the 1995-96 Scottish Open's and this July, Carnoustie will host their first Open Championship in 24 years.

In the build up to an Open Championship, planning must take place years in advance. Says John Philp, "Over the last ten years, to accommodate the modern game we have toughened up the links to present a challenge for today's best players; one in keeping with the hard won reputation the links earned in the 1930's. To achieve this, we have tightened the entrances to the greens and narrowed some tee-shot landing areas both at full driving distance as well in the lay-up areas. This, it is hoped, will emphasise the need for much more thought and accuracy from the players."

"To add to the shot-making requirement around greens, many surrounds have been re-contoured and at the same time turf quality has been improved by the removal of ugly rye grass replaced by fescue and bent turf."

"We have hollowed out swales and formed mounding. Now if players miss these greens, a variety of skills are required as not all surrounds are prepared in the same manner! Certainly in most instances, players will prefer the

recovery from the greenside bunkers." "Built with layered turf, two-inch thick bunker revetments will typically last 3-4 years depending upon player frequency in bunkers and also, the orientation to the sun. Some twenty of these will have sprinklers set into the turf walls during re-construction."

A program of improvement to bunker "run-ins" has also been in operation. It is typical on links courses for wayward shots to be funnelled into bunkers. This was not the case with Carnoustie. A gathering effect has been created on around sixty bunkers (there are 115 in total) including another six done last winter. A proud Philp states, "Once these re-turfed areas are established, they will look considerably more natural and enhance the character of the relevant bunkers."

With some 46,000 rounds played annually and a multitude of club events from the six golf clubs using the Links, the Championship course has to be in top-class condition throughout the year. That, as you can imagine, is a lot of divots! Over-seeding on the fairways has become common practice due to a lack of suitable grass cover in the past. Greens are also over-seeded, although I'm told the large teeing grounds don't require as much in the way of seed.

The well drained, slightly acidic sandy links soil favours the fine perennial grasses - browntop bent and creeping red fescues. Seed from the Dutch breeder Barenbrug is used extensively. The slender creeping red fescue variety, Barcrown, is exceptional in regards to tolerance to wear and sustained close mowing. According to Philp, "The annual budget for grass seed for the three Carnoustie courses, including turf nurseries, runs to around 12,000 Pounds."

Sand has to be purchased, due to problems with coastal erosion and material dredged from the river Tay is used in the bunkers. Other sands are used for root-zone mixes, (usually 4:1 with fensoil) top dressing and divot filling purposes.

Thankfully today, links administrations are distancing themselves from the 'heretical' ideas that circulated in the 1950's, regarding links welfare. Fast talking fertiliser salespeople held sway and many links suffered as a result. In general, nature herself will dictate what is best! "Little fertiliser is needed", maintains Philp. "However, nitrogen is supplied by way of the monthly top dressings to greens from the fensoil and some from the liquid iron used in monthly sprays along with liquid seaweed. (Maxicrop or Greentech are preferred). Dry processed seaweed is used as a turf dressing to maintain soil structure and aid plant rooting, moisture retention and nutrient release. Fairways and tees are treated similarly, although less often! However, in the build up to The Open Championship, sandy top dressings to fairways will be intensified. More than anything, the indigenous fine grasses are encouraged by the physical treatments that maintain a free-draining and well aerated soil. The professional green-keeping team at Carnoustie is continually slitting, mini-tinning, verti-draining and using high-pressure water injection to maintain a well-aerated medium throughout the courses."

There is nothing "hit or miss" about preparing for an Open Championship. Philp expands, "Firstly, a top-dressing program will commence in spring at the commencement of growth and will be continued until early June. Our expectation is to apply three or four light applications of sandy compost to the greens, where improved 'trueness' of surface is the goal!" "Teeing grounds and fairways will receive 1-2 dressings in the spring period, and fairway verti-cutting will be more

favoured (dictated by growth) in the month of June for the fine-tuning of fairway turf."

