



The Long Game

The Official Newsletter of the Golf Society of Australia

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From the President

In 1999 the Australian Government decided to issue an Australian Sports Medal during the year 2000 to celebrate Australian sporting achievements. Current and former golfers and those who have contributed to the sport by providing support services, were eligible for nomination for a medal. Through the Australian Golf Union's acknowledgement of the role of the Golf Society of Australia, the Society was able to offer five nominees.

Members were canvassed for their nominations of those they believed should receive such a medal. The votes were collated and the leading five names submitted to the Australian Golf Union. Recently those five received their medal and a warrant acknowledging their award of the Australian Sports Medal. In addition to the five nominated by the Society, other members of the Society have received the award having been nominated by other sources.

The members of the Golf Society of Australia who have received the Australian Sports Medal are Doug Blair, Patricia Bridges, Burtta Cheney, Daryl Cox, John Crosby, Anne Court, Michael Fitchett, Michael Frank, June Griffiths, John Hilliard, Ian Holland, Bruce Langford-Jones, Jane Lock, Alex McGillivray, Jim Porter, Paul Rak, Anne Reynolds, Bill Richardson, Pauline Sanderson, Dr. Ken Shepherd, John Stamp, Peter Thomson, Neil Titheridge, Rosemary Wakeham, Michael Winneke, Michael Wolveridge, and Keith Wood.

To have such an excellent number of recipients amongst members of our Society is an acknowledgement of the calibre and character of our membership. As our membership expands it will be as well for us to be mindful of the standard set by these golfers.

The Golf Society of Australia is indeed grateful to the Australian Golf Union for favourably considering the Society's role and the contribution it is making to the collecting of memorabilia and the recording of the history of the game. The Australian Golf Union now has a delegate to our Committee, Mr. Keith Wood. This can only further strengthen the Society's ties with the AGU.

Whilst much has been done by the Society, there is still a great deal more to be achieved all of which will be ongoing. There can be no doubt the Golf Society will more than adequately fill its role as the awarding of the Australian Sports Medal indicates.

Daryl Cox, President

Dinner at Royal Melbourne

A total of 68 members and guests attended the Society Dinner at Royal Melbourne Golf Club on 1st June. The guest speaker on this occasion was Golf Society member, Robert Wade, one of Australia's foremost watercolour artists.

Bob gave an extremely absorbing and entertaining talk on his experiences painting commissioned works for golf clubs both here in Australia and in other parts of the world. He illustrated this part of his talk with numerous sketches which were on display behind him. Bob then presented a "slide show" of some of his delightful watercolours on themes other than golf. Bob and his wife Ann have travelled, and played golf, very widely as Bob has pursued his career in watercolour. Thanks to both Bob and Royal Melbourne for a most

Golf Trivia Quiz

(Answers on Page 8)

1. Who was the first American to win the US Open?
2. Who was the first American to win the British Open?
3. Of the eleven winners of the USPGA Championship between 1988 and 1998, only one had previously won a major championship. He was?
4. From 1969 to 1980 what LPGA golfer made 299 successive cuts?
5. What was the first men's major tournament to adopt a sudden death playoff format?
6. Name the golf tournament which was Gary Player's first win outside of his native South Africa?
7. Lee Janzen won the US Open in 1993 and 1998. Who finished second on both occasions?
8. Sam Snead's first endorsement contract, in 1936, giving him a new set of clubs, \$500 and a dozen golf balls a month, was with which equipment manufacturer?
9. Name the golfer who won a US Open in his first event as a professional golfer.
10. Name the first American to be inducted as Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

2000 Calendar of Events

Listed below are the remaining events planned for 2000. Please note your diaries accordingly.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 5th October | Dinner at Yarra Yarra GC |
| 13th November | Doug Bachli Trophy and AGM at Victoria GC |
| 7th December | Dinner at Commonwealth GC - |

Report on the Huntingdale GC Dinner

By Daryl Cox (President of The GSA)

The more than 80 members and guests who attended the Society's dinner at Huntingdale on the 3rd August heard a remarkable success story from the guest speaker, Mr. Michael Hamson, Chairman of National Golf Holdings Ltd.

Formed in 1985 "The National" has developed from one golf course into three without any cost to those who were members when the expansion was proposed.

