



# The Long Game

The Official Newsletter of the Golf Society of Australia

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*Retiring President and newly elected Life Member, Daryl Cox, hands over to the newly elected GSA President, Anne Court.*

## From the President

I would like to extend my best wishes to all of the members of the Golf Society for a successful and enjoyable year 2001 in golf. Your Committee has planned what we hope will be a well balanced program of dinners and golfing events, the schedule of which appears in the adjoining column of this newsletter. The success or otherwise of these events is, as always, dependent on your continuing support for them—please look out for the notices, come along and enjoy! As you are all aware, the Society's objectives include assistance to the AGU with the development of a National Museum of Golf and also assistance in recording the history of golf in this country. Members are encouraged to donate or identify for us appropriate items for the museum. Our "wish list" for the museum covers balls, clubs, bags, medals and trophies, books including club histories, player profiles, rules, apparel, events and any ephemera associated with the game eg. tickets, name tags, badges, programs etc.

Do you enjoy reading "The Long Game"? If so the Editor would love to receive more contributions from members. Do you have a favourite story, article or press clipping? Perhaps you have written something original which could be shared with your fellow GSA members? Please send them in!

We are indeed fortunate in the support we are given by Colin Phillips and his staff at the AGU. This link with Australian Golf's governing body is important to the Society. Please contact me if you wish me to raise any specific item with the AGU.

## Soliloquy of the Lost Golf Ball

Thank fate, I've escaped from the hands of a dub,  
From a player impossible, quite;  
A bald-headed party, whose knowledge of golf,  
To put it politely, was - slight.  
He found me by chance on a bright summer's day,  
And blessed his good fortune, for I  
Was a sweet-looking ball, not damaged at all,  
And perfect to "putt" or to "fly."

I thought it was clever to hide in the "long"  
From the man who first owned me; but say,  
It's many a time I've regretted my act,  
And deeply repented that day;  
For he was a "plus," not a swatter of swats;  
Who hacked me all over the face,  
Like that fat-headed clown, so swagger in town,  
But out on the Links - a disgrace!

Ah, well, I deserved it for going astray  
At a time when it meant such a lot,  
So stay on the course like a well-bred golf ball  
Of that eminent line of "Blank dot."  
I lost him the match, that young master of mine,  
And I know how he wanted to win;  
But lor! you can bet that I've lived to regret  
That I ever went back upon him.

Since then I have suffered the torments of Hell  
At the hands of that Duffer, for he  
Could swear like a trooper when things went awry  
And his wrath wreaked its vengeance on me.  
All shattered and battered and cruelly abused,  
I fled to this hole in the ground;  
For the golf may be fine, but the "simple" for mine!  
So I pray nevermore to be found.

W. Hastings Webling (1917)

## 2001 Calendar of Events.

Please note that most of these dates are confirmed with the proposed venue/s. Please watch out for the specific notices for each function.

March 5th	Dinner at Kingston Heath GC
March 19th	Don Lawrence Trophy at Peninsula
May 21st	Dinner at Victoria GC
July 23rd	Presidents Trophy at Royal Melbourne
August 1st	Dinner at Commonwealth GC
August 12th	Hickory Day at Kingston Heath GC
September 26th	Dinner at Yarra Yarra GC
November 19th	Doug Bachli Trophy, AGM and Cock-tail Party at Victoria GC

# Australian Open Dinner at Commonwealth Golf Club

By The Editor

The Society held a "special" dinner at Commonwealth Golf Club on 22nd November last to co-incide with the 2000 Australian Open Championship which was played at the Kingston Heath Golf Club. There were a number of distinguished guests for the occasion including Neil Crichton, Chairman of the R & A General Committee and Mrs Crichton, Peter Dawson, Secretary of the R & A and Mrs Dawson, Don Griffiths, President of the Royal Canadian Golf Association and Mrs Griffiths, Colin Strachan, former member of the R & A Rules Committee, Bruce Nairn, President of the AGU and Mrs Nairn, John Westacott, Vice President of the AGU and Mrs Westacott, David Cherry, Past President of the AGU and Mrs Cherry and members of the Golf Collectors Society of Australia who were visiting Melbourne on their way "south" to visit Ratho in Tasmania (See later report regarding their visit to Melbourne and Tasmania).

