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THE BRITISH GOLF COLLECTORS SOCIETY
President John Beharrell

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Through the Green is the magazine of the British Golf Collectors’ Society and is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The views and opinions printed within are those of the contributors or Editor and are not intended to represent an official Society viewpoint unless specifically stated. The magazine is available only to members of The Society. No part of this publication, with the exception of the book reviews, may be reproduced without written consent of the Editor.

The aims of The Society are to encourage and promote an interest in the history of golf and the collecting of items connected with that history. We welcome new members but extend little sympathy with any applicant who seeks membership for commercial gain.

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Captain’s Letter

There were a couple of letters in the September issue which could well be answered for everyone’s benefit. Firstly, Jim Gray expressed concern about an over-abundance of hickory events and a paucity of meetings for those who prefer modern clubs. Our basic fixture list contains six hickory events: The Welsh, Scottish and English Championships; the matches against Aberdovey and Clapham Common; and the England v Scotland match. Then there are six open events when both hickory and steel can be played: President’s Day; the Open Meeting; and the two Midland and North of Scotland meetings. In 2006, the Central England Meeting will cater for both steel and hickory; we have an additional meeting in the South East (at which both can be played); and we are hoping to arrange a similar meeting in the South West. Every other ‘hickory’ event that we include on our list comes about because we are invited to play matches with other clubs, specifically with hickory clubs. The fixtures with the Seniors’ Golfing Society and Royal Worlington are good examples. Since it is one of the aims of the Society ‘to encourage and promote an interest in the history of golf’, accepting these invitations seems to be a very practical way of doing just that. Our hosts have invariably enjoyed the experience and we have recruited at least one new member at each of the events. I believe the basic balance is there; perhaps any apparent imbalance is because we are a victim of our own success.

The second letter was from Charles Wade, about our use of the word ‘Championship’ for handicap events. As a Society, we wish to encourage as many of our members as possible to take part in our events and to allow each the prospect of being successful; in recent years we have had high handicap and lady members being the best on the day. My dictionary defines a champion ‘as a person who has defeated all others in a competition’. When the first BGCS Scottish Hickory meeting was held in 1987 the participants agreed that the competition should be a handicap event and chose to call it a ‘championship’; we have followed that tradition ever since, using the term for the English and Welsh events when they were started. And if we are not too serious about it, what’s in a name?

As I mentioned in my last letter, we are arranging Collectors’ Fairs next year and have so far organised them for Chester in January and Gullane in May, before the Scottish. We are looking for volunteers to run similar fairs on the evenings before President’s Day and the Open Meeting, with The Society standing surety for all costs. So if anyone would like to help out at these or other Society events, please contact Tony Thorpe.

So much for business. It has been a good year for the Society and I have enjoyed attending our meetings around the country, although inevitably some memories stand out. The companionship and merriment at the dinner after the Grail at Kilspindie encapsulated, for me, what golf is all about. The sunshine on the Grampians while we played Kingussie was simply beautiful. A mid-summer’s day in late October when we met the PGA at Walton Heath was outstanding. So was the pleasure from watching Michael Lunt’s wonderful strokeplay.

We have recruited many new members this year and we welcome them all. Sadly, though, we have had to say goodbye to Doris Burchard, Sylvia Tew and Gordon McKee; our sincerest condolences go to their families.

And so as we come to the end of another year may I wish everyone a happy and joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Alan Jackson
People and Things

**ELGA Chairmanship for Ros Weston**

**Ros Weston** takes over as Chairman of the English Ladies’ Golfing Association on December the 7th. Congratulations on your election Ros; we’re sure you’ll have a successful and fulfilling year.

**Welcome to Baby Wehring**

Lovely to hear that Heidi Wehring gave birth to Emma Kate on the 9th of September. We send our heartiest congratulations to Heidi and Mark and look forward to seeing one or all of them in the Spring.

---

**But Goodbye to …**

… **Gordon McKeag**, who died suddenly at home in Jesmond, Newcastle, in late September, at the age of 77. A solicitor by profession, Gordon was a life-long sportsman who opened the batting for Trinity College Cambridge, played county rugby and squash for Northumberland and was playing tennis regularly up to the time of his death. He was perhaps best known as past-Chairman of Newcastle United FC, and of the Football League, when he was involved in the establishment of the Football League Museum at Deepdale, home of Preston North End. As a golfer, he played at Northumberland GC, Gosforth, was Captain of Bamburgh Castle GC in 2002, and at the time of his death, was its Chairman. A long-standing collector, he became a member of the GCS soon after its formation in the early 1970s and subsequently, the BGCS. Gordon was an occasional player with hickories from his collection, representing the Society on a number of occasions at centenary matches in the North East, while wearing a splendid scarlet coat handed down to him by his father. His love for the game led him to write the centenary history of Bamburgh Castle, which was well-reviewed in the September issue of *TTG*.

We look forward to toasting his memory at Bamburgh in September, on the occasion of the 2006 England v Scotland match.

… and to …

**Sylvia Tew**, who has died after a long illness, in September. Sylvia, wife of Tom, was a regular attender of Society events, initially as an enthusiastic supporter, and latterly as a collecting and playing member in her own right. We will miss her infectious humour and ready smile.
Events

Scotland v England at Musselburgh Old Links
The annual fixture between the auld enemies was conducted in the usual keen spirit, on the 2nd of September. The day was sunny with a stiff breeze off the Firth. Afterwards, in the baronial splendour of the Musselburgh Old Course clubhouse, the brightness of the Scots contrasted with the overcast mien of the English following their comprehensive defeat by 11 1/2 points to 1 1/2. Emollient words from the Scottish Captain failed to disguise his glee, or alleviate the dejection of his erstwhile opponents.

Hickory Homer Is Monarch Of The Glen
On a day filled with soft white clouds scudding over the Grampians ten members of the Society took to the fairways of Kingussie to enjoy not only the golf but the magnificent scenery which surrounds this picturesque Highland course.

From south of the border came our esteemed Captain, Alan Jackson accompanied by his chauffeuse, Jean, who managed to negotiate some of the steeper slopes just like Stirling Moss. Warren Latham appeared accompanied by his caddy, Christine along with Roy Hobbis and Chris Homer – the latter making his second appearance of the year at a North Scottish Meeting. They were all most welcome.

Although some of our regulars were unable to attend it was good to see some ‘old’ familiar faces in Ron Beatt, Barry Kerr and Scott Patrick with Ian Nalder making his first attempt at serious hickory play this year. Ron also brought along a friend of his – Bob Redpath – who has also submitted his application for membership and will make an excellent addition to the Society.

Most of the players must have been overcome by the scenery judging by the scores but Chris Homer took advantage of us all to return a score of 33 points just to pip Scott Patrick for first prize. Nearest the pin prizes were won by Ian Nalder, Barry Kerr and myself but judging by the conversation round the table all were winners having played Kingussie on such a beautiful day. Definitely a case of a tolerable green, a tolerable day and especially, tolerable company.

Lively discussion followed the meal and I am sure that some of the subjects will appear in Through The Green before very long.

Report by Hamish Ewan
Match v Royal Worlington
The ‘Sacred Nine’ of Royal Worlington was the venue for a hickory match against the Club, led by BGCS member, Michael Smith, on the 16th of September. As befitting a club that values its traditions, format was foursomes throughout, – eighteen holes in the forenoon, and nine after lunch. The Society put out a skilled and experienced team that coped well with the 6200 yards off the white tees in brilliant sunshine, and led 3½ – 1½ into lunch. However, they coped badly with the sedative effects of ‘The Pink Jug’ a Worlington speciality consisting of equal measures of Benedictine, Pimms No 1, and brandy, topped up generously with champagne. The Pink Jug forms the emblem of the Club sweaters and there were suspicions amongst Society team members that the size of the spirits measures depend on how many holes down the Club is at lunch. Whatever the truth, The Club came back strongly in the afternoon to tie the match at 4½ points all, a good result, and a most enjoyable fixture.

Bavarian Hickory Open
The first Bavarian Hickory Open was held in perfect conditions at Garmisch-Partenkirchen GC on the 24th of September, attracting more than 60 golfers from five countries.

Young David Heinzinger from Garmisch-Partenkirchen displayed superior skill to finish with a 4 over par gross 76, well ahead of Dr Christian Vogl and Toni Kammerer. Remarkably, he did not score a single birdie. The winner of the best net award was Harry Süssl. His wife Veronika won the ladies prize for best scratch; Karen Boute from the Netherlands won best ladies net.

Following dinner, BGCS Captain Alan Jackson duly thanked the Schotten brothers Manfred and Robert for promoting the fixture, and Toni Kammerer for his arrangements. Alan expressed the hope that this tournament should become a regular fixture on the BGCS schedule.

Winners of the Best-Dress Awards were Barbara Fuchs in her stunning Bavarian outfit and Huw Davies from Burford.