The National success has been due to foresight and its Board's extraordinarily good financial expertise. Unlike most clubs, The National is an unlisted public company and to become a member it is necessary to purchase a share, of which there are several categories ranging from individual to family to corporate. Selling shares in the early days was not easy, and a select group of individuals contributed a significant sum to enable the completion of the project including the club house. Though early days may have been tardy, after 10 years, sound management and astute financial and investment practice enabled The National to accumulate \$2 million.

From parts of "The National" it is possible to look over the neighbouring countryside which is called "The Cups" because of its undulating nature. It is ideal ground for golf and the Board decided to put an offer to the owner. The offer was most timely as the owners (Messrs Foster and Barry Stuart) were in the process of negotiating the sale of the land to Mr. Duncan Andrews, the owner of "The Dunes". Being structured as an unlisted public company, The National's Board was able to act quickly and devised a proposal which was accepted in its favour. Having purchased sufficient land for 18 holes it was then decided to purchase another parcel for another 18 holes as this gave The National subdivision entitlement.

An unsolicited golden offer from overseas to finance the project evaporated so the Board had to determine a financial proposal to put before shareholders (members). In creating this proposition the Board's objective was to not encumber any of the existing members with any capital input requirement. The shareholders approved an increase in the Company's capital of 950 C class (individual) shares and 50 E or F class shares.

A prospectus was issued for the first tranche of 400 shares which were sold in 5 months. The first 200 sold at \$13,500. The second 200 at \$15,000. Twenty five F class shares sold for \$85,000. E and F shares are ones which bear a "no annual subscription" clause. A second prospectus was issued for 300 C shares and a further 25 E or F shares. Sold in lots of 100, the C shares sold at \$16,000, \$17,000, and \$18,000, whilst the E and F shares sold for \$100,000. The remaining 250 C shares will be sold in due course at \$20,000, \$21,000 and \$22,000.00.

Along with the sale of the building lots some \$13.5 million has been raised to date. The two new courses have been constructed. One designed by Greg Norman and the other by Thomson, Wolveridge and

Perrett. The Norman course will be in play in October and the Thomson course early in the New Year. Work has started on the environmentally designed and sited new club house.

The National has been a wonderful investment for its members as well as those people who were inspired to acquire property in the Cape Schanck area as they have also seen their property values escalate.

Along with The National, the AGU's two courses at Moonah and a proposed further two courses between The National and the Moonah and the existing courses make the southern strip of the Mornington Peninsula an area which will rival Melbourne's sand belt as a golfing destination.

To a Golf Ball

J P Hayes, *Golf Illustrated*, 1896

Long ago when first I bought you,
You were white and fairly round,
And a little gem I thought you,
Teed upon the teeing ground.

But, alas! The months have vanished,
And, if I must speak the truth,
They have altogether banished,
The resemblance to your youth.

For I've "pulled" you and I've "sliced" you,
And you've lain in banks of gorse,
And I've temptingly enticed you,
From the cart-ruts on the course.

So, though quite devoid of beauty,
I would claim you as a friend,
Who has nobly done his duty,
From beginning to the end.

And receive my thanks unsparing,
That you've heard with dumb assent,
The perhaps too frequent swearing,
Which I've used though never meant.

Acknowledgments

The Society is extremely grateful to the Golf Collectors' Society of USA, publishers of the "Bulletin", the Golf Collectors of Great Britain, publishers of "Through the Green" and the International Golf Research Institute, publishers of the Japan Golf Report for allowing material to be extracted and used in our Newsletter. Any material extracted from the above sources will be acknowledged. We hope, in time, that the arrangements will become reciprocal as our own Newsletter becomes better established.

Playing in The Road

Bobby Jones On Golf, 1926

The seventeenth hole at St. Andrews is the famous Road Hole, and the most historic in golf. It was on that hole that John Henry Taylor, needing only a six and a five, I think, to win the Open Championship, played over into the road and took thirteen strokes.