The evening was an outstanding success with a number of the guests speaking on their specific areas of interest. Bruce Nairn gave members an AGU perspective on current golfing issues whilst Neil Crichton and Peter Dawson both enlightened and entertained by recounting recent experiences at the R & A. Of particular interest was the discussion on the divergence between the R & A and the USGA over the legality of clubs exhibiting the "trampoline" effect. Colin Strachan recounted a number of amusing rules anecdotes and fielded a number of rules questions from the floor. There was a lengthy discussion over the rule covering the ball moving after address and the requirement that it be replaced in spite of the penalty already incurred and in spite of the underlying principle of "playing the ball as it lies". This particular "mystery" remains unresolved in the minds of some of our members.

Commonwealth Golf Club proved a delightful venue for this most enjoyable evening.



*GSA President, Anne Court with Neil Crichton, Chairman of the R & A General Committee*



*Peter Dawson, Secretary of the R & A, with Daryl Cox, former President and our newest Life Member.*

## Golf Trivia Quiz

*(Answers on Page 8)*

1. Greg Norman shares an unusual record with one other golfer having been runner-up in all 4 majors.
2. Who scored the first albatross in US Open play?
3. Who is only man to win 3 consecutive US Opens?
4. Name the oldest man to win a major.
5. Name the first British player to win the US Open.
6. There have been only 3 men aged over 40 years who have won 2 majors in the same calendar year. Name them and the years in which they won.
7. Greg Norman's "disaster" in the final round of the Masters in 1996 occurred on 14th April. This is the anniversary which two other notable "disasters"?
8. Name the future Masters winner who partnered Jack Nicklaus in the final round of his dramatic 1986 Masters victory.
9. Name the player who, having "won" the US Women's Open in 1957, was disqualified for signing an incorrect score card.
10. Name the first black American to compete in a USPGA Tour event. When?

## Membership News

Our congratulations go to Janet Hibbins on her election to the position of Vice President of Womens Golf Victoria.

Please note the following changes in your Membership Directory -

Anne Court	9822 2848
Lindsay Gitsham	9589 2837
Nick Hellen	(07) 3263 2483
Andrew Langford-Jones	9591 0278

Stocks of GSA logo garments are almost all sold. Any members interested in acquiring remaining stock or, more importantly, in favour of restocking the garments are requested to contact the Hon. Secretary, Rosemary Wakeham to discuss your needs.

In the absence of feedback, the Committee does not intend to re-order stocks of these items.

## A Stage for Leading Ladies

Bernard Darwin, *Green Memories*, 1928

I must call a halt somewhere, but there is one more match that must be mentioned, a match not between men but between ladies, the final of the Ladies' Championship at Troon in 1925 between Miss Joyce Wethered and Miss Cecil Leitch. It contained every possible dramatic element except the international one. It was perhaps as well that this was absent. As it was the crowd was so great and so much excited that the player had scarcely finished her stroke when she was swallowed up in a hot seething mass of humanity.

From the very beginning of the Championship this match had been anticipated. Miss Leitch had been for a long time the undisputed queen of golf, but then an even greater than her had arisen in Miss Wethered. She in her turn had reigned since their meeting at Prince's in 1922. Now that Miss Wethered was in one half of the draw and Miss Leitch in the other there was a chance of another final between them. Both parties have the power of inspiring almost fanatical enthusiasm among their supporters, and excitement was at boiling point. Yet on the eve of the final it was difficult to imagine that the match would really be a match at all. Miss Wethered's progress had been a series of executions carried out with merciful swiftness. Round after round she had clung to an average of fours on this long and testing course. Miss Glenna Collett, the American champion and a very fine player, had held her for a while, but in the end had been overwhelmed like the others by that remorseless accuracy. Miss Leitch, on the other hand, had not been herself at all. She had never touched her proper form, she had only got through by her great powers of fighting and because some of her opponents had been so terrified at the chance of beating her that they could not take what the gods gave them; she had appeared ill at ease and anxious, always brave but never confident.

And then on the morrow all was changed and a new Miss Leitch appeared, calm and serene, having reached the place that she had set out to reach, "Her cares dropped from her like the needles shaken from out the gusty pine."

She was ready to do battle for her life, and she did it so magnificently that, though in the end she lost the match, it was she rather than her conqueror that was the heroine of the day. Everybody knew that she would rise to the occasion and make a great effort, but hardly anyone, I think, expected quite such a great one.