Report from Toni Kammerer
**English Hickory Championship**

Conditions were unusually benign at Rye for the eighth English Hickory Championship on Friday, the 7th of October, with warm sunshine and the gentlest of breezes. We had the pleasure of welcoming three Scandinavians and two ladies, plus a substantial contingent from the Midlands. But the form men on the day were from the South: the new Champion Philip Russell-Vick, vigorously, to win the Founders‘ Salver; and Campbell Boal, smoothly, to win the scratch prize. Society members lingered in the sunshine on the Rye terrace, before repairing to the chandeliered elegance of the George Hotel for the usual splendid dinner. This is a great event; our thanks go to Tim Smartt once again for his excellent arrangements. *Pictures from Rye appear on page 20*

**Match v Clapham Common Golf Club**

Twelve members of the Society presented themselves and their hickories at Mitcham Common to play this popular annual match. Fortunately, one first timer enquired the night before as to the exact whereabouts of the golf course on Clapham Common – which saved him a lot of grief the next day!

Golf, after all, has not been played on Clapham Common since before the last (Hitler’s) war and even in those days there had always been a close association with Mitcham Common. Competitions were played there as golfers on Clapham Common had to be off the Common by 9 o’clock in the morning during the summer months.

Being the third oldest club in London, after Blackheath and Wimbledon and, as such, of huge historical importance, it is a blessing that a group of Mitcham members has kept the Club going, by playing for some of the old trophies and having outings to other clubs where there is a longstanding connection.

If the BGCS involvement can contribute, in some small way, to Clapham Common Golf Club’s continued existence, we are doing something more than having an annual match on a delightful golf course against a delightful, and highly competitive, group of South Londoners.

This year’s results was CCGC 3 3/4 - BGCS 2 1/2, which means that just 2 points separate the two teams over the eight years that the match has been played.

Please note the playing of the bye for a half point – something that would have certainly happened in the old days on Clapham Common! *Report by Philip Truett*

**Centenary Hickory Match v The Worcestershire County Union of Golf Clubs**

On Wednesday the 19th of October, a team of twelve Society members gathered at Gay Hill GC, Wythall for a hickory match against the Worcestershire County Union of Golf Clubs, as part of their centenary celebrations. This is the first time the Society has been honoured to play a county union. Gay Hill GC was opened in 1921 and measures some 6406 yards from the white tees through a valley crossed by several streams. The course has tree-lined fairways and the proximity of the streams on several holes demands accurate shots. This proved to the advantage of the low-handicap opposition on this occasion as the Society lost 4 – 2. Gay Hill is renowned for its hospitality and this occasion was no exception as the afternoon was rounded off with an excellent meal followed by the usual pleasantries and an Antique Golf Road Show. A most enjoyable event.

*Report from Keith Bilbie*

**Match v The PGA**

The biennial hickory match against senior members of the PGA took place once again on the 27th of October, over the ‘New’ course at Walton Heath. Some members believe that this course is even more difficult than the historic ‘Old’ eighteen at Walton Heath, and this was the track that had actually been used for local qualifying this summer, for the US Open. On more than one occasion in recent years, this match has been played in shirt-sleeves and the habit continued this year, with temperatures well into the 70s. It was good to see some old friends and since then, we have been delighted to welcome one or two more of them into the Society. The Society distinguished itself with a narrow win, in which Michael Lunt was particularly impressive.
Forthcoming Events
The full programme of 2006 events is contained within the membership and directory list, but one or two early events stand out for special notice.

The Chester Trade Fair, on Friday, the 27th of January, the day before the Bonham’s auction, has rapidly acquired a distinct midwinter position within the society’s calendar: an opportunity to get away from the frozen links, see some old friends and maybe even a chance of a real bargain from one of the stalls. Graham and Ann Walters have organised it this year at 2pm to 7pm, in the clubhouse of the Vicars Cross GC. There may still be some rooms at the Hoole Hall Hotel available at a special rate of £52 for b&b plus full evening meal; please book at the earliest opportunity on 01244 408800/408804, stating that you will be attending the Fair. The evening meal in particular, in previous years, has been well-supported and is good fun. Phone Graham on 01942 874059 if you would like a table at the fair, for which the cost will be £20.

The Welsh Weekend continues to grow in popularity, attracting international participation. It is scheduled this year for the weekend of 8th April, starting with the match against Machynlleth GC on Friday the 7th, taking in the match against our friends at Aberdovey on the Saturday afternoon, and climaxing in the Welsh Hickory Championship over the Aberdovey links on Sunday the 8th. Eiron Morgan is organising; the wherewithal is contained with this issue.

President’s Day is organised for Friday, the 28th of April, at Royal Liverpool. No morning golf this year, but the usual foursomes in the afternoon for the President’s Prizes, followed by the AGM in the Clubhouse, our Annual Dinner, and fun auction afterwards, conducted by the irrepressible David Kirkwood. Peter Heath is reprising his earlier role as organiser for this event, and you should send him your completed application form. It is our great privilege to play over the Hoylake links on our President’s Day – the last outside event before the Open returns to this historic course in July.

Looking further ahead to June, the Captain’s Week in Northern Ireland looks very attractive. John Hanna is organising a trip that will include some of the best courses in the world. The week of 20 - 24th June, 2006 might well be pencilled in the diary now.

2006 Centenary Clubs

Hamish Ewan has compiled his usual list of clubs celebrating their centenary in 2006. We also thank Alan Elliot of the R&A annual yearbook, for validating the list

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South Leeds, W Yorks

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Kyles of Bute, Argyll & Bute
The Glen, East Lothian
Cowglen, Glasgow
Williamwood, Glasgow
Elgin, Moray

Wales

Holywell, Flint
St Deiniol, Gwynedd
Knighton, Powys

Ireland

Dunfanaghy, Co Donegal
Athy, Co Kildare
Enniscorthy, Co Wexford
On May 30, 2005, Herbert Warren Wind, one of the great men of the game of golf, passed away at the age of 88. Due to poor health, he had been living in an assisted living facility in Bedford, Massachusetts. The cause of death was a recent bout with pneumonia.

Wind was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, where he learned the game of golf at the Thorny Lea Golf Club. At eighteen, he began writing a golf column for the local newspaper, The Brockton Enterprise. He went on to study at Yale University, where he wrote columns for The Yale Record and Daily News. While attending Yale, Wind had an amusing experience with golf writing that he shared with us years later in his introduction to The Complete Golfer.

In my first year in college, as part of the course in Freshman English that all students were required to take, we had to write a thesis of approximately four-thousand words. I asked the professor who taught the particular three-times-a-week class I was in whether it would be possible to write a brief history of golf. He told me that would be quite all right. My research consisted entirely of reading the long and detailed article on golf in the Encyclopaedia Britannica. I got a good grade on my paper, and I remember distinctly the professor’s written comment: ‘What I like most about your history of golf is that it is completely different from anything that one might find in the Encyclopaedia Britannica.’

Wind often wrote such self-deprecating anecdotes, but the rigor of his research would grow considerably over time. After graduating from Yale University in 1937, he received a master’s degree in English literature from Cambridge University in 1939. During World War II, he served in the Pacific Theater as a captain in the United States Army Air Corps. After the war, he found a job writing essays about golf (and occasionally other topics) for The New Yorker magazine.

While at Cambridge he had met and become an admirer of the legendary English golf writer, Bernard Darwin, whose influence shaped his choice of profession and the style and quality of his writing. Like Darwin, Wind devoted himself to writing richly detailed pieces that went beyond the mere reporting of tournament results. His essays dealt with course histories, course design and renovation, weather and turf conditions and often contained stirring themes of struggle and redemption. He possessed a profound knowledge of the game both as a player and as a result of his tireless research. His own game had been proficient enough to play in the 1950 British Amateur at St. Andrews, so he was able to appreciate and convey the nuances and complexities of golf’s challenges. Combining this insider’s knowledge with his comprehensive research made his essays compelling reading. His essays, some stretching to over 10,000 words, were handwritten, and his craftsmanship made it obvious they were labors of love.

Wind’s contributions to the game of golf were extraordinary. Besides writing for The New Yorker on and off for 40 years, he was also the first golf editor for Sports Illustrated and contributed 111 articles during his roughly seven years there. For two years he served as Associate Producer and Writer for Shell’s Wonderful World of Golf. He wrote, co-wrote or edited seventeen books that have become classics: biographies – Thirty Years of Championship Golf (with Gene Sarazen, 1950), The Greatest Game of All (with Jack Nicklaus, 1969), The World of PG Wodehouse (1972); instructionals – Ben Hogan’s Five Lessons: The Modern Fundamentals of Golf (with Ben Hogan, 1957) and Tips from the Top (Editor, 1955); fiction – On the Tour with Harry Sprague (1960); a club history – Thorny Lea Golf Club 1900-1950, 50th Anniversary (1950); and the essays and histories...
for which he was best known – Following Through (1985), Game, Set and Match (1979), Herbert Warren Wind’s Golf Book (1971), The Gilded Age of Sport (1961), The Complete Golfer (Editor, 1954), Great Stories from the World of Sport (co-editor with Peter Schwed, 1958), The Realm of Sport (Editor, 1966), Golf Quiz (1980), An Introduction to the Literature of Golf (1996), and his masterpiece, The Story of American Golf: Its Champions and Its Championships (1948). He taught a seminar on sports literature at Yale University during the 1970s and served as a Director of the Yale Golf Association. From 1985 to 1995, Wind collaborated with publisher Robert S Macdonald on The Classics of Golf, writing the foreword to each volume – 37 in all. He was honored by the Golf Writers Association of America with its Richardson Award (for lifetime achievement) and also by the PGA of America with its Lifetime Achievement Award in Journalism. He served for nearly three decades as a volunteer on two committees of the United States Golf Association—the Bob Jones Award Committee and the Museum and Library Committee. Fittingly, he is the only writer to have received the USGA’s highest honor, the Bob Jones Award (1995).