Final preparation: "Heading towards the Open, there will be minimal surface disruption to putting surfaces after January 1999. We would like the links to play hard and fast! To help achieve this aim, we need help from the weather, which is always the dominating factor in the timing of all treatments and cultural practices. Of all the management practices, it is obviously the mowing regimes that increase in intensity in the run-up to the event. Hand mowing of greens will commence in June and in the Tournament week, greens will be mown twice a day and vibratory rolled as required."

"Fairways will be mown at 5/16th with triplex mowers. We're aiming for a tight, firm close-knit turf from which certainly players can spin the ball, playing to firm, fast putting surfaces. We are not however, setting up the links to suit the players. The last thing we want is a putting competition. The aim is to present a true challenge if perfect weather conditions prevail and therefore have control, whatever the circumstances, to adjust tee positions or pin placements to offer a fair test in the event of more adverse conditions. We have, after all, over 7,300 yards to play with!" The course will be closed from June 21st to aid final preparations and disguise ugly divot scars, relieve traffic routes and establish mowing regimes.

Length per se, will not halt the ever-increasing capabilities of the expanding school of top-flight golfers who have the game to win at the highest level. Many of the

established Championship Courses on both sides of the Atlantic are being rendered obsolete by modern technology - certainly Carnoustie in 1985 no longer presented a fearsome challenge to the elite players as it did in the thirties or even as in Hogan's time. A passionate Philp asks, "What's wrong with 70 being viewed as a very good score again, over a stiff yet fair test in GOOD CONDITIONS? As a measure of how things have changed, during the first four Opens at Carnoustie



Looking back to the first tee and the new Hotel - Saturday 17th July 1999.

(1931, 1937, 1953 & 1968) a score of 70 was only bettered on five occasions!"

Philp continues. . . "If the regulatory authorities do not reduce the flight of the ball (which seems unlikely) then our Championship Courses, as we enter a new millennium, will be left seriously outdated. They will fail to deliver adequate shot-making and decision-making challenges, commensurate with their status - unless they are bailed out by poor weather conditions! This is surely not the way forward, merely leaving it to the elements to "stiffen up the course" in the hope that calm weather does not prevail over the championship days"

"Golf Courses being dynamic, they age like anything else and by necessity, need reviving to combat changes in other aspects of the game. But in doing so, our marvellous U.K. links mustn't lose their characteristics of 'real' links golf."

The problems have been recognised yes, but the answers have often been to seek more length (perceived as the easy option) to address the in-balance. It is hoped that such a futile solution will eventually run its course! *Hear Hear Ed.*

How many clubs? 14? 10? 7?

By the Editor

Thanks to GSA member John Fawcett for some of this material

After competing in the President's Trophy recently and having to "choose" 7 clubs to play with on that occasion from my matched set of 14, I thought it would be interesting to look into the issue of "How many clubs" one should be allowed.

In a column which appeared in *Golf Digest* in October 1979, Peter Dobereiner argued passionately for a reduction from 14 to 10. "By permitting 14 clubs, the lawmakers have removed from golf one of its greatest challenges and, it follows, one of its major joys." "to have to contrive a stroke suitable for the distance and the conditions. Why 10? Why not 9 or 11? Well the precise figure is negotiable. The number 14 was chosen arbitrarily when the rule makers decided to stop the absurd proliferation of clubs that the professionals were carrying. Correction: the clubs that their poor, groaning caddies were required to carry. Walter Hagen had as many as 28 in his bag and that was by no means a record!"

"When Harry Vardon won his 6 Open Championships, he used only 7 clubs. Joe Kirkwood needed only 7 clubs in winning the 1920 Australian Open." "Old timers had a notion that the man, rather than the club, made a golf shot. A modern notion was 'buying a shot in a shop' by buying an implement for each variety of shot." "It is fine and dandy for anyone who can afford the latest .. clubs, but any notion that they are going to be a big help is quite another matter. The cycle of change in style goes around even as it does with women's hats." (Jack Dillon - 1948).