From the very beginning of that match Miss Leitch played like her best self, confidently and boldly. As

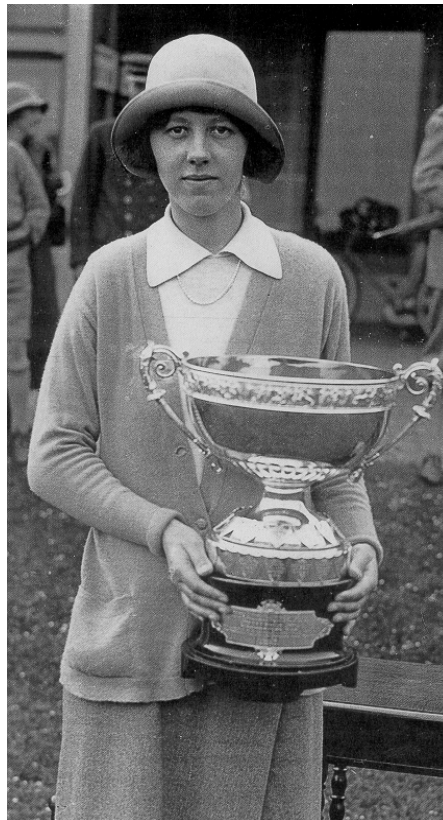
for Miss Wethered, though she did not wilt under the fierce attack, something of the divine fire had temporarily departed, and so at the end of ten holes we were faced with the almost incredible situation that Miss Wethered was three down. Then, however, she made her great push. She played grandly and finally holed a long putt on the home green to be home in 35 and square the match. Miss Leitch had never weakened for a single moment: she had played as well as ever and had given no openings. To lose three holes to such golf was almost inevitable and probably any other lady golfer would have lost several more.

They were at it hammer and tongs again after luncheon, with the same fine golf. Any notion of Miss Wethered's going right away had long since been dispelled. Going to the ninth hole she was one down and

there came one of the crises of the match. Miss Wethered had a putt for the hole, but she was stymied. To go for the shot and knock her enemy's ball in would be to be two down and that would be a very serious situation indeed. To go for it and bring it off would not only mean the gain of a valuable hole but would almost inevitably have a moral effect. She took the brave risk, lofted the shot perfectly, won the hole and squared the match.

The moral effect was palpable enough. For the next six holes Miss Wethered dominated the play. She was two up with three to go; if she could put a fairly long iron shot on to the sixteenth green she would in all human probability win the match by 3 and 2. This was the type of shot that she had been playing better perhaps than all the rest. Every one had so intense a belief in her that even at this most critical moment hardly a soul doubted that she would put the ball bang in the middle of the green. For once, however, she was not straight, but hooked the ball into the rough mounds on the left of the green. The hole was halved and Miss Leitch was still alive.

Again the moral effect was obvious. Miss Wethered for once played two weak holes in succession, played them as if she was shaken and tired. Miss Leitch metaphorically leaped on her like a tigress and, aided at the last hole by a little of that fortune that aids the brave, most gloriously squared the match. And that ought to be the end of the story. A half was the right ending; the greatest thirty-seventh hole in the world must have seemed a pity. However, they had to go on, someone had to win, and the someone was Miss Wethered, who laid a very long putt stone dead at the thirty-seventh. It was a fine effort and deserved victory, but every one who saw that match will always wish that there could for that year have been two queens on twin thrones of exactly equal splendour.



*Joyce Wethered with the British women's championship trophy she won at Troon in 1925.*



## Should we give all the credit to Alister MacKenzie?

We all know that Dr Alister MacKenzie designed Royal Melbourne's magnificent West Course, Cypress Point and Augusta National (with Bobby Jones). I have included here three articles on the subject which GSA members may find interesting. The first is drawn from notes for a forthcoming book entitled "A Round Forever" by John Scarth. This book covers the lives and work of M. A. (Mick) Morcom and his son H. V. (Vern) Morcom. Mick Morcom, of course, was responsible for the construction of The West Course. John has kindly provided the following excerpt from his research into the life and career of MacKenzie. John has expressed the opinion that "the men who constructed MacKenzie's course designs are the true greats". These include the Morcoms, Jack Fleming and Luther Koontz. The second article is extracted from one which I was asked to write as RMGC Club Champion at the time of the Presidents Cup, and the third, kindly provided by GSA member Bill Whitton, describes the Alister MacKenzie Society and its activities with particular focus on the recent meeting at Royal Melbourne.

Ed.

### Some MacKenzie facts

By John Scarth

Born on 30th August 1870 at Normanton, Yorkshire, England to Scottish highland parentage, Alister was well educated and studied Medicine at Cambridge University as well as obtaining degrees in Natural Science and Chemistry from Leeds University.