In an essay about his mentor and role model, Bernard Darwin at Eighty, Wind described Darwin’s work in words that could as easily sum up his own illustrious career:

Bernard never tried to bowl his readers over with exhibitions of his brilliance or power, but his writing, modest and restrained as it is, has a quiet magic and a terrific staying power. Though never intended to be literature, it is.

Tom James

Doris Burchard

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Doris Burchard, one of our more enthusiastic and accomplished members. Doris was passionate about everything she did: from hunting and collecting golf memorabilia such as silver, ceramics and early items, to writing about the history of ladies golf and Golf in Germany, as well as displaying her collection at home. Even in the last years of a long illness, Doris was still eager to share her expertise and encourage fellow collectors. A journalist by profession it was her great pleasure to write for the leading German press about international golf tournaments such as the Solheim Cup or the Open Championship, which she attended on several occasions. Beyond golf her interests were wide, including a great interest in those queens of beauty Helena Rubinstein, Elizabeth Arden and Estée Lauder. Her book covering their lives Der Kampf um die Schönheit (The fight for beauty) was published in 1999. In January 2005 a perfume exhibition set up by Doris was opened in Hamburg’s Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe.

But her greatest passion was the history of golf, even though she sometimes felt that most German golfers were more concerned about their own scores than about the long tradition of the game. She was active in contributing to a current project covering the history of Golf in Germany. Also she was a great supporter of the Deutsches Golf Archiv in Cologne, an institution set up by Prof. Dr. Dietrich Quanz with the support of the Deutsche Sporthochschule (German Sports University) and the Deutscher Golf Verband (German Golf Union).

Our sympathy goes to Henning Abendroth and the Burchard family.

Christoph Meister
Greetings from the Ashes-Bereft continent down under, where the golf season is about to get under way; that’s the professional season which only features a few meetings as sponsors of big tournaments are an increasingly rare species. So what happened to Greg Norman’s push for a World Professional Tour? Made it to Melbourne once and scuttled back to the comfort of the USA. Shame on you Mr Finchem, and your members.

Naturally real golfers never have an off season so, in what passes for Winter, fields for the Saturday morning competitions, at suburban and country course alike, are bursting at the seams, and if the comp is a medal there will often be a two tee, shotgun start. Slightly lower numbers compete in the occasional hickory meeting. At the Golf Society of Australia Hickory Championship held in March at Kingston Heath a small field enjoyed, if that is the right word, a temperature in excess of 100°F – fortunately not a Norfolk jacket in sight. The middle of October (late Winter/early Spring) saw a collection of oddly-dressed golfers assemble at the Woodlands Club for the annual bragging rights match between the Victoria and New South Wales societies, competing in full handicap matchplay over twelve holes for the Al Harris Trophy. The Sydneysiders walked in as 7 to 3 winners with one match halved. Our meal was concluded with a fascinating talk by a well known scratch man, Noel Terry, who enlightened some of us on the ‘history of the shaft and its centre of gravity’. The first club to be handed round for inspection was a modern ‘museum quality blacksmith made iron’. Those who thought it might be genuine were murmuring ‘this is worth more than my house!’ Advice from Noel was that if it was genuine it would be worth well over a million dollars.

Golf is well covered here, if you have a dish on the roof, but the viewing hours are not very social. For me the golf on television highlight of the year appeared about half way through a four-programme series on the opal gougers of Coober Pedy (aboriginal for ‘white man living underground’). While the main story concerned the riches to be unearthed from the barren soil, we were entertained for several minutes by the wonderful story of the Coober Pedy Golf Club, the committee of which had elected to make an Award of Excellence to the St Andrews Links Trust and had requested reciprocal rights over the Old Course! The mind boggles at the thought of R&A members enjoying the best view in golf and seeing groups of jiggling corks hanging from bush hats). Bear in mind that the Coober Pedy course is laid out over the barren ground, spread over which are the tailings from several opal mines. The Club Captain has been known to have covered his annual subscription by finding the odd $50 opal winking at him from the fairway. Members carry a piece of green baize from which to play their fairway shots, although how much protection this affords their clubheads escapes me. No hickories here. The General Manager of the St Andrews Links Trust, Allan McGregor, entered into the spirit of things by appearing in a video link telephone conversation with the Club President, the upshot of which was that, in exchange for mining rights over the Coober Pedy course, the Trust would allow bona fide members of the said course ‘two rounds a day for a maximum of eight golfers on any one day’ over the Balgove Course – in January!

Australians rarely shirk a challenge, so stand by the Kingdom of Fife; I reckon they might be heading your way soon.

So, before I retire to the beach for the annual Christmas blow out, may I advise those of you contemplating a course collecting visit to Melbourne’s sand belt courses to consider a three hour drive along the Ocean Road to play Port Fairy. Links golf is a rarity down here but there are six holes on this 106-year old course that will remind you of Rye, Silloth and some of those expensive courses in southern Ireland. Port Fairy’s green fee is a mere tenner. You might also like to consider a visit to Barnbougle, a three-year old course that looks as if it has been around for 100 years, in Northern Tasmania. Designed by Tom Doak it is apparently already in the top 100 courses around the World. Combine it with a visit to the nine holes of Bothwell, the first golf course in Australia, and you will have done your historical duty.

Cheers

The Mad Pom (aka Peter Gompertz)
2005 – A Year of Records and Anniversaries in Canada

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to write to you about the game in Canada and its heritage. Quite often it seems like there is a relatively small audience of truly interested individuals to read about this topic. Yet it seems that the history of the game is everywhere – from the moment one player gives another the honour on the tee or when it’s Sunday afternoon of a major championship and every stop is pulled to compare this victory with the past.

At 45 years old, Bell Canadian Open Champion Mark Calcavecchia became the oldest champion in the 101-year history of the game. He broke the record set just two years ago when Bob Tway usurped the 1964 Champion Kel Nagle as the oldest winner. On the other end of the spectrum the 2004 Canadian Amateur Champion Darren Wallace broke a 79-year old record as the youngest winner at the remarkable age of 15. No trend there – but historical records crop up every day in setting the record straight.

Perhaps more remarkable was the 2004 Canadian Open. There, during the centennial of the Open Golf Championship of Canada we faced a tumult of records. Mike Weir was in the lead through the final round. A Canadian has not won the national open championship since 1954 – exactly 50 years prior to the 2004 event. Every journalist had his/her pen poised to record this historic event – until the playoff. The number one player on the tour, Vijay Singh, was in a playoff with Weir and as fate would have it, Singh won the tournament. One record that no one was interested in reporting was that Mike had indeed broken the record. There had also not been a Canadian in second place since 1954.

One of the many clubs in Canada that celebrated an anniversary was the St George’s Golf and Country Club who marked 75 years of fascinating history with the publication of one of the most comprehensive club histories in the country written by the definitive Canadian golf history author – Jim Barclay.

2005 also marked the 50th anniversary of the legendary Arnold Palmer’s first PGA Tour Victory – the Canadian Open. The host club, Weston Golf and Country Club, and the Greater Toronto Amateur Golf Association celebrated this historic victory with a series of events, including a celebrity pro-am, the unveiling of a statue and a gala dinner, all attended by the King himself. Mr Palmer also joined Canada’s first World Golf Hall of Fame inductee Marlene Streit in hitting the first balls at the inaugural ‘Kings and Queens’ senior matches.

The Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum seeks constantly to explore and explain the history of the game in this country and how the game, and its principles, have been influenced by and have influenced events outside of golf. Located in the Leonard E Shore Building, adjacent to the offices of the Royal Canadian Golf Association on the grounds of Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, Ontario, the Museum is open to the public year round. A substantial archive of the game is also maintained at the property and the museum/library/archives staff respond to over 2500 requests for information a year about golf in Canada.

With best wishes to The British Golf Collectors Society, from

Karen Hewson
Director, Canadian Golf Hall of Fame/Museum

Interior of the Canadian Hall of Fame and Museum

A seasonal exhibit within the Museum
IT IS FASCINATING, but ultimately fruitless, to compare golf champions of different eras, given changes in equipment, the lengthening and superior condition of courses and the modern concerns with physiological and psychological welfare. While the modern professional may visit the gym on a regular basis it is debatable whether he is any fitter than the professionals of over 100 years ago who regularly played two and sometimes three rounds a day, quite often in weather the modern player would avoid despite the protective gear available to him.