Watts Gunn and I collaborated at this same hole in one of the most terrifying bits of golf I have ever seen. It was in the Walker Cup matches in 1926 and we were playing Tolley and Jamieson in the Scotch foursomes, which means that each partner plays alternate strokes on the same ball. Watts and Jamieson were driving. The



Play at the Road hole during the 1958 World Amateur Teams Championship - Bruce Devlin surveys his next shot from the "Road" bunker

drive here is supposed to go straight over the middle of a barn, which is out of bounds. Watts just got over, while Jamieson hit the building plump in the middle, and Tolley had to play three off the tee. Cyril, made cautious by his partner's mistake, pulled his drive over in the first fairway.

It was now "my turn" and I played a conservative spoon shot short of, and in front of, the green. Jamieson topped the fourth for his team and Tolley, in an heroic effort to reach the green, went over into the road. That was five for our opponents and, being in the road, they would do well to go down in eight!

Watts and I looked certain to win the hole. But nothing is ever certain on the seventeenth at St. Andrews. Watts had to play a run-up to the very narrow green between the bunker on one side and the road on the other. He shanked into the road. Now, we were in the road in three, they in five.

Jamieson played a beautiful shot up twelve feet from the hole. That looked bad for us, for our ball was lying in the hard road. The hole was only fifteen or twenty feet away; the green was dry; and the terrible bunker was just beyond the flag. Watts and I put our heads together and indulged in a little mental arithmetic. We finally decided that if I should play down toward the brook behind the green, Watts could pitch back on so that two putts would give us a seven and a half, if Tolley holed his

putt. We felt that we would be thankful for anything now.

We did get our seven. Tolley rimmed the long one, and we won the hole, but not until we had used up all our shots and most of the little brains we had.



President's Trophy

The President's Trophy was again held at Victoria Golf Club on Monday 1st May. Unfortunately there were only 9 participants but the day was enjoyed by all who did attend. As usual play was limited to 7 clubs per player and rules as applied in 1951 were used (ie. stymies, no repairing of plug marks etc). After nine holes of stroke play, the match play qualifiers were -

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Daryl Cox (Handicap 12) | Net 36 |
| 2 | John Fawcett (19) | Net 36 1/2 |
| 3 | Rosemary Wakeham (19) | Net 37 1/2 |
| 4 | Paul Daley (4) | Net 38 |

Daryl Cox defeated Paul Daley - 2nd hole

Rosemary Wakeham defeated John Fawcett - 1st hole

Rosemary Wakeham defeated Daryl Cox - 3rd hole.

Congratulations Rosemary.

Hickory Day

The Annual Hickory Day was again held at Kingston Heath on 25th June. The Society is very grateful for the support given by "The Heath". The field consisted of 16 players who enjoyed both beautiful conditions on the course and a very pleasant Melbourne winter's day. As usual there were many interesting tales to recount at the afternoon tea following play with the hickories - not many "breakages" on this occasion - thank goodness. Perhaps the "lowlight" of the day was the failure of any of the men to register in the nearest to the pin on the 5th hole. A thoroughly enjoyable day; we look forward to next year and hope that more players can dust off their hickories and join in the fun. For the record, the winners were -

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Burtta Cheney Trophy | Ruth Summerfield (19) 11 Pts |
| | Lorraine Wigley (34) 11 Pts |
| Frank Sheherd Trophy | David Haig (5) 16 Pts |
| Nearest the pin - Ladies | Ruth Summerfield |
| Nearest the pin - Men | Not awarded (SHAME!!) |
| Longest drive - Ladies | Marjorie Nadalin |
| Longest drive - Men | David Haig |
| Guest Trophy | Suzanne Jackson (27) 9 Pts |

The Father of Golf: Tom Morris

H. Everard, *Golf*, 1891

This 15th day of June, 1891, appears to the writer a suitable one on which to take pen in hand, and scratch a few commonplaces about one of the best-known men in Scotland - Tom Morris. To expand him into Thomas Morris would be improper, a solecism to be looked for among the profane and vulgar, an equivalent to eating peas with a knife, or any other barbarity which shocks our refined sensibilities; to the brotherhood, therefore, let him be as he is, Tom Morris, or better still, the ever-popular favourite, Old Tom.

Tom's golfing career began at an early age. Being a native of St. Andrews, his profession might, perhaps, have been anticipated, but as a matter of fact it was only determined by a haphazard remark of old Sandy Herd, who asked him why he did not get himself apprenticed to a club-maker. Negotiations with Allan Roberston followed, the upshot being that he took Tom into his employment, and taught him the trade with which his name has been identified for half a century. For our hero in good sooth is a man whom his warmest admirers would hardly characterise as a living embodiment of order and method.