He commenced his own medical practice in Leeds whilst in his mid twenty's and in 1899 enlisted as a Civil Surgeon for service in the Boer War - South Africa. He was attached to the Somerset Light Infantry and, whilst in Cape Town met up with a distant relative. Francis Maxwell had designed the Glenelg Golf Club in Adelaide, Australia prior to enlisting for service in the Boer War. He was related to David Myles Maxwell who married MacKenzie's cousin. Being a member of Leeds Golf Club, MacKenzie spoke at great length with Francis regarding golf course design and it was Francis who installed the seed of thought in MacKenzie's mind about how the Boer soldiers were able to camouflage themselves on treeless plains, saying he intended introducing it into revisions at Glenelg. Regrettably Francis was killed in South Africa and after MacKenzie returned to England he felt it an obligation to visit David Maxwell and relate the circumstances of Francis' death.

In 1902 MacKenzie sailed to Melbourne and then journeyed to the Mornington Peninsula where David resided and had established the Flinders Golf Club. Being only a 6 hole course, David lured MacKenzie into helping design of a further 12 holes, or was it MacKenzie luring Maxwell into inviting him to do so.

Returning to his practice in England, MacKenzie suggested to his golf club, what the committee thought were radical changes. Because of the lack of support, MacKenzie, Arthur Sykes and other friends decided to design and construct their own course. Alwoodley Golf Club was designed in 1905 however due to some problems, Harry Colt was called upon to settle a design dispute. Staying with MacKenzie, Colt spoke with him at great length regarding ideas on camouflage, Colt agreed with MacKenzie's

thoughts and also on his design of Alwoodley. The course opened in 1907. Colt also advised MacKenzie to obtain a book written by his mentor John Low.

From this beginning, MacKenzie found himself involved in the golf course design business to the extent that he cut back his hours at his practice. In 1912 Colt contacted MacKenzie and invited him to assist in bunker and green 'camouflage' design for the Eden Course he was designing at St. Andrews. Whilst at St. Andrews, MacKenzie



*MacKenzie strolling the first fairway at St Andrews*

undertook a survey of the Old Course.

C. B. MacDonald invited people to come up with the perfect two shot hole in a competition in Country Life Magazine. The reason was to supply him with an 18th hole at the Lido Golf Club, Long Island, New York which he was designing. The Judges, B. Darwin and C. H. Hutchison selected MacKenzie's design as first prize. Colt offered MacKenzie a partnership agreement as his other partner - C. Alison - was spending more time overseas - mainly in the U.S. MacKenzie accepted, however World War I approached. At its outbreak, MacKenzie again enlisted as a Civil Surgeon but was soon transferred to the Royal Engineers to develop camouflage techniques.

Upon War's end, MacKenzie worked in Golf Course design full time and visited the U.S. to assist Alison

as well as meet MacDonald. From this meeting he met Seth Raynor and W. R. Hunter - Managing Director of American Golf Course Construction Company.

In 1919 MacKenzie gave two lectures on golf architecture in England and it is these that form the crux of his book, "Golf Architecture", published in 1920. Returning from the US in 1924 and having laid bases with Robert Hunter and Perry Maxwell in that country, he resigned from Colt, Alison, MacKenzie to set up his own business.

Seth Raynor died in 1926 leaving his associates C. H. Banks and R. M. Barton to complete the work on the 9 hole Dunes course for Monterey Peninsula Golf Club. The committee were not happy with the result and called in Hunter to rectify the problem. Hunter contacted MacKenzie and the true partnership was forged. Other offers came as a result, mostly around the Monterey Peninsula area. MacKenzie sailed for Australia in September 1926 - the start of his 'World Tour'. He was there until year's end then spent a short time in New Zealand prior to sailing to San Francisco via Raratonga, before returning to England.

## Reflections on Royal Melbourne

By The Editor

I was fortunate enough to be present for the whole week of the 1959 Canada Cup. This, the first event staged over the Composite Course, was won for Australia by Peter Thomson and Kel Nagle. The Composite Course comprises 12 holes from the West Course and 6 holes from the East Course. All of the holes are contained within the "home" paddock.

The brilliant design of the West Course was the work of Alister MacKenzie who, in late 1926, visited Australia for this specific purpose. MacKenzie did not stay long enough to supervise the construction of the course. He left this task to club member and "new" business associate Alex Russell who, in my opinion, is not generally given sufficient credit for the way in which he carried out the implementation of MacKenzie's plan. Russell was a fine player in addition to his skills as a golf course architect. He won the Australian Open Championship in 1924 (as an amateur), the Victorian Amateur Championship in 1925 and the Royal Melbourne Club Championship in 1922, 1929 and 1937.