Since 1872 no player has won the Open Championship four times in succession. Young Tom Morris’s acquisition of the Belt in 1870 led to a break of a year while a new trophy was sought; he became its first winner. The only player of the modern era to have come close to this record is Peter Thomson in 1954, ’55 and ’56.

In 1851 Old Tom Morris was lured from St Andrews to Prestwick as the Club’s professional. His first son, also Tom, had been born in St Andrews.
earlier that year and spent his formative golfing years at Prestwick, until his father was appointed Keeper of the Links back at St Andrews in 1864. The Open Championship was inaugurated at Prestwick in 1860 and remained there until 1872, by which time Old Tom had won the title four times, the last being 1867. His laurels were inherited by his son, who had begun his golf at Prestwick at an early age under his father’s tutelage.

The Morrises returned to St Andrews in 1864 and it was considered that Young Tom was ready for tournament play. He entered a tournament at Perth, the first to be held there, as an amateur. This was not permitted but Dr Miller, Rector of the Perth Academy, arranged for him to play the best local boy, Willie Greig, for a medal and £5, on 14th April. Despite the interest in the professional matches, that between Tom and Willie Greig was deemed more interesting by the locals. Greig played ‘with outstanding neatness and precision’ while Young Tom ‘has been cast in the very mould of a golfer and plays with all the steadiness and certainty in embryo of his father’. Followed by hundreds of spectators Young Tom beat the local favourite.

He returned to Perth two years later in 1866, for a professional tournament that all the old professionals had entered. His father disqualified himself after he had failed to hole out, but his score appears in the list Tulloch includes in his Life of Tom Morris, from which the above quotations are taken. Young Tom returned a score of 171, twelve strokes behind the winner, Bob Andrews of Perth, known as ‘The Rook’. This put him in tenth place. He improved on this by two places in his first Open that year, taking 187 strokes around Prestwick while his father came fourth on 178.

Tulloch recorded most of Old Tom’s matches and as Young Tom frequently partnered him or competed in the same event several of his feats are recorded. On the 1st of May, 1867 Young Tom and Willie Dow of Montrose beat Bob Kirk and Jamie Anderson 3 up with one to play. Anderson became a close friend and he and Young Tom often played with and against each other. Two days later Young Tom beat Dow by two holes, Tom taking 84 around the Old Course and Dow 87.

The Thistle Golf Club organised a tournament at Leith on the 14th of that month. The Morrises, including Old Tom’s brother George, came down from St Andrews. Four rounds of the seven holes were to be played. Old Tom was drawn with Willie Park Snr, while Young Tom played with Bob Kirk. Their scores are not recorded but Ferguson won with 131. His prize was £10, the largest for a professional tournament that year; Hunter, in second place

Players at the Leith Tournament of 1867 (L to R): Andrew Strath, Davie Park, Bob Kirk, Jamie Anderson, Jamie Dunn, Willie Dow, Willie Dunn, Andrew Greig, Tom Morris, Young Tom, George Morris
received £6.

Back home in September the Morrises played Andrew Strath and Bob Kirk, halving the first round and winning the second by 3 & 2. They then beat Kirk and Ferguson by four holes over two rounds, taking 85 in each round, foursomes being the norm for matchplay in those days. Kirk then beat Young Tom in a singles by three holes.

The Open was held to coincide with the Autumn Meeting of the Prestwick Club again that year and the Morrises entered. There was a ‘smart breeze’ and the rain held off despite the threatening skies. There was ‘a great muster of professionals and more than an average attendance of spectators’. These gentlemen ‘were in perplexity, not knowing whom to back’. Old Tom won for the fourth and last time, taking The Belt and £7; his son finished five shots behind in fourth place with 175. After the event Young Tom challenged Willie Park to a twelve-hole match, which he lost by two holes.

Young Tom’s first Open win came the following year at the end of September. Before the championship he and his father beat Willie Dow and Ferguson by 4 up. In a singles Young Tom beat Dow by 6 up. In the Championship he scored 154 and won £6. Old Tom was second, a stroke behind and took £4. A week or two later a professional tournament was held at St Andrews for a purse of £20, compared with £12 at Prestwick, the winner receiving £8. David Strath, a friend of Tommy’s had entered but as he worked as a clerk the organising committee would only allow him to play if agreed to become a professional. This meant he would be at the disposal of members of the R & A and visitors who wanted a game. There was little interest in the betting as Tommy was the clear favourite and duly won with a score of 87, with Bob Ferguson second a stroke behind. David Strath returned a score of 91.

The following day there was a challenge match between Bob Kirk and Young Tom, who was not too well, probably having over-celebrated his victory. He was seven down after the first round but improved in the second, winning five holes, but then lapsed and Kirk won by 6 & 4. The stake was £10 but, again, no one would bet against Young Tom for he was now the leading light, at eighteen years old, amongst the St Andrews golfers. Kirk was a St Andrews man but had moved to Blackheath.

Westward Ho! tournament, 1870. The three tackety-booted professionals, Tommy, Bob Kirk and Johnnie Allan, rest on the turf before the gallery
His form having returned, Young Tom took on two university students, Stewart and McLaren, playing their best ball. He went round in 79 and 80, the former score having only been achieved on two previous occasions – by Allan Robertson and Old Tom. The following year, 1869, Young Tom reduced the record to 78. At a Leven tournament a week later Young Tom took the first prize of £5 out of a purse of £13.

Both Morrises played several matches in 1869, sometimes together and also with other partners. On the 23rd of February they played at Musselburgh against Willie Park and Bob Ferguson for £15 a side and lost by 4. On the 6th of March Young Tom played a 36-hole match against Ferguson, which was halved, so they carried on for nine more holes and Ferguson managed to win by one. Later they met at Luffness for £20 and Tommy won by 8 & 7 and the bye by 2. On another occasion Tommy beat Ferguson by one hole at Musselburgh. On the 6th of May the Morrises lost by 3 & 2 to Ferguson and David Park. Young Tom and Jamie Anderson were beaten by one hole at Prestwick by Bob Kirk and Davie Strath but turned the tables a few days later by winning 7 & 6.

In September the Open was finally ‘open’, as members of recognised golf clubs were permitted to enter. Once again the weather was fine and there was a large number of spectators. In the first round Young Tom had his first hole in one at the Station hole. His first round was 50, the second 55 and the third 52 for a total of 157 – eleven strokes fewer than Bob Kirk in second place. David Strath was third and they played against Tommy and Jamie Anderson on the Wednesday evening after the championship, the latter pair winning by seven holes in two rounds of the twelve-hole Prestwick links.

In June 1870 Young Tom ventured to the second oldest and most distant golf course in England, Royal North Devon at Westward Ho! A cutting in Old Tom’s scrapbook, compiled by David Joy describes the matches as witnessed by ‘an esteemed correspondent’.

When golf champions wend their way from Scotch Links to the far south and west quarters of the noble game in North Devon, it may probably interest the inhabitants of Fife, and the golfers of that elk (sic), to hear how it fared with the golf champion from St Andrews, Thomas Morris Jun. with Bob Kirk, the Blackheath professional; and with John Allan,
formerly of Prestwick, Aberdeen and St Andrews, the professional curator of the N. Devon links.

The format was a single round of match play over eighteen holes. Young Tom began his match with Kirk with a half at the first, then holed out with his cleek for a two at the second. He took the next hole with a four after Kirk had put his ball in 'a rushy place' recovering but failing to hole the putt for a half. He encountered similar problems on the next hole after a poor drive, holed out in eight and Tom went three up. He won the next hole when Kirk found a bunker with his second shot. The sixth was halved in three and the seventh in four after Kirk had played the better tee shot. Kirk got a hole back on the eighth but could only manage a half on the next hole after Tom had hit a wild tee shot.

Both players cleared the Alps with their drives on the Tenth but Kirk took one putt more than Tom to go four down. Both players hit good tee shots to a narrow part of the fairway on the next hole, but Tom topped his next stroke into a bunker, played a safe niblick shot, but failed to match Kirk, who got back to three down. The Twelfth was an interesting half: 'Morris interfering with what nearly proved a stymie. Kirk put on his mettle, holed out, scraping his opponent's ball in passing.' They both found bunkers on the Thirteenth, Kirk playing the better recovery, while Tom failed to escape and left his ball 'too near the face to be comfortable'. His next attempt also landed in a bunker and Kirk was now only two down. However he topped the next tee shot, found further difficulties and Tom won the hole comfortably. He gained another less comfortable half on the Fifteenth, hooking his drive into rushes, from which he made a 'very clever spoon shot' avoiding the bunkers, and so became dormy. He topped his second on the next hole, recovered with a fine iron shot, while Kirk was 'balked by some bystanders moving near him' and so lost the hole and the match. Tom won the last two holes, the Eighteenth with an eight!

The report concludes: 'The contest, though not a close one, embraced many points of interest, and gave untold satisfaction to the assembled golfers.'

After a twenty minute break for refreshment Young Tom went out again against John Allan, who beat him in what appeared to be a close match. Tom took the Exeter Cup for the lowest round, 84, while Kirk, suitably rested, beat Allan in the third professional match.