Tom's name will ever be associated with the great match for £400 between Allan Roberston and himself against Willie and James Dunn, played in 1849. This match has been admirably described in a little book recently published by Mr. Peter, who was an eye-witness. The match is ancient history, but the narrator invests it with such interest that one feels almost as if one were present to share the enthusiasm which animated the crowd. Tom and Allan were, to all intents and purposes, beaten, as much as twenty to one being laid on their opponents at a time when the latter were 4 ahead and 7 to play. But one after another these holes dropped off, till the match stood all square and two to play; but the penultimate hole must have been a trying one to the players of the aforesaid odds. Allan and Tom had played three more and were,

besides, in a bunker; but the Dunns had come to grief at the back of a curb stone on a cart track off the course. Here they seem entirely to have lost all judgment, the last vanishing traces of which were indicated by a request on their part that a spade should be sent for and the rock of offence removed. When this was negatived by the umpire, they alternately kept missing the globe, by reason of the iron glancing off the stone, until one off three became the odds, when it occurred to them to play

the ball out backhanded. Had they done this at first they must have won the hole, and, most probably, the match; instead of which they lost both. Mr. Peter, it is satisfactory to see, records his opinion thus, "I think it only just to say that, in my opinion, the winning of the above match was due to Tom Morris, who played with pluck and determination throughout." Elsewhere he adds: "Who has ever handled a club and does not know him, his genial countenance, dark, penetrating eye (his eye, however, is a blue-grey in colour), which never failed to detect a cunning road to the hole; imperturbable temper, unflinching courage, and indomitable self-control under circumstances the most exasperating."



Tom has won the open championship four times the scene of his victories being Prestwick on every occasion - in 1861, 1862, 1864 and 1867. His scores were 163, 163, 160, and 170, his most formidable antagonist being Park, who was never more than a stroke or two behind. On one occasion at Perth they tied at 168, but in playing off Tom won by fourteen strokes, Park being utterly at sea in the putting, which was very keen and difficult. Quite a unique feature in Tom's career is the extraordinarily fine game he has displayed almost continuously since his sixtieth year. Since then he has

won two professional competitions, and on his sixty-fourth birthday, holed St. Andrews Links in 81, compiled with nothing above a five.

His services are in frequent request where new greens have to be exploited. Among those he has already laid out are Prestwick, Westward Ho!, Luffness, Dornoch, Tain, Callander, Cheltenham and the Honourable Company's new green at Muirfield.

Long may he live, this grand old golfer! All golfers may be proud of numbering Old Tom among their friends. His the native dignity which outweighs all factitious advantages; his the pleasant demeanour, courteous without servility, independent without aggression, which affects favourably to all, and renders the possessor the master of circumstances on every occasion. we may fitly conclude with an echo of the sentiment by Tom's favourite poet, page upon page of whom he delights in quoting:-

"The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
The man's the gowd for a' that."

The following article is Bernard Darwin's account of the same famous 1849 match detailed above - Ed.

Sixes and Sevens at St Andrews.

Bernard Darwin, *The American Golfer*, 1934

The other day I chanced to mention in an article the great foursome played over three greens in 1849 - Allan Robertson and Tom Morris against the two Dunns. This brought me a letter from a gentleman at St. Andrews who is hard on ninety years old. In looking through some family papers he had found a letter from an uncle of his written to a brother in India giving the scores of the match at St. Andrews. He kindly sent me a copy of it and it thrilled me to the marrow. Even to my readers who do not know St. Andrews and most of course do not - I think the scores will be illuminating and so I set them down:

First round -

Allan and Tom

Out - 6 5 6 5 5 5 4 4 - 45

Home-6 4 5 5 7 7 4 6 6 -50 Total 95

The Dunns

Out - 6 5 4 6 6 6 4 4 5 - 46

Home-5 3 5 6 5 5 5 6 6 - 46 Total 92

Second round -

Allan and Tom

Out - 5 5 7 5 6 4 6 3 5 - 46

Home - 3 4 5 5 6 6 5

The Dunns

Out - 6 6 5 5 8 5 4 4 4 - 47

Home - 4 4 4 5 8 5 5

Allan and Tom won by three up and two to play. For those who do not know the course I may just add that the two short holes are the eighth and eleventh and the two long ones the fifth and fourteenth, that the par of the course today is 72 and that the only hole played by either side which today would be deemed under par is the three which Allan and Tom did at the tenth.