The East course, which was designed by Russell, came into play in 1932. Many who only know the Composite course are unaware of the great quality of the holes on the East Course where one can find some of the best examples of the design philosophy laid down by MacKenzie and the consistent application of that philosophy by Russell.

To me, the ultimate compliment to Russell is the seamless interfacing of holes from the two courses into a magnificent test of golf; the un-initiated cannot detect whether any individual hole is normally part of West or East. Enormous credit for this must also be given to the Course Superintendents since those days, particularly Mick Morcom, who constructed the courses and maintained them during the 1930's, and Claude Crockford who held the post for nearly 40 years until his retirement in 1975. They shared the vision of the designers and ensured that the vision lives on. The current Superintendent, Jim Porter and his staff carry on their good work.

## Alister MacKenzie Society

Meeting at Royal Melbourne Golf Club, October 2000

By GSA member Bill Whitton

The Alister MacKenzie Society consists of 13 Golf Clubs which have a course designed by Dr Alister MacKenzie. A similar Society, the Donald Ross Society, was formed some years ago. Ross was involved with the design of many courses. Some of the best known are Pinehurst, Seminole, Inverness and Royal Dornoch.

When the American Golf Magazine started publishing lists of the 100 Greatest Courses in the world, a number of MacKenzie courses appeared near the top. Thus in 1991 Cypress Point, Augusta National and Royal Melbourne (Composite Course) were listed 4th, 5th and 6th respectively. This was an amazing result as these courses were designed approximately 60 years before. So in spite of all the developments in golf equipment, and earth moving machinery, these courses appeared in the top ten on several occasions. A number of American Clubs with MacKenzie courses thought it would be useful to form a Society, especially to discuss MacKenzie's principles of design. Why were these courses so good? The study was assisted by a little book - Golf Architecture! written by Dr MacKenzie in 1920.

MacKenzie was born in 1870. He graduated in science at Cambridge and in Medicine at London University. He went to the Boer War as an army surgeon, and for a while practiced medicine in Leeds. Soon after writing his book in 1920 he abandoned his medical practice saying - "one reason I decided to give up medicine and concentrate on golf architecture was my firm conviction of the extraordinary influence on health of pleasurable excitement, especially when combined with fresh air and exercise as in golf".

In his book he describes very clearly 13 essential features for an ideal golf course. As a result he became famous for what is called strategic design of a golf course. This involves firstly strategic play for each hole, where a player has to use his brains. With alternate routes to each hole he has to decide which way to go, and how much risk is he prepared to take. So there are routes for the long hitter and the short hitter and for the brave and the timid. By taking the challenges involved the player gets thrills and is rewarded for the successful negotiation of difficulties.

Secondly, something which he may have got from his upbringing in the highlands of Scotland. He insisted on natural beauty. Courses should be built in beautiful places, and everything should be done to retain that beauty. Strategic Design is very different from the alternative so called 'Penal Design', in which one line of play is dictated, and a player who strays from it is punished. Long carries, deep hazards and ferocious rough make it a test of strength. Play becomes a struggle rather than something to be enjoyed.

So the MacKenzie Society formed especially to study this philosophy and the design features involved in strategic design. The original few American clubs gradually invited other clubs with essentially MacKenzie designed courses. There are now 13 Clubs involved - two British Alwoodley and Moortown, two Irish Lahinch and Cork, six American Crystal Downs, Cypress Point, Green Hills, Meadow Club, Pasatiempo, and Valley Club, one Canadian St Charles, one New Zealand Titirangi, and one Australian Royal Melbourne. The meetings of the Society are held annually, with four meetings in the US and the next one outside of the US. Royal Melbourne first attended a meeting in

1995 held at Lahinch. That was the first meeting outside the US, and the meeting at Royal Melbourne this year was the second overseas meeting. Each time there is a Director's Meeting, an Historians Meeting, a practice round and two rounds of play for the MacKenzie Cup.

At the Historians Meeting three main topics are discussed - What was MacKenzie's original design. What has happened to the course since, and what is the Club doing about returning to the original MacKenzie design or intended principles of design. This year a major topic was the handling of trees, bushes and plants as they continue to grow, and eventually encroach on the play of the course. Since the designs of all the courses being discussed were essentially MacKenzie Strategic design courses, there was much of common interest. One item of common interest was that every Club has its contingent of "tree huggers" as one Member put it, and how can a Green Committee decide to remove these loved trees when they do upset the play of a course. One American course in a northern State said that they wait until winter when there are very few Members about.