The Open was eagerly anticipated this year, with Young Tom keen to retain the Championship belt.
permanently with a third successive victory, while his fellow professionals were keen to dislodge him from his perch. Large crowds assembled to watch the eighteen professionals, often walking with them and picking up useful hints on how to play the course. Needless to say, Tommy had the largest following. He followed with two rounds of 51 for a total of 149, ‘the smallest with which The Belt has yet been won’. Strath and Kirk tied for second place twelve strokes behind Young Tom and played off for the £4 prize, Kirk taking 56 and Strath 60, which earned him £2. Old Tom finished in fourth place on 162. Young Tom’s prize in addition to ownership of The Belt was £6, a sum described as paltry, – the report on the championship suggesting that in addition to a new trophy, the winner should receive £20, that sum ‘being more commensurate with the importance of the contest and the honour of winning the belt.’

When the news reached St Andrews a flag was flown at Old Tom’s workshop and at 10 o’clock on Saturday night a number of Young Tom’s friends awaited his arrival at the station, ‘and he had scarcely set foot on the railway terminus ‘ere he was hoisted shoulder high and borne in triumph to Mr Leslie’s Golf Inn, where his health was drunk with every honour.’

Young Tom was less successful in a match at Prestwick in which his partner was J Hunter, the opponents being Jamie Anderson and Bob Kirk, who won by four holes and then won a ‘short match’ of two holes. Two days later he lost to John Allan by three holes, the scores being 54 and 57. He then managed to earn a half with Bob Park. A further competition was held for the unsuccessful professionals and Old Tom came third, having also participated in matches during the week.

The Open Championship was not played in 1871, Prestwick Golf Club having failed to produce a new trophy and so it fell to the Royal and Ancient to offer the Claret Jug that is still the game’s premier trophy.

Joy’s The Scrapbook of Old Tom Morris and Tulloch’s Life of Tom Morris offer little information about matches during that year. Presumably professional challenges were held and the professionals played with R&A members. HSC Everard, in his contribution the Badminton Library’s Golf, points out that Young Tom was quite happy to play with handicapped golfers, ‘never afraid to play combinations, any, or all of them’. In the chapter entitled Some Celebrated Golfers he outlined Young Tom’s career, expressing his regret at its brevity, then described his style. His strength was his putting, over which he took great pains: ‘he invariably used a putter; and had his right foot so close to the ball that it appeared sometimes as if the putter-head must strike his foot in being drawn back. Curiously enough, he was quite unable to use a cleek for a bad lying putt; these he negotiated with his iron which was very straight in the face. He was a very strong driver, with a rather forcing style, not quite with so full an all-round swing as some of his brother professionals, but every ounce of strength went into the stroke.’ Everard expressed admiration for the way Tom played from bad lies, particularly when the ball was below his feet, when he played ‘almost sitting on the ground’ but still achieving enormous distances. He was also a very powerful player with a niblick, one shot played at Musselburgh said to have travelled as far as a shot with a spoon. When engaged in a match with handicapped golfers he was a brilliant recovery player.

In the same volume in the chapter entitled Elementary Instruction HG Hutchinson relates that when driving, Tommy’s preliminary waggle was so fierce that he often broke the shaft before even striking the ball. He would let his body go with the club and fall forward in the follow-through.

Everard also relates than Young Tom on one occasion played nothing but singles for a whole week, backing himself to go round the Old Course in 83 strokes, winning each time. He reduced the target to 81 ‘to give the others a chance’ and finished in 80. Whether the ‘chance’ was for those laying wagers or his fellow players, Everard does not make clear. He was told by Old Tom ‘I could cope wi’ Allan (Robertson) mysel’, but never wi’ Tommy’.

To be concluded

Copy Date for the March Issue of TTG is 15 February, 2006
T 11 PM ON THE 4TH OF AUGUST, 1914

Britain found herself at war in Europe. During the War’s early years Britain, supported loyally by troops from her Empire and Commonwealth, such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and her Allies, France and Russia, fought against Germany and Austro-Hungary. At The War’s end many more countries were involved, including the United States, Turkey, Japan and Italy. What had started over the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the decaying Austro-Hungarian Empire, in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo on 28th June, 1914 only concluded after the deaths of tens of millions of soldiers and civilians.

In the late summer of 1914, it was impossible to tell how long The War was going to last. In those early months The Golfing Gentlewoman, a supplement to the magazine The Gentlewoman, intimated of competitions being postponed rather than cancelled.

The Women Golfers’ Museum has a set of these supplements dating from the 5th of September 1914 to May the 13th 1916, and they provide a fascinating account of the woman golfer’s contribution to the war effort, and also a vivid description of some of exploits of the brave women who gave their lives.

A LGU official statement issued by Issette Pearson in September 1914 decreed that all LGU official competitions should be suspended until further notice. Her statement included the following paragraph:

At the request of the President, HH Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, it was decided to send a circular to all affiliated clubs, asking them to subscribe to the Queen’s ‘Work for Women’ Fund. All money collected is to be sent to the Hon Treasurer, LGU, 3 Whitehall Court.

Just three weeks later The Golfing Gentlewoman commissioned a medal, which they promised to send free to every club who wished to run a competition in aid of the Fund, and this scheme soon took off. Some clubs ran monthly medals with an entrance fee of one shilling; some ran just one special competition; some men’s clubs wrote in and asked if they could compete and contribute as well. Ordinary LGU competitions may have been cancelled but The Golfing Gentlewoman still had something to write about. Results, winners, and the mounting total were regular features in the supplement.

By 1915, a new theme was introduced to the magazine. Many village halls and golf clubs had
been converted into Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Hospitals to look after the wounded soldiers on their road to recovery. The women members acted as aids to trained nurses, as dressers, cleaners and cooks, and photographs and stories were sent in to The Golfing Gentlewoman to describe their efforts. They wrote in to the magazine, saying that they now had no time to play in competitions as they were involved in the war effort themselves.

Women golfers became Red Cross or St John’s Ambulance nurses and many volunteered for duty at the front, in France, Flanders, and also in Eastern Europe. In May 1915, women golfers were made aware of tragic death of Miss Madge Neill-Fraser, a Scottish International from 1905-1914, runner-up in the Scottish Championship in 1912, and semi-finalist in the British Championship in 1910. She went out to Serbia with the Scottish Women’s Hospital as a nurse, dresser and chauffeur.

Her letters home spoke of terrible conditions of deprivation, of men literally in rags ... absolutely skin and bone, and have the most awful sores. … They are the most wonderfully plucky set of men ... the death average is ten a day... in one big fever hospital with 1500 cases of fever... the place smelt like a sewer, and all the corridors are packed with patients. The wards, as regards hopeless dirt and squalor, are worse than any slum dwelling ever seen. In another hospital the patients lie in mattresses on the floor, and clothing and bedding are alive with vermin. Yet these people are not slum dwellers, but men who hate dirt ... They are magnificent men even when dying of fever…. Within a month of writing this Miss Neill-Fraser herself had succumbed to typhus.

Her death brought home to many, the horror and tragedy of war. Many famous golfers of the time, including Cecil Leitch, Gladys Ravenscroft, Muriel Dodd, John Ball, Harold Hilton, James Braid, JH Taylor and Harry Vardon, appended their names to an appeal for funds for the Scottish Women’s Hospital.

Cecil Leitch wrote: Miss Neill-Fraser was loved by her patients and by all with whom she worked. She studied the Serbian language in order that she could become better acquainted and sympathise more easily with the sufferers with whom she worked. I ask you to do everything in your power to help this fund and so show your appreciation of one whose death was as glorious as if she had died in the trenches.

Miss Madge Neill-Fraser’s memorial took the form of additional beds for the Scottish Women’s Hospital in Serbia and enough money was collected to provide a complete unit (about 200 beds). Women golfers in South Africa, the Transvaal and New Zealand all contributed to the fund after receiving appeals from the LGU.

The Golfing Gentlewoman continued to provide badges and collect money for the Queen’s ‘Work for Women’ Fund until over £500 was raised. The content in the supplement changed from photos and stories of golfers, to photos and stories of golfing nurses, war workers, VAD hospitals, the Women’s Volunteer Reserve and the war work of women golfers throughout the UK. It is a fascinating account of the Great War, and one of which I have only scratched the surface.

![Lady members of Sale GC, ready for their War effort](image)
Pictures from Rye, by David Stott

T.J.J.P. Smartt
C.C. Boal
A.T. Henderson

Mrs E. MacDonald
P.G. Russell-Vick
Mrs J.P. Burles

C.J. Homer
O.E.L Johansson and Michael Lee
Irish Musings
by John Hanna

Christmas Time – Changed Times

In wishing its readers a Happy Christmas the Irish Golfer of 1899 states

Golf is peculiarly a game associated with the festive season, as unlike most other pastimes it has no off-season, but can be played in all conditions and under almost any circumstances. The patrons of the Royal and Ancient game can derive as much pleasure from chasing the gutta in the cold crisp air of a December day as they could in the cooling breezes of a midsummer evening. In all weathers and all atmospheres golf is not only playable, but enjoyable, hence its appropriateness for the Christmas holiday season. It is one of the few games that can be followed with an utter disregard to the pre-arrangements of the weather clerk; a fact that makes golf the Queen of winter sports, and those who worship at her shrine will be better able to enjoy their Christmas fare than sportsmen in other spheres of athletics who usually ‘lie by’ during the winter months. It is inviolate to wish golfers a good Christmas appetite, as there is no pastime under heaven so calculated to produce what has been described as the ‘best sauce’ for a hearty dinner.