Writing in 1948 of Lawson Little, Henry Cotton observed - ".... when I first saw Lawson in 1934, he had 23 clubs in his bag and at least 8 of those were niblicks with which he seemed to hit enormous distances."

On Golf Clubs

By R. T. (Bobby) Jones 1930

Golf clubs have changed a lot since the days of young Tom Morris, not only in an improved construction, but in the number of kinds manufactured. The modern golfer can now obtain a club for almost every five or ten yards of distance which he needs to traverse. With a complete set of clubs it is rarely necessary to play a half-shot with any of them, for it is nearly always possible to find one whose normal range is approximately right for the shot to be played.

Most of the better players nowadays carry a bagful of clubs—about eight to ten irons, three woods, and the putter, but that is the usual allotment. When we think of what a weight these make, it is small wonder that Watts Gunn's St. Andrews' caddy, without consulting his employer, left five of Mr. Gunn's favorite clubs behind when they started out upon an afternoon round. "Ye have no need for so many" was all Watts was able to get out of him!

I must confess that I am particularly guilty in this matter of breaking the caddy's back. In the set which I used at Pebble Beach there were fourteen clubs, all of them full weight as my caddy will testify. There were four woods—driver, brassie, and two spoons, and ten irons—number one, two, mashie-iron, number four, mashie, spade, mashie-niblick, niblick, approach club, and putter. That seems a lot of excess baggage, but the strange thing is that on each round I found use for every club. That, in addition to being some justification for myself, is the highest compliment I could pay Pebble Beach as a testing lay-out. Only a really good course will afford opportunity to use every club in the bag.

An explanation of the reason for the two spoons may

be of some interest. It has proved helpful to me, so there may be someone else who will like the idea. The brassie which I use has practically no loft. The head differs little from that of my driver, except that it is not quite so deep. The thinner face makes it easier to loft the ball from a fairway lie. This gives me a very powerful fairway club when the ball is lying well enough to permit its use.

But with a club of this kind it is impossible to play a shot from a cuppy or very close lie. So next in order, my spoon is lofted very little more than an ordinary brassie. This serves to get the maximum length from unfavourable lies. It was only this season that I added the other spoon—a lofted one. I found that my combination worked well enough within certain limits, but the big spoon which I carried was worse than useless for playing a spared shot. The loft was so little that hitting even hard enough to assure control sent the ball quite a distance. The more lofted Spoon enables me to avoid pressing the one iron.

Chick Evans is the one first class golfer who has stuck to what have become old fashioned ideas. Chick's bag in California contained three woods—the regulation driver, brassie and spoon—a strong iron, an iron closely resembling a mashie, a niblick and a putter. Seven clubs in all, and in reality only three irons. How he does it is hard to say, for he never seems to lack the shot called for. Possibly he figures that it is better to know a few clubs well, than to have a slight acquaintance with a great number.

It has been said that the less expert player ought to carry fewer clubs until he can learn to play with those he has. That may be true, but I can't help feeling that the present day assortment makes the game easier for him. He has not the highly sensitive touch of the more experienced man and it ought to be easier to learn to play many clubs in the same way than a few clubs in very many ways. It takes less time to acquaint oneself with a few pieces of wood and iron than it does to acquire the skill of a Chick Evans.

The Fourteen Club Rule

By Herbert Warren Wind - "The Lure of Golf" - 1964

To go back a little way, up until 1938, when the fourteen club rule was passed simultaneously by the game's two governing bodies—the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews—a golfer could carry as many clubs as he wished. Until the nineteen-twenties, however, few players, even among the champions, thought they needed more than ten or twelve—in 1916, for instance, when Chick Evans won the United States Open with a record low total of 286, he did it with only seven clubs—but after Walter Hagen and our other professionals introduced the trunk-size golf bag, around 1924, there was a decided trend toward carrying extra weapons.