Bear in mind that here were the four unquestionably great players of the day and they were taking well over ninety to get round a course which as regards the position of the greens was much what it is today, from shorter tees. Yet what an utterly different course, infinitely narrower with gorse creeping right in on the player in places which are now perfect fairway, with all manner of bad lies, with greens which were known for their different bad qualities - one for its roughness, the next for its sandiness, the one often for its heather roots all over it. The holes were probably too big, unless indeed, they were freshly cut for the match, since in those days there were no tins and the holes grew bigger as hand after hand dived into them for a pinch of sand to tee the balls. That big hole was the only conceivable advantage those old heroes had and they had to get a feather ball into it and not a very round one. The gutty had just come in at the time of the match, but it is certain that Allan Robertson would not have played with it, for it was on this rock that Allan and Tom split a few months after.

I can sit and pore over that score and try to imagine how it was done - how in the name of goodness did they halve the last hole in six? At that hole, once the burn right in front of the tee is crossed, there is nothing in the way. A drive and a pitch and run is all that is wanted. Mighty hitters have driven the green with a wind behind and ordinary mortals can get into the hollow short of it. How did these champions take six? I suppose there was a strong wind against them in which case they could not nearly get home in two. Perhaps they needed three full shots; perhaps they took three putts apiece. I wish I could see it.

As to the two eights that the Dunns took at the two long holes no doubt the gorse had something to say to that and I am sure there must have been a fierce wind for it is to be remembered that Allan once holed St. Andrews in 79 and that is a very different thing from 92, isn't it? The fives doubtless represented good play, for, with a gutty, most of the St. Andrews holes needed two wooden club shots, and with a feathery they must have needed two and a bit. It is all terribly difficult to imagine.

Golf must have been an exciting game to watch with the best of players taking sixes and sevens. There must, as I fancy it, have been so much more hope for the man who was playing the one off two; the other fellow might always get a really bad lie or a series of them. That is what we must always remember - the character of the lies for indeed even I can remember the time when one remarked "I've got a good lie", where today one only comments on a bad lie.

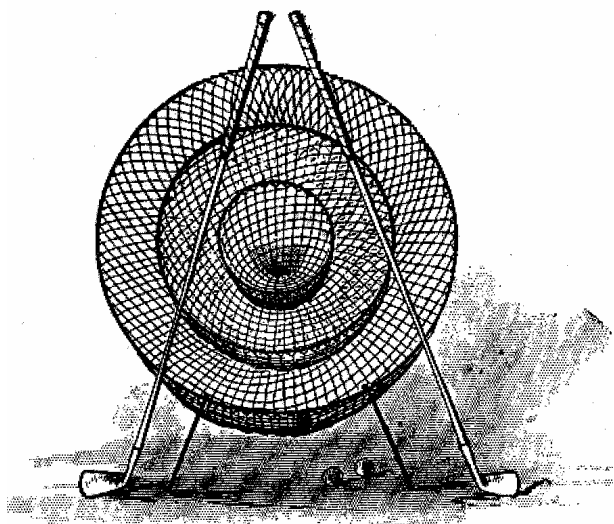
Golfette

Golf 6 November 1896

Extracted from "Through the Green" March

This is the title of a new and interesting game which has just been brought out by the enterprising firm of Thornton and Co., 78, Princes Street, Edinburgh, the makers of the well-known "Match" Golf ball. It consists, as the accompanying illustration shows, of a series of pouched nets supported on a stand fixed at a convenient angle in the ground, like an archer's target, into which balls are played from short distances with mashies or lofting irons. It will at once be seen that it is an ingenious modification of the game, by means of which golfers of both sexes can extend their short game practice, and very considerably improve it. The nets are coloured red, white, and blue, the smaller red circle in the centre being, so to speak, the bull's-eye of the target, and as it is the most difficult to pitch into with accuracy, the successful player naturally scores the highest number of points when his ball gets there.