In its Breezy Bits the Irish Golfer states around Christmas 1902 ‘after a good game of golf doesn’t one enjoy the festivities of a Christmas Day’. While these appear to be a little over the top, many clubs such as Royal Portrush and County Down had Christmas and New Year meetings. Perhaps for some it is just as well that many clubs are now closed on Christmas Day as I think I may still know a few gentlemen who might think that they could get away with it.

Looking back to 100 years ago to Christmas 1905 at my golf club, Malone, I have been thinking how much times have changed in respect of golf and Christmas Day. Firstly it should be remembered that at this time before the invention of proper mechanised grass cutting equipment many inland courses were unplayable during the warm summer when the grass became too long. Those golfers fortunate to be members of links courses retreated to them during this period. Quite the opposite occurs today where it is the wet winter days which lead golfers to the seaside links. The result of this was that many club competitions on inland courses took place during the winter. At Malone, like many others, there was always a competition played on Christmas Day! Of course there have been many social changes as well since then. It would be quite unheard of in these enlightened days for a husband to disappear off to the golf club, play in his competition, hang around with his friends for a few drinks and then wander off home and expect his Christmas dinner to be served immediately upon his arrival home. Christmas Day 1905 cannot have been good as the press reported ‘the weather was not in favour of low scoring and the greens were uncertain’. This is evidenced by the fact that the best score was a gross 85 by a player EF Spiller, later to become an Irish International, but at this time playing off a handicap of 10. He won by six shots and there were only four other cards below

Trophies for the Boxing Day Mixed Foursomes competition at Malone GC
100 net. I am not sure how much of a consolation it was to the female partner and in a number of cases may have been just quite the opposite but the Club also organised an open mixed foursomes match-play competition on Boxing Day beginning in 1896. The trophies for this competition, in my opinion, rate as one the Club’s treasures. The competition was usually limited to 32 couples the matches being played through to the final. This required the semi-finalists to have played 36 holes on one of the shortest days of the year. Nine holes cannot have taken two hours then! There was also a consolation prize for those beaten in the first round, which in 1905 was won with a net score of 47, a gross score of 53 less 6. It is interesting to note that out of the 32 pairs only five appear to be married couples. One gentleman is even entered under the pseudonym ‘S Richards’. I wonder from whom was he trying to hide?

I am sure nowadays no BGCS members would dream about behaving in this selfish manner so let me wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year, and as you read this in the comfort of your armchair after a wonderful Christmas Day spent in the company of your family, or relatives and or friends, just reflect on all the other benefits we are able to enjoy thanks to the changes that have taken place in the last 100 years.

Max McCready, Amateur Champion, and Dunmurry Golf Club

Dunmurry Golf Club, near Belfast, celebrated their 100th birthday this year and they received a wonderful present from South Africa. Mrs McCready, widow of Max McCready the 1949 Amateur Champion sent them a parcel which contained some of her late husband’s golfing memorabilia. The outstanding item was, of course, his gold Amateur Championship medal. So who was Max McCready? He lived adjacent to the original nine-hole course at Dunmurry and like many other young boys this led to him playing golf when perhaps he should have been at his schoolwork. A keen all-round sportsman he represented the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (better known as Inst) at both rugby and cricket. It was thought that he might make a career in the church, however he gave up his studies at the Presbyterian College and later joined the RAF. He was stationed in England and serving as a navigator he flew combat missions over Europe in the Second World War. On one occasion he flew a damaged aircraft safely back to base after the pilot and co-pilot had been injured during the mission. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

At the age of 31 he entered the British Amateur Championship in 1949 as a member of Sunningdale Golf Club. The Amateur was played at Portmarnock Golf Club, the only time it was ever played outside Great Britain. There was a strong field for the Championship including some famous Americans such as Francis Ouimet, Frank Stranahan, the Defending Champion, and Willie Turnesa, Champion in 1947. McCready trounced Stranahan in the sixth round by 4 and 3, and played KG Thom in the semi-final. Thom apparently beaten holed a gigantic putt on the Eighteenth to keep the game alive, and then McCready away out in the rough on the right of the Nineteenth making what one would have thought to be an impossible recovery to within a yard or two of the green. Then with Thom’s ball stone dead on the Twentieth and his own ball some ten yards above the hole on a treacherous looking slope, McCready ran the ball boldly down the hill and into the back of the hole. Henry Longhurst wrote: ‘How far it would otherwise have gone past is a matter on which we need not speculate.’ (On a personal note Thom had won his fourth round match against my uncle WE Scott who had made the last 32.) Describing the final against Willie Turnesa, Longhurst continued ‘I doubt whether anyone has won the Championship with so powerful and prolonged exhibition of first-class golf. His round of 70 on the morning of the final, a score which will be appreciated by all who know Portmarnock, even if only by reputation, may well have been the round of the year.’

I cannot sum up the final better than Henry Longhurst: ‘I do not remember a final which raised our hopes so high, from an International point of view, nor dashed them later so low, only to send them soaring at the end. As McCready lost the four-hole lead he had gained in the morning and as Turnesa holed the cruellest eight-yarder imaginable on the Fourteenth to become one up with four to play, the sun, which in the morning had turned it into a technicolour final with vast white clouds riding across the vivid blue of Dublin Bay and the golden yellow sands, gave place to thunder and lightning and rain, and with them the hopes of the British correspondingly declined. And then when all was almost lost, up came three holes in a row and, before he knew where he was, McCready was being cheered shoulder high to clubhouse by his frenzied compatriots.’ So an Irishman won the Championship the only time it was played in
Ireland.

Later, after a spell working in the United States, Max moved to South Africa with the McAlpine Construction Company and lived there until his death. He is buried in a family grave in Lurgan, Northern Ireland. In addition to the Champion's medal his widow also returned to Dunmurry the solid silver salver the members had presented to their Champion. It is now to be played for by the members annually. There were also some interesting photographs and folder of the telegrams he received from many sources including some interesting ones. Richard Burton, Open Champion in 1939 said 'Remember I said your golf was good enough three months ago. Well done.' Other professionals who sent their best wishes were Fred Daly, Open Champion 1947; and sent from on board RMS Andes at sea on a voyage from South America was one from Toots and Henry Cotton, Open Champion 1934, 1937, and 1948. Greetings were also received from past Amateur Champions including Cyril Tolley, (1929); The Honourable Michael Scott, (1933); and James Bruen, (1946).

Dunmurry have named a room in the clubhouse after their esteemed former member and are currently planning the best way to display their new-found memorabilia.

Please note that Irish Professionals in the Open Championship – will be continued in the next issue of TTG.
DURING MY TWENTY YEARS of collecting golf memorabilia I had often heard but ignored the advice to specialise in a specific area, whether maker or subject area. Like many collectors I was not able to resist the temptation to build up a wide collection with no real focus – balls, clubs, books, pictures, ceramics, patent records and some more strange items whose purchase even I later questioned. If it weren’t for the occasional frown from my family on the number of items stored in cupboards, under beds and in sheds, the collection could fill all the bunkers on the Old Course – maybe a good thing for the more wayward of us. Now, however, I have found my ideal area, my niche, with something that does not even take up so much space – photographic images. Am I now taking the advice of the more experienced collectors?

It was Alick Watt (author of Collecting Old Golfing Clubs) who first alerted me to the idea and made me realise I had not covered photography in my widespread collection. Alick suggested that old real photograph postcards could be of interest and might be available for relatively low prices. I am a Scot so the added attraction of low prices was too good to resist. My collection of golf photographs started around eight years ago.

Since beginning with real photograph postcards my foray into golf photography has brought me some exceptional images of the past and taught me a number of things about the history of the game. While age is important, some of the images I have come to like most are the more unusual ones or those that epitomise the spirit of a great golfing character: Bobby Jones smiling at the honour of winning a major trophy; Tom Morris standing majestically outside the R&A Clubhouse; Ben Hogan’s one-iron shot during the 1950 US Open; Lee Trevino sharing a joke with the crowd. These and many other photographic images bring to life great golfing events and characters. Somehow seeing a picture of group of famous golfers at St Andrews in the 1850s (see TTG, March 2005) tells us so much more about the history of the game: the equipment back then, and the dress of the day. These images and associated memories provide us with an insight to an event that words alone cannot bring. While the number of images from the Nineteenth Century is low, their value in terms of what they tell us is high.