It soon became fairly commonplace for the serious golfer to supplement his basic set of clubs with such spares as an extra driver that he could resort to when his regular driver was not working too well; a shallow-faced spoon, for tight lies; a spoon with a big pear-shaped head, for gorgeous lies; an all-purpose jigger; a couple of hickory-shafted irons from his old set, for trouble shots; one left-handed club; and an assortment of putters, to suit all types of greens. Lawson Little brought this to its *reductio ad absurdum* in 1934, when, if I remember correctly, he had his caddie lug more than thirty clubs, including eight or nine woods, and after that it was only a matter of time before a limitation on armaments had to be invoked. The main purpose of the fourteen-club rule, apart from insuring the continued existence of able-bodied caddies, was to bring back into the game some measure of the old shotmaking skills that had gradually gone out when, with the increase in the number of

clubs carried, it had become unnecessary for a man to be able to play half shots and three-quarter shots, high shots and low shots with each of the clubs in his bag. The rule has proved to be a popular one with most golfers, but, as you might expect, there are two sects of extremists who think it should be revised. On the one hand, more than a few of our professional stars, possibly encouraged by golf-club manufacturers, have in recent years been lobbying for upping the limit to sixteen; their contention is that they need, of all things, more pitching clubs. On the other hand, there is, as there always has been, a group of unreconstructed old-timers who remain convinced that fourteen clubs are about five too many to test a golfer's true worth, since, as they are fond of saying, "It allows him to buy too many of his shots in the pro shop." If this is hardly a realistic argument, it is an appealing one, in that it evokes a picture of the golfer as an ingenious improviser, and I know of nobody who plays the game, pro or hacker, who hasn't wondered how he would make out if he had to leave half his clubs in his locker.

Two Niblicks

From "Playing the Like" by Bernard Darwin

Upon reading this piece I was reminded that the more things change the more they stay the same in golf eg. the current practice of carrying three wedges. Ed.

"It is all very well," said Mr. William Dent Pitman as he gazed at the proud waxen lady in the hairdresser's window, "it is all very well to run down the men who make these things, but there's a something _____" and he walked home musing on that indefinable appeal.

Is it not thus that we often feel towards the seductive gentlemen that write advertisements? We abuse them, we mock at them, but we cannot help reading them, and in the end they very nearly seduce us. The other day I was loafing through an American magazine and came across two pages of eulogy of a certain "matched set" of iron clubs, with a picture of a long row of their shiny heads. I began, as Mrs. Malaprop recommended, "with a little aversion." When the gentleman said to me, "But, man—oh, man, what a difference in your game," my lip curled in scorn. When he urged me to "give the boys a surprise," I thought him a rather familiar and underbred person, and when he called his clubs "uncanny" I deplored his choice of epithets. Yet he was a cunning creature, for presently he hurt me in my vanity to just the right extent by telling me that I could "never hope to swap shots with the fellow that makes a business of it." Instead of agreeing with this obvious truth and having no more to do with him, I read on and began half to believe him when he insinuated that with his clubs the thing was still possible. They would, he said, produce the shots which with other clubs could only be attained by being a "star." He explained exactly how and why this miracle could happen, and guaranteed me a long, low, quail shot, whatever that may be. I weakened; I was actually groping for my cheque-book in a welter of papers at my elbow, when I glanced again at my gentleman and was saved. "Oh, by the way," he remarked quite casually, "there are two niblicks."

That pulled me up short. "Two niblicks!" said I. "Oh, come now, dash it!" After that he spread his snares in vain. He was just as insinuating as ever in explaining the use of these two clubs—"the standard '8' for normal shots and the emergency '88' laid 'way back for the trick trap shots that experts get through deliberately regulating the angle of the face"—but the spell was for ever broken. Love almost turned to hate as he went on in his oily way about the two mashie niblicks, "7" and "77", one, with a flat sole, for hard ground, and another, with a round sole, for ground that was soft and wet. Another glance at the picture confirmed my worst suspicions; the last of them was numbered 10, but owing to the duplication of 7's and 8's it was really No.