The MacKenzie Cup is fought out by teams of 8 playing four-ball matches on the first day and singles on the second day. With the advantage of the home course Royal Melbourne managed to win this year with Meadow Club second and Cypress Point third. It is fairly certain that Alister MacKenzie would have been pleased to see that the players, who had handicaps varying from 0 to 20 all seemed to enjoy the challenges of Royal Melbourne's West Course, and got much 'pleasurable excitement'.

## What Alister MacKenzie thought of M. A. "Mick" Morcom

Writing in the Melbourne press at the time of his 1926 visit, Alister MacKenzie said -

"I have suggested to the Council of the Club (RMGC) that the work of construction be left entirely in the hands of their green keeper, M. A. Morcom and those who, having been closely associated with me in my visit, have



Mick Morcom, RMGC Green keeper (1905—1935)

heard my explanations of my methods. Morcom is, I think, the most intelligent green keeper I have come in contact with in this or any other country, and understands my plans thoroughly".

Following his visit to Australia, MacKenzie wrote the following appreciation of Mick Morcom in *Golf Illustrated* -

"The Royal Melbourne Golf Club have the good fortune to have the best green keeper I have come across in Britain, America or Australia - a man named Morcom - and I managed to persuade most of the golf clubs in Australia to secure his services for the purpose of helping them in their construction work. Morcom has not only read, but has studied every book he could possibly get hold of on the subject of golf course construction and green-keeping, and has been in constant touch with the greens section of the United States Golf Association, who have done so much good in green-keeping in America and other countries".

Bill Whitton relates that "Claude Crockford told me that Morcom drove round and round the Royal Melbourne course site on a horse drawn vehicle with MacKenzie and spent many hours discussing ideas for the new layout. Subsequently Morcom and Crockford used to take regular Sunday motor car outings during which Mick and Claude would sit in the front talking about golf courses while their wives sat in the back. Thus "Crocky" probably had 6 days tuition each week!".

## MacKenzie's 13 Design Essentials

1. The course, where possible, should be arranged in two loops of nine holes.
2. There should be a large proportion of good two-shot holes, two or three drive-and-pitch holes, and at least four one-shot holes.
3. There should be little walking between the greens and tees, and the course should be arranged so that in the first instance there is always a slight walk forwards from the green to the next tee; then the holes are sufficiently elastic to be lengthened in the future if necessary.
4. The greens and fairways should be sufficiently undulating, but there should be no hill climbing.
5. Every hole should have a different character.
6. There should be a minimum of blindness for the approach shots.
7. The course should have beautiful surroundings, and all the artificial features should have so natural an appearance that a stranger is unable to distinguish them from nature itself.
8. There should be a sufficient number of heroic carries from the tee, but the course should be arranged so that the weaker player with the loss of a stroke or portion of a stroke shall always have an alternative route open to him.
9. There should be infinite variety in the strokes required to play the various holes - viz., interesting brassy shots, iron shots, pitch and run-up shots.
10. There should be a complete absence of the annoyance and irritation caused by the necessity of searching for lost balls.
11. The course should be so interesting that even the plus man is constantly stimulated to improve his game in attempting shots he has hitherto been unable to play.
12. The course should be so arranged that the long handicap player or even the absolute beginner should be able to enjoy his round in spite of the fact that he is piling up a big score.
13. The course should be equally good during winter and summer, the texture of the greens and fairways should be perfect, and the approaches should have the same consistency as the greens.



# How Golf Clubs are made

Extracted from *Through the Green*, September 2000  
Originally published in *The British Trade Review*, 1904

In the manufacture of golf clubs machinery is now an important factor. The work not so long ago was entirely done by the hand and a very interesting account is given by a correspondent of the various processes the golf club has to pass through before it is ready or play.

A representative called at Mr. A H Scott's golf club factory, in Earlsferry, and witnessed the work in the various departments. The machines, of which a description follows, are driven by a 10-horse power gas engine. Some nine or ten years ago golf club heads were made entirely from beech or apple tree, mostly the former. At that time hard woods were looked upon as useless for driving a golf ball. Times are changed, and beech is a thing of the past. The woods now used are stonewood, persimmon, and dogwood. These materials are grown in America and are very tough and hard, and therefore they stand a great deal more usage than the now old-fashioned Scotch beech. These hardwoods, after being cut into planks three inches thick, are stored in sheds and allowed to season for a period of 12 to 18 months. It is necessary that these woods should be air-dried; if artificial heat is applied the quality of the wood will greatly deteriorate. After being removed from the drying sheds, the wood is taken to the cross-cut saw and sawn into lengths of about ten inches, and then passed on to the band sawing machine, there to be cut into blocks. The blocks are then sent back to the drying shed to be thoroughly seasoned.