Today we have many more images as photographers from around the world attend each tournament, popping up in the long grass or from under the advertising boards to take a snap of the great players of today and tomorrow. Golf photographers are sometimes seen as pests, getting in the way of the game. Viewed by some as vultures who steal images, many of them remain relatively unknown, despite their great and diligent work. I believe we should give more recognition to the great photographers, who do not steal but who capture history and preserve great moments for generations to come. They arguably contribute to the game’s history as much as Bernard Darwin as a writer or James Michael Brown as an artist.

Some images are special, not due to their historic importance, but simply because they capture the essence of great golfing characters like Lee Trevino. Other images are valued as they provide a picture of the game well before my time, like the unusual image of John Ball in tournament action. Photographs bring us memories and provide an insight into how ‘things were done back then’.

One of the toughest tasks when collecting images is to identify players. Identification can be difficult due to tournaments involving more than just the well-known top golfers. Many unfamiliar faces appear as photographers try to capture all the potential future stars. Tournaments also involve...
John Ball, in action  
© Keith Forsyth

Lee Trevino, at ease  
© Keith Forsyth

Dai Rees, at the 1955 Ryder Cup match, with the American Captain, Chick Harbert, in a picture captured by the versatile Alex Morrison  
© Keith Forsyth
more than just golfers. Before the heavy schedule of golfers today where it is almost impossible to have a week without a big golf tournament, there used to be several days of practice rounds and celebrity games prior to some of the tournaments, meaning many different faces. For example, the 1955 Ryder Cup comprised of five days of pro-celebrity foursomes before the Ryder Cup tournament, which lasted just two days.

In addition to the professionals and celebrities there are tournament organisers, journalists and hangers on. A good magnifying glass, books, tournament programmes and magazines are all useful tools in trying to identify players. The most valuable resource, however, is an older expert or historian. Images of seemingly unknown players can bring back great memories and the names of players. In the past I have received help from a number of people to identify photographs but am still looking for someone with a head full of 1950s and 60s American golf players and celebrities.

Valuing golf photographs can also be a challenging task given that each photograph captures a unique moment. Golf photographs are generally not as well catalogued as clubs and balls. Some collecting guides, including The Encyclopedia of Golf Collectibles by John and Morton Olman, combined with auction catalogues, can provide a good indication of price levels. There is, however, no comprehensive guide.

Similar to advice given to the enthusiastic buyer of collectable art, however, I follow the rule when buying old golf photographs that you buy images for the personal value – according to what your eyes, head and heart tell you. Having said that, there are some rules of thumb when valuing golf photographs:

- The older the image and the more famous the player then generally the more valuable, assuming the quality is there
- Original photographs have a true value and are collectable while copies can be very pleasing to the eye but are generally not as valuable
- Autographs also have a positive impact on the value of a photograph although it depends on the fame of the player and frequency with which he or she provided autographs. Signed photographs of Tom Morris and Bobby Jones are some of the most sought after
- Quality is key, as ever, when collecting.

Two of my finds made in the last eight years stand out in particular.

Alex Morrison became one of the foremost American golf instructors of the inter-war years. Though never a successful tournament player, he nevertheless worked out the mechanics of the golf swing from first principles, was successful in communicating these to his pupils, and had a wide clientele that included tournament professionals and showbusiness personalities. A personal friend of Bobby Jones, he taught Masters Champion Henry Picard; US Open champions Gene Littler and Lawson Little; and Henry Ford and Charles Chaplin, amongst others. He was a popular player of exhibition matches, and his routine of trick shots was even choreographed within a vaudeville routine. The distillation of his wisdom appeared in his best-selling A New Way to Better Golf, which was originally published by Simon and Schuster in 1932 and sold so many copies that they are still freely available in the second-hand
market. He photographed many of the players and celebrities who were his friends and pupils, and it is perhaps as a photographer that he should also be remembered. I have a number of images from his personal collection and hope to preserve them as a permanent record of an original thinker and important documenter of the game.

The subject of my second major recent acquisition needs no introduction; Ben Hogan was the dominant figure in world golf during the 1950s. I have been fortunate to acquire some of the first colour photographs of this iconic golfer. Taken in 1953, they predate his classic instructional volume *The Modern Fundamentals of Golf*. Never having seen him play nor heard him speak, I can gain from them some insight to this great player. He seems happy but then again 1953 was the year when Hogan won The Open, US Open and US Masters, as well as other key events.

Maybe I have found my niche in golf collecting, at least for now. For the sake of my family I hope so. The chosen niche takes up a relatively small amount of space when compared to clubs, books and balls.

Mind you, having started with golf photographs eight years ago I have recently wandered off that fairway and on to adjacent ones – old negatives, slides and films. I am still on the same course which I greatly enjoy playing and hope to join up with some fellow collectors at the turn to share photographic memories.

*Keith Forsyth is interested to hear from any collectors who have old golf photographs, negatives, slides and films for sale, or collectors who would like to share information on such items. Telephone Keith on 01309 672898 or email: keithforsyth@hotmail.com*

The photographs provided in this article are the property of Keith Forsyth and come from his personal collection.

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**Corrections**

September issue of TTG reported that the veteran’s prize at The BGCS Senior’s event at Coxmoor was won by John Weston. John is some way short of the 70th birthday that would qualify him for this prize; the actual winner was Barry Kay.

On the Contents page of TTG, the Committee should have been given as 2005 – 2006, not 2004 – 2005 as stated. Also, contrary to the given list, immediate past captain, Peter Heath, retired from Committee at the April AGM.

The letter (in June TTG) from Ian Douglas on Harry Colt’s Ganton GC’s 1907 Revisions at Ganton included a table of hole lengths on championship courses. Erwin Huber correctly points out that the Prestwick analysis includes only sixteen holes. This was due to an editorial mistake. Well spotted Erwin.

We managed to spell Lionel Freedman’s name wrongly in September’s Captain’s Letter, even though we (inconsistently) got it right elsewhere. He isn’t Fried…, he’s Freed…. Editor’s mistake.

Peter Gompertz (and others) have pointed out that the trophy won so convincingly by Gillian Bowness at the Open Championship Meeting was not the Tony Hawkins Memorial Trophy as stated in September TTG, but that commemorating our first captain, the late Ray Gossage. Shame and blushes.

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An early colour portrait of Ben Hogan © Keith Forsyth
GOLF COURSE DESIGN is a dynamic art form. Architects are constantly retuning golf courses in response to advances in technology and improvements in play and scoring – never the instigator, always in reaction. In responding to equipment advances, what changes has the famous Old Course in St Andrews made and how have they effected scoring during the Open Championship?

Tracing the early renovations is difficult due to the serendipitous nature of golf’s development, but since the invention of par in 1891, length has grown in importance and the length of holes has been better documented. When Taylor won the Open in 1895, the Old Course possibly measured 6,323 yards. With a Gutty ball and hickory shafts, he battered his ball around the Links in 322 shots. At a time when the average drive was 175-200 yards, his achievement was superb.

With the introduction of the new, much longer Haskell ball in 1903, the Old Course adapted for the 1905 Championship. Surprisingly however, the total lengthening of the course was only ten yards! Expectations were high that the new champion would destroy the Open scoring record, but as it turned out, the weather was poor in 1905 and the
Thomas Hodge's 1875 plan of the Old course, at 6334 yards
winner, James Braid, only beat Taylor’s four round total by only four shots.

Knowing the Haskell ball could be driven 200-240 yards, the Old Course was lengthened considerably more, in fact by 200 yards, for the next St Andrews Open Championship in 1910. However it made little difference. In much better weather conditions, the victorious Braid shot a remarkable 299! The 9.7% increase in course length was little competition for the 17.3% increase in length of average tee shot.

This trend would continue. The next big advance however was not in ball technology but club technology. Steel shafts were introduced into America in 1923 and approved by the R&A for competitive play in 1929. This invention is widely acknowledged as having the single biggest influence on distance and ball control. The Old Course measured 6,487 before steel shafts but 6,572 yards for the 1933 Open Championship.

Hi-tech two-, three- and four-piece balls were introduced in 1950 and lasted till the multi-layer ball was introduced in 1998. During this time the average drive was 240-285 yards - an increase of 40 - 45 yards over the Haskell. Comparatively, while the Old Course gained 6%, the ball could be hit 19% further, inviting new scoring records to be made. Sure enough, the Open Championship scoring was lowered to an amazing 270 by Faldo in 1990 - a scoring reduction of 17% since Taylor’s victory in 1895, and comparable to the average improvements in distance a ball could be hit despite extensions to the course.

In preparation for the 2005 Open, the Old Course was stretched by another 160 yards to a record 7,279 yards. To achieve this remarkable length, the expansion pushed some tees outside the existing course boundary and into neighbouring courses. While this method of expansion was groundbreaking … literally, perhaps more shocking is the fact that history has shown lengthening the course only opens the door for even lower winning totals.