12. Here, then, was a whole round dozen of iron clubs, and there were four wooden ones as well, including a "No. 2" spoon—sixteen in all. Add a spare driver, a wooden or aluminium putter in case the owner went off with his two iron ones, an umbrella and a shooting-stick, and there would be quite a bagful. Indeed, there would be needed two caddies, the standard "I" and the emergency "II".

I am profoundly thankful that I was disillusioned in time, and that not merely because I could not or ought not to have afforded all those irons. I should have felt ashamed when I saw them bumping and banging on the back of some wretched child. Even if we are not great sinners ourselves, we do feel ashamed sometimes of the burdens that other people's caddies have to bear. Mr. Chesterton has written—not, of course, in this connexion—of "that sort of impersonal but unbearable shame, with which we are filled, for instance, by the notion of physical torture, of something that humiliates humanity." In the first moment of revulsion against the man and his twelve irons this did not seem too strong language, and I am not sure that it does now. Whether or not they humiliate humanity, they humiliate golf.

Perhaps it is the near approach of Christmas—Dickens, kindness, poor little boys, and that sort of thing—which encourages these sentiments. Yet even if we come off our high, humane horse and forget all about the overburdened caddie, there is surely something ridiculous as well as disgusting about these clanging armouries. Those of us who played golf when it was still a strange game in a strange land can remember the gibes of the passers-by at our then modest equipment. They wanted to know what we could want with all that bag of sticks. They were irritating, but was there, after all, some foundation for their rude, untutored mirth? At any rate, there would be now. If we cannot get round the links without sixteen clubs we are not worthy to set foot upon its turf. If we cannot lay back the face of our niblick, but have to have it laid back for us by just another degree, we are not worthy to be called golfers.

It is sometimes said that the modern golfer "buys his shot" in a shop. I am quite willing to turn nasty about him, but I do not honestly believe that to be true. You cannot buy a shot; the modern golfer is skilful enough in adapting his one stroke to a number of slightly differing clubs, and I am not going to say that if he had far fewer clubs he could not learn to adapt them to his needs. No doubt he could, and he would find golf a better and more amusing though slightly more difficult game if he did. What can be said, however, is that several of the clubs that are carried round are never used and are so much dead weight and absurdity. Few of us are altogether guiltless in this regard. How often do we take a club all the way round with us on the offchance of playing just one shot with it, and how often does it come back as clean as it started? If we did get that one shot, we either missed it or could have played it as well with something else. My own conscience is far from clear. I have several numbered irons and call them by their numbers; I have on occasions given up a coat and possess a leather jerkin; but, thank heaven, there are depths of degradation to which I have not fallen. I never have carried and I never will carry two niblicks.

The Latest and Greatest?

Thanks to Neil Titheridge for this Harry Vardon quote -

"Do not be tempted to invest in a sample of each golfing invention as soon as it makes an appearance. If you do, you will only complicate and spoil your game - and encumber your locker with much rubbish."

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Answers to Quiz Questions

1. Horace Hutchinson, Captain 1908, Champion 1886, 1887. Roger Wethered, Captain 1946, Champion 1923. Cyril Tolley, Captain 1948, Champion 1920, 1929. William Tweddell, Captain 1961, Champion 1927. Of course Sir Michael Bonallack (Champion in 1961, 1965, 1968, 1969 and 1970) will join this illustrious company when he becomes R & A Captain in the year 2000.
2. A niblick with a large hole in the face for use in soft sand.
3. Walking too slowly.
4. King William IV in 1834.
5. No, if less than 6 inches apart, the ball nearer the hole could be lifted.
6. By Dr. Frank Stableford of the Wallasey and Royal Liverpool Golf Clubs in 1931. It was first tried in May 1932 at the Wallasey Golf Club.
7. Walter J Travis, born at Maldon in January, 1862. He won the Amateur Championship at Sandwich in 1904 as a US citizen.