After a period of three months or so, these blocks again return to the band sawing machine to be shaped and cut to equal lengths to suit the head-turning machine. The head-turning machine or copying lathe is a very ingenious machine, capable of turning out forty heads per hour. The head is shaped from an iron model, which works against a centre while the wood block works against the knives or gutter. The block is kept against the cutters by a heavy weight and is drawn forward by a feed screw. By changing the model any pattern of clubs can be made; a large or small head can be made to the same pattern by adjusting a screw etc. On leaving the turning machine the heads again arrive at the band sawing machine to have the point cut off and the scare cut to the proper length. The heads now pass on to the head-cutting machine, which is a small machine for cutting out the cavity at the back of the head where the lead is inserted, while another small machine is employed to cut the cavity in the sole of the club where the horn is inserted.

The heads next pass on to skilled workmen, who fit in lead and horn and make the head ready for the sand-papering machine. The lead is kept in position by three holes bored inside the cavity into which a screw tap has been screwed to leave the impression of the screw. The cavity is now covered with clay or other substance, leaving a small hole in the centre into which the hot lead is poured. Care must be taken that the lead is not overheated, as it causes air holes in the lead and therefore a badly balanced club. The horn is made from ram's horn which has been boiled and pressed under great pressure, after which it is cut into suitable strips. The strip is then fitted into the cavity on the sole of the head, and is held in position by glue and three wood pegs which are driven into holes bored through the horn into the head. The rough edges are now filed off and the heads are passed on to the sand-papering machine. This machine has two soft padded rollers on which sand-

paper has been fixed; the head is gone over with a rough paper and then with a finer to bring out the polish; and subsequently the head is varnished and is ready to be glued on to the shaft. The shafts are mostly made of hickory, which variety of wood has been used for this purpose for a great number of years and is still looked upon as most suitable, inasmuch as it is light, stiff, and strong. The hickory logs are cut into shafts seven eighths of an inch square and 3ft 8in long. The shafts are then built in stacks across each other to keep them from twisting while they are seasoning. After being in the seasoning shed for twelve months they are brought to the shaft-turning machine, where they are turned and tapered to the proper thickness. The shaft is placed in the lathe, which revolves at a very high speed; there are two cutters, the foremost cutter takes the corner of the square, the second cutter smoothens and tapers the shaft, which is now ready to be glued on to the head. After glueing, the remainder of the work is practically finished by skilled workmen without the aid of machinery. The glue is allowed to set for twenty-four hours, then the scare requires to be carefully filed and the shaft planed till the proper spring is acquired.

To obtain the correct spring the shaft requires to be tapered from end to end; the taper causes a nice vibration or feeling to pass through the club while in the act of playing. The shaft is next polished with sandpaper and stained with a mixture of oil and pitch; the mixture is rubbed over the shaft, which is held over the gas jet until the proper colour is acquired. This process not only makes the club look better, but goes a long way towards preserving the wood. The club is then allowed to stand until completely dry. The head of the club, which up to the moment has only received one coat of varnish is now rubbed down with smooth sandpaper and receives two additional coats. The binding is rolled round the scare or joint where the head and shaft are glued together. The club then goes to the polishing machine where the binding is polished.

The club is ready for the handle, rolls of cloth are wound round the shaft, one on the top of the other, the cloth is rubbed with a coating of soft pitch, and the leather is then put on the club, which is ready to be "faced up" and the proper marking put on the face of the club with a file. The club then goes back for the last time to the sand-papering machine to be "soled up" and after receiving another coat of varnish is ready for the market.

It may be mentioned that Mr. Scott is the inventor of several patents, including one relating to the unbreakable neck, and used by members of the Royal Household and many prominent players who speak loudly in its praise. It is protected by Royal Letters Patent, is specially adapted for foreign climates, as it will not get loose in the glue. The special feature of Mr. Scott's patent clubs is the manner in which the shaft is dove-tailed into the head, which makes it practically unbreakable and much better balanced than the ordinary club. It is just nine years since Mr. Scott commenced business on his own account, and his business is now one of the largest and best known club-making businesses in Scotland, turning out thousands of golf clubs every year. It is two years since Mr. Scott had the distinguished honour of being appointed golf club maker to HRH the Prince of Wales. He is also an adept in his play, taking now a prominent position in the prize list of the open golf championship, and a most thorough coach, which is proved by the fact of Miss Glover carrying off the championship in the Ladies' Golf Championship for Scotland last summer, that lady having been taught the art by Mr. Scott.