The rules of the game provide that the game of



"Golfette" may be played with two or more players, the ordinary mashie or lofting iron and the "Match" Golf ball being used. The player stands at a distance of six to ten yards and lofts the ball, so as to place it in either of the three nets-the red net (centre circle) counting five points, the white net counting three points, and the blue net counting two points. Each player plays three balls in turn, and the player first scoring 25 points is the winner. Players can be handicapped by distance. An interesting game can also be played in a similar manner, using tennis rackets and balls.

The game has already been tried by a large number of golfers, and they appreciate not only the excellent amusement it yields, but also the more serious development of pitching practice - a point of detail in the game, as every golfer knows, whether in match or scoring play, more important and effective than long driving or good play through the green. The utility of the new game is also enhanced by the fact that it is adapted for either outdoor or indoor practice - the width of a room being sufficient for the purpose. We have known many golfers,

when rain and snow have prevented their appearance on the links, amuse themselves by pitching balls into a large water-jug or a bowl, generally with the result that domestic embroilment put a speedy close to the diversion owing to the serious breakages in the household. But "Golfette" comes as a welcome relief to anxious housewives with ardent golfing husbands and sons and daughters, for here is the very thing that has long been looked for. It can also be made an adjunct of the clubhouse for the amusement of members on wet or stormy days, or in hydropathic establishments, or in relief of the tedium among officers on board ship. It can also be fixed on lawns adjoining houses where it is impossible, owing to lack of space, to make a hole the length of a decent iron shot. Indeed, "Golfette" competitions would not be out of place even at the end of an autumn competition in ladies' clubs, where mixed doubles form such an interesting feature. Practice at this new game would undoubtedly improve the approach play of both ladies and gentlemen, since accuracy, strength and direction are the main elements of both styles of play. The price of the new game is 15s. 6d. the mashies or lofting irons needed are 5s. 6d. each, and Messrs. Thornton sell their well-known balls at 11s. a dozen.

In order to play the game indoors an India-rubber teeing pad is also provided, while net and poles go along with the target to act as a "long stop" in case of erring shots. Having tried the game we can say that a more interesting and amusing variant of the real game, and one, too, which keeps the hand and eye in perfect practice, has not hitherto appeared.

No Swing is Worth That

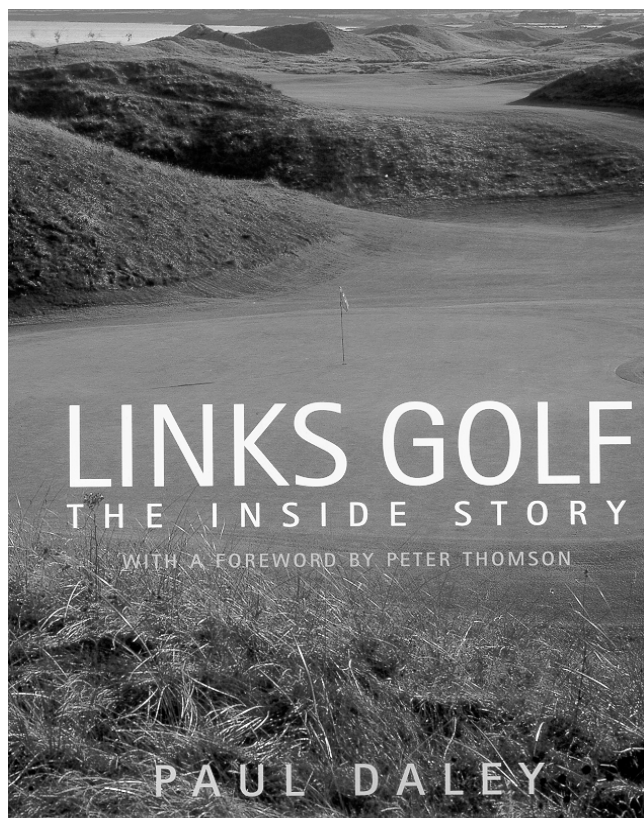
Golf 9 February, 1897

"Rockwood," a well-known sporting writer, in "Reminiscences of West Country Golf," contributed to the Glasgow Evening News, has the following about the famous old Nestor of Golf, which is fresher than the most we hear:

"Old Tom Morris was greenkeeper at Prestwick, during the early sixties, and many will recollect his little shop on the Ayr Road, almost facing the Old Red Lion Inn. Self-preservation and the art generally of taking good care of No. 1, too rare amongst the golfing professionals of these days, had much to do with his belt successes, until the early contests resolved themselves literally into matches between Willie Park the elder and himself. We recollect a gentleman staying in a cottage adjoining that of the late Bailie Wilson, the wealthy president of the St. Nicholas, shouting out, one cold frosty morning, that there was "a man on the beach trying hard to drown himself." It was only Old Tom, however, breaking the ice to enjoy his usual morning dip in the sea, for he made a practice of bathing all the year round, notwithstanding the state of the atmosphere. To this, and his practice, still maintained, of sleeping with his window down a foot at the top, and the natural exercise of his calling, his wonderful state of preservation is no doubt attributable."

“Links Golf - The Inside Story”

The Editor reviews Paul Daley’s splendid new book



Paul Daley is a Committee Member of the Golf Society of Australia. Paul is a member of both Huntingdale and The National Golf Clubs. Paul has played Pennant Golf and still plays off a low handicap.

Last year we had a sneak preview of Paul Daley’s new book - at that point un-named - in our feature on the great links at Carnoustie when we included part of Paul’s dialogue with Carnoustie Links Superintendent, John Philp. Paul’s book has now been published by Hardie Grant Books and was launched at Huntingdale Golf Club on 13th June last by Club Captain Charles Fleming and Michael Wolveridge who has contributed to the book in the form of a reflection on his chance meeting with Laurie Auchterlonie at St Andrews in 1980’s.

The book is beautifully presented with excellent bibliography and a marvellous collection of photographs and diagrams to support the text. Worthy of special mention are the numerous pastel drawings executed by local artist Barry King. These are all the more remarkable for the way in which they capture the true essence of “the links” when it is revealed that Barry is not a golfer.

The text is framed by a Foreward from GSA Patron, Peter Thomson and an Afterword from noted golf correspondent and golf course architect, Donald Steel.

Donald Steel himself published a marvellous treatise on links golf entitled “Classic Golf Links of Great Britain and Ireland” in 1992. It is interesting to note that whereas Steel took his readers on a “course by course” journey to the great Links Courses, Paul Daley has adopted an entirely different approach and focus in his work. Chapter headings such as “Links bunkering”,

“Meandering serpents - the wee burns”, “Traditional blind shots”, and “Threats to the viability and survival of links” give us a clear pointer to how Paul has varied his approach to his topic.

Paul’s writing is both skilled and entertaining leaving the reader with a glowing word picture of each topic covered. It is my belief that no serious student of golf and golf courses should be without a copy of this lovely book. The book is on sale at bookshops everywhere for \$55 including GST.

If you can’t find a copy in your local bookshop or if you prefer, Paul would love to hear from GSA members on 613-9800-4485. He is offering a special price of \$48 including GST for GSA members.

John Lindsay, Editor

Stop press -

Paul tells me that the book has been nominated by the USGA for their “Best international golf book award”. It has subsequently been shortlisted for consideration along with one or two other books for the award which will be announced early in 2001.

Two of Barry King’s delightful pastels



Klondyke - 5th hole, Lahinch, Ireland



Swilken Burn and 1st fairway - Old Course, St Andrews

Unwritten Contract

By Henry Longhurst (Circa 1952)
From "Through the Green" - June 2000



On the fifth day of my golfing life some thirty years ago, at the Yelverton Club in Devons where my family had gone for their holiday, I had a lesson with the Pro. Smitten with golf, I returned home and in the school holidays had more and more lessons with the Pro.

I almost lived in his shop watching him fashion the wooden clubs, for which the golfer of those days would come for successive fittings, as though with his tailor; trying to grasp, and failing to this day, how he put on the binding with out leaving a knot; absorbing the unique, miscellaneous aroma of shavings, twine, leather and hot glue.

As a writer on golf I have moved among professionals ever since, playing with them, learning from them, talking golf with them, watching their own triumphs and disappointments.

I mention all this only as some justification for addressing you, dear Sir or Madam, on the subject of your own professional. Many club golfers, preoccupied with the daily frustrations of life and seeking no more from their golf than week-end relaxation, are inclined to accept the Pro, as something that goes with the club. Like the poor he is always with us.