A Family Secret

(Extracted from *Through the Green*, December 1997)

From *Good Friends - Essays in epistolary parody* by Andrew Lang (1890) - extracted by Brian Bowness

From the Baron Bradwardine to Edward Waverley, Esq.,

Tully Veolan, May 17, 1747.

SON EDWARD,- Touching my quarrel with Sir Hew Halbert, anent which I told you no more than that it was 'settled in a fitting manner,' you have long teased me for an ampler explanation. This I have withheld, as conceiving that it tended rather to vain quolibets and jesting, than to that respect in which the duello, or single combat, should be regarded by gentlemen of name and coat armour. But Sir Hew being dead, and buried with his fathers, the matter may be broached as among friends and persons of honour. The ground of our dispute, as ye know, was an unthinking scoff of Sir Hew's, he being my own

third cousin by the mother's side, Anderson of Ettrick Hall having intermarried, about the time of the Solemn League and Covenant, with Anderson of Tushielaw, both of which houses are connected with the Halberts of Dinniewuddie and with the Bradwardines. But stemmata quid faciunt? Sir Hew, being a young man, and the maut, as the vulgar say, above the meal, after a funeral of one of our kin in the Cathedral Kirkyard of St. Andrews, we met at Glass's Inn, where, in the presence of many gentlemen, occurred our unfortunate dissension.

We encountered betimes next morning, on a secluded spot of the sands hard by the town, at the Edenmouth - at the High Hole indeed. The weapons were pistols, Sir Hew, by a slight passing infirmity, being disabled from the use of the sword. Inchgrabbft was my second, and Strathtyrum did the same office for my kinsman, Sir Hew. The pistols being charged and primed, and we aligned forenent each other at the convenient distance of twelve paces, the word was given to fire, and both weapons having been discharged, and the smoke having cleared away, Sir Hew was discovered fallen to the ground, procumbus humi, and exanimate. The blood was flowing freely from a face-wound, and my unhappy kinsman was senseless. At this moment we heard a voice, as of one clamantis in cremo, cry 'Fore!' to which paying no heed in the natural agitation of our spirits, we hurried to lift my fallen opponent and examine his wound. Upon a closer search it proved to be no shot-wound, but a mere dour, or bruise, whereof the reason was now apparent, he having been struck by the ball of a golfer (from us concealed by the dunes, or bunkers, of sand) and not by the discharge of my weapon. At this moment a plebeian fellow appeared with his arma campestris, or clubs, cleeks, irons, and the like, under his arm, who, without paying any attention to our situation, struck the ball wherewith he had felled my kinsman in the direction of the hole. Reflection directed us to the conclusion that both pistols had missed their aim, and that Sir Hew had fallen beneath a chance blow from this fellow's golf-ball. But as my kinsman was still hors de combat, and incapable of further action, being unwitting, too, of the real cause of his disaster, Inchgrabbft and Strathtyrum, in their discretion as seconds, or belli judices, deemed it better that we should keep a still sough and that Sir Hew should never be informed concerning the cause of his discomfiture. This resolution we kept, and Sir Hew wore, till the day of his late lamented decease, a bullet among the seals of his watch, he being persuaded by Strathtyrum that it had been extracted from his brain-pan, which certainly was of the thickest. But this was all a bam, or bite, among young men, and a splore to laugh over by our three selves, nor would I have it to go abroad now that Sir Hew is dead, as being prejudicial to the memory of a worthy man, and an honourable family connected with our own. Wherefore I pray you keep a still sough hereanent, as you love me, who remain Your loving good father,

Bradwardine.