## “Hickory Challenge Match” with The Golf Collectors Society

On the 22nd November, 2000 the Society was delighted to host a visit from the Golf Collectors Society. The visitors spent the morning at the AGU Museum in South Melbourne then joined members of the GSA for a light luncheon at Royal Melbourne followed by a “Hickory Challenge” match



*GSA President Anne Court and GSA Committee member Margaret Reid discussing the likely outcome of the “Hickory match” with golfing “legend”, Dan Cullen.*

over the front 9 holes of the West Course. The GSA team performed well in a most enjoyable encounter with the “hickories” and won the match by 5 to 3. As Golf Collectors President Tom Moore said in his account of their trip—

“This was a memorable match since it was played over one of the world’s golfing treasures. After toasts and congratulations to the winning team, each of us was presented with a glass engraved with the Golf Society crest as a memento of the occasion.”

Tom Moore continues - “Next morning off to Hobart where we picked up a mini bus and set out for our accommodation at New Norfolk. We



*Tom Moore, President of The Golf Collectors Society with GSA founder, Dr Ken Shepherd.*

were housed in 2 beautiful old mansions dating back to 1823. After a cup of tea and a piece of fruitcake it was away to Bothwell. Bothwell is a dot on the map about an hour’s drive north of Hobart on the road to Launceston. We pulled up at the old schoolhouse, a small but exquisite sandstone building housing a golfing museum. Peter Toogood of the famous Toogood family set up the museum and it houses a fine collection. Lunch was at the local Pie Shop. We can recommend them to anyone, they were delicious. Then down to the golf course.”

“Alexander Reid, who landed in Hobart in 1822 and took up land at Bothwell, was a Scot and named his farm “Ratho.” Naturally he brought his clubs with him and laid out 9 holes. This course is the oldest in the Southern Hemisphere and possibly the oldest outside the British Isles. It is fairly flat with grass greens. Sheep are still used to crop the fairways so the greens are fenced. Don’t worry, if your ball hits a fence it may be replayed. One of our players hit the same wire 5 times. He eventually got it right.”

It is our hope that we will be able to accept the challenge of the Collectors for a return match in Sydney later in the year—more on this later.

## The Doug Bachli Trophy and the GSA Annual General Meeting.

On Monday 13th November, 29 GSA members gathered at Victoria Golf Club for the annual Doug Bachli Trophy meeting. The course was generously donated for the day by Victoria—we thank them for their generosity. The trophy winners for the day were -

Doug Bachli trophy and medal	John Lindsay 40 pts
Runner-up	Frank Haward 38 pts
Ladies medal	Mary Allen 36 pts
Runner-up	Jean Gilbert 34 pts

Following the golf, the Annual General Meeting of the Society was held. 40 members were in attendance to see Anne Court elected as the new President. The new Committee is -

President	Anne Court
Vice President	Michael Clayton
Hon Secretary	Rosemary Wakeham
Hon Treasurer	John Lindsay
Committee	Daryl Cox, Paul Daley, Diana Kyriacou, Roy Pater son, Margaret Reid, Ruth Summerfield.

As part of the proceedings, immediate past President Daryl Cox was unanimously elected a Life Member of the GSA. Congratulations and thanks, Daryl, for your outstanding work on our behalf during your term as President.

## Answers to Quiz Questions

1. Craig Wood. Masters 1935, US Open 1939, British Open 1933 and USPGA 1934.
2. T. C. Chen in 1985.
3. Willie Anderson in 1903, 1904 and 1905.
4. Julius Boros, aged 48 years won the 1968 USPGA Championship. Take an extra point if you said Michael Scott, winner of the British Amateur in 1933 at 54 years of age.
5. Harold Hilton in 1911.
6. Ben Hogan in 1953, Jack Nicklaus in 1980 and Mark O’Meara in 1998.
7. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865—“Titanic” struck an iceberg in 1912.
8. Sandy Lyle.
9. Jackie Pung.
10. Joe Louis (the boxer) who qualified for the 1952 San Diego Open. He missed the cut!

## 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.

The Golf Society is extremely grateful to our Patron, founding and honorary life member, Dr. Ken Shepherd for generously providing access to back issues.