He is, of course, in the best sense of the word the servant of the club - just as for that matter the secretary is. He reckons to serve the member's interests, to look after their clubs, keep a stock of balls, hire out trolleys, listen to interminable hard luck stories, and offer, without fee, suggestions for curing a slice.

Quite a few golfers, I think, do not quite appreciate what they owe him in return - not, I hasten to add, because they are ungenerous but merely because it had not occurred to them. The position is, and always has been, this. The professional, while a "servant of the club is not paid as such. He, is paid a retainer. With very few exceptions you may take it, never perhaps having inquired, that your professional is retained at between £2 and £5 a week.

If your club is a bigish one, he will have to keep an assistant. The assistant will be paid, almost certainly, £5 a week-by the professional. From the professional's point of view this simply does not add up. How then is he expected to live? The answer is; from the proceeds of an unwritten contract which has existed between members and their professional since the earliest days of golf. It is this unwritten contract to which I here respectfully draw attention.



The professional, on his part, keeps his shop open from some time before the first couple drive off in the morning till after the last comes in the evening. He does this for fifty two weeks in the year, averaging a 70-hour week and remaining open when other establishments close for lunch. He invests his own money in a stock of clubs, balls, bags, shoes, clothing, waterproofs, tees, tape, and all the minor bric-a-brac of golf. He

per forms innumerable small services, binding clubs and suchlike, for nothing or for a nominal sum. Often he throws in his services as part-time greenkeeper and caddie-master as well.

The member, on his part, undertakes to patronize the professional and his shop to a sufficient extent to provide him with a living. That is all.

This is not to suggest that in these hard times we are all expected to stand ourselves a new set of clubs every six months, or indeed every six years. It is to suggest however, that every member might reasonably resolve never again to buy a ball, a club, a pair of shoes or waterproofs, a trolley, or any item of golfing equipment whatever, from anyone except his own club Pro.

I will go further, if I may. It ought to be a tradition in every club, as it is in some, that the professional is never without a game on Sunday mornings.

"What, me, play the professional?" Yes indeed. You have no idea how much you, and he, would enjoy it. Golf is the only game with this supreme advantage that the indifferent performer can play with the expert, to the pleasure of both, and, if he keeps his head and his handicap, beat him.

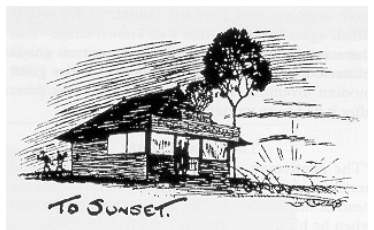
The professional's fee for a round, in this age of levelling, is about equal to that of an indifferent London caddie. Shared among three in a fourball it is negligible - but what a lot he will give you in return For three hours you will have his undivided attention and advice and by merely watching him at close range are likely to improve a good couple of strokes overnight. And incidentally, if his own club members do not play with him, how and where is he to play at all?

Again, if you are introducing a youngster or a beginner to the game, let him start the right way, as I am so thankful to have done, with a few lessons from the Pro. And let him equip himself in the first place from the Pro. Most professionals I know will prove more keen to prevent his buying an expensive set than to sell him one that may eventually waste his money.

I sometimes wonder if any body of men, starting from scratch, set a higher tradition of integrity, sportsmanship and good manners than Taylor, Braid, Vardon, Herd, and that early generation of professional golfers. Their successors have carried it on and the game owes them much.

I hope, strangely, that the time will never come when the club professional is paid a living wage, for on that day a precious, though indefinable, relationship will be lost. On the other hand if, having served so many of us so well for so long, he is to survive in the manner we believe to be his right - well, it is up to us.

In other words, this is an attempt to say for your professional what he is much too nice a fellow



Answers to Quiz Questions

1. John McDermott, in 1911
2. Walter Hagen, in 1922
3. Nick Price.
4. Jane Blalock.
5. The USPGA in 1977, when Lanny Wadkins defeated Gene Littler.
6. Gary won the 1955 Egyptian Match Play.
7. The late Payne Stewart.
8. Dunlop. Sam signed with Wilson in 1937 and has endorsed their products ever since then.
9. Jerry Pate.
10. Francis Ouimet, in 1951.