When Braid won in 1910, his score was nineteen shots lower than in the previous Open. When Bobby Jones won in 1927 the course was 82 yards longer but he beat the previous Open record by eleven shots. Even when Tiger Woods won in 2000 when the course have been stretched another 182

As technology and playing skills have improved, teeing grounds on the Old Course have evolved. The degree of these changes has impacted on the playing experience by bringing certain features into play. Here, shifting the fourth tee back in 1946 without a correlating improvement in the distance provided by equipment, brought the strong central landforms back into play. Players could no longer easily carry the hillocks as they could in 1939. As a result, the character of the hole played more as it did in 1895. For the 2005 Open, the carry was about 285 yards. For the longer hitters this was achievable, particularly in the SW wind conditions, but shorter hitters found it difficult to reach the main fairway and the other options were treacherous and unappealing. As a result, the hole played third hardest
yards, he lowered the winning score by thirteen strokes over what Daly scored in 1995.

If the yardage value of the Old Course had been maintained since the day of the Gutty ball, when the course measured approximately 6,200 yards and a long hitter could propel the ball 200 yards, the Old Course would have to measure over 9,200 yards today! Only this extraordinary length would give modern golfers who use current technology and hit the ball over 300 yards off the tee the comparative experience of their forefathers.

The Old Course continues to be the beacon for the golf world, but has the test it offers been compromised or diluted by ever-evolving equipment? Once a formidable test and the longest course in the United Kingdom, the Old Course continues to be stretched but without many new bunkers, or modifications to the equipment available to the game’s elite players, will it ever again provide the stern examination it once did?

Scott Macpherson is a New Zealand-born golf architect, based in Edinburgh. His book, The Evolution of the Old Course – St Andrews is due to be published in April 2006 by the New Zealand–based Hazard Press, who are taking pre-publication orders at a reduced price of £30 (inc p&p) at www.hazardpress.com

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**News from The Home of Golf**

*David Hamilton* spotted the following items in the golfing press of around 100 years ago......

**The Haskell Reaches St Andrews**

Mr JL Low writes ...

I came across one the other day at St Andrews, in the possession of Mr Charles Maitland, whose brother had sent him the treasure from America. Most unfortunately it was the Sabbath day, and we had to console ourselves with bouncing the ball on the stone steps outside the clubhouse ‘at the time of ye sermons.’ As a jumper, there can be no doubt the new ball is great. It simply leapt into the air, rising, I should say, almost to the height of the clubhouse. When pitching on the stone it made but little noise, the sound being the dull thud of one of those little red-rubber penny balls in which small boys of the pavement take pleasure. Mr Maitland is a good player, and recently won the Jubilee Vase so we made him ride his own horse on the morrow and drive off from the Club steps. His first shot was a low rather pulled one, and though it travelled fairly well, it afforded no idea of the carrying power of the ball.

Mr Maitland was teed up again with a view to driving back to the last hole, but unfortunately this ultimate shot was a high slicey one, and the ball pitched on the steps of one of the houses between the Marine Hotel and Tom Morris’s shop. It bounded in the air as far, as we could see, a great height, but the day was foggy, and we lost sight of it against the grey stone houses. We searched for that ball with much care and labour, but no sight of it was vouchsafed to us; nor as far as I know, has it been found to this day. Perhaps it rests on one of the house tops, perhaps it bounded over the roofs into some neighbouring street; it may still be bounding over the roofs into some neighbouring street; it may be still bounding along the east coast of Fife. At any rate it is lost to us for purposes of experiment at present.

**More Golfing Crime on the Old Course**

At St Andrews Police Court a couple of labourers pleaded guilty to having, on the links at that part known as the seventeenth teeing ground, without the authority of St Andrews Links, removed for a distance of about 25 yards nearer to the dyke which encloses the ground round the old railway station, the teeing box and the marks placed to indicate the teeing ground.

The Procurator said the teeing ground had been placed pretty well out to give the golfers an opportunity to keep clear of the sheds. On the morning in question, accused had been seen hanging around in the Stationmaster’s garden, and in the evening it was found that the tee had been removed 25 yards nearer to the dyke, the object having apparently been to set a trap for the players, as golfers would from this tee have to play right over the corner of the shed, and if the shot was not a particularly good one the ball would fall into the Stationmaster’s garden.

Judge Barr said it was diabolical to interfere with the natural course of sport in this way, and in respect that the accused had previously appeared before the court, he imposed the full penalty, namely, a fine of £1, with the alternative of fourteen day’s imprisonment.
When Arnaud Massey, the first non-Briton to win the Open, retired from his post as professional to the Pasha of Marrakesh, his master decided to reward his services by giving him a new set of golf clubs. So begins one of the oldest golfing stories, continually in circulation and continually recycled. Half of the wit depends on the ambiguity of ‘golf club’, which is at one time the main implement of our game and at another a group of people dedicated to the game. There is also the golf course, where the game is played, but a golf club does not necessarily own or lease the course over which it plays. For example, in 1893 there were at least 62 non-course-owning clubs in the Edinburgh area. However, four great clubs used the Musselburgh Links in the 1890s, and had their clubhouses there. The details of their location and occasional migration in a period of rapid social and economic change make a fascinating study.

We all like to think that the Scottish game was a game of the people. Certainly all but the poorest and the richest were golfers in many coastal areas around 1800. As the biggest Scottish city, with a healthy professional class and many skilled artisans, Edinburgh used patches of common land within the city (Bruntsfield Links) and beside its port of Leith. As the century progressed, conditions at Leith Links became intolerable. Housing developments tore away at the margins. The Caledonian Railway attacked the port from east and west, with acres of sidings needed to serve new docks. Industries, like chemicals and glass-making, used the land and polluted the air for miles around.

In frustration, golf clubs who could afford to, moved off ‘to fresh woods and pastures new’. The Ordnance Survey map published in 1893 shows how Musselburgh Links became the chosen home for four famous clubs who had prestigious clubhouses built there. (Fig 1) Musselburgh was a fine course – one of the original Open courses – and already had a resident population of club- and ball-makers, caddies and the like. With the arrival of these famous clubs, Musselburgh entered its greatest phase as ‘a hotbed of genius’, exporting a couple of
From north to south the map shows: Burgess Golf Club (founded 1735, moved 1874, clubhouse 1875) (Fig 2); Royal Musselburgh Golf Club (founded 1774) (Fig 3); The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, (referenced on the map as The Honourable Golf Club) (founded 1744, moved 1836, clubhouse 1865) (Fig 4); Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society (referenced on the map as Bruntsfield Golf Club) (founded 1761, moved 1878, clubhouse 1885) (Fig 5)
generations of its talented sons to a world eager to learn the mysteries of our wonderful game.

These are fine substantial villas, fit for a good Edinburgh suburb of the time. Two are mentioned in *The Buildings of Scotland: Lothian*; the Burgess clubhouse by John C Hay; and the Bruntsfield clubhouse. The architect of the latter was Hippolyte Jean Blanc (1844-1917); despite his name, he was a Scot who flourished mightily in a variety of styles, designing churches and big houses in many Scottish towns and cities.

Unfortunately, the processes of urban change were to make Musselburgh Links almost as untenable as Leith had been. Expansion was impossible as new housing boxed in the links on two sides. The racecourse – itself the successor to the venue for Leith Races – was a further restraint. The gas works and oil mills were insalubrious neighbours. Above all, more and more players of all levels of competence were holding up play and wearing away the course.

The answer was to move again, this time to what were, in effect, private estates, with clubhouses where the members could mix with those of similar background and competence. Always the pace-setters, the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers moved to the greenfield site of Muirfield in 1891 (Fig. 6). The ‘Hundred Acre Field’ on the Archerfield estate was used for the annual East Lothian races. Although Andra Kirkcaldy called it ‘just an auld watter meadie’, Hall Blyth, ex-captain and civil engineer, had the course and clubhouse ready within a year. Drem on the North British Railway was fully three miles away, but access improved with the arrival in Gullane (and no further) of the Aberlady, Gullane and North Berwick Railway in 1898, only a half-mile from the front door of Muirfield. (Seeming discrepancies on the Ordnance Survey map are explained by the fact that maps are usually out-of-date by the time they are published. The survey for the map published in 1893 was done, and the names inserted, before 1891. By coincidence, 1893 was the year in which the Honourable Company’s Musselburgh ex-clubhouse was sold).

Links land was in short supply near Edinburgh and the Royal Burgess and Bruntsfield Links clubs made an interesting move to adjacent courses in parkland north-west of Edinburgh city centre. Sir James Maitland, Bart, planned a large estate of over 400 mansion houses, with a curling pond and ‘tennis green’. The advantages of squeezing in two prestigious golf courses were obvious. Indeed it was only from the 1960s that the estate was filled in, and then with more modest villas.

On the 1st of March 1894 the Barnton branch of the Caledonian Railway was opened. From the heart of Edinburgh’s business quarter at Princes Street Station sixteen trains daily in each direction could take members to Barnton Gate (later Davidson’s Mains) in twelve minutes for Bruntsfield, or to Cramond Brig (later Barnton) in sixteen minutes for Royal Burgess. On a Saturday evening a bell was rung in the Bruntsfield clubhouse to inform members that the train was about to leave Cramond Brig and that they should drink up and start walking to Barnton Gate. (By comparison, rail access to Musselburgh Links was not good. Musselburgh got its branch line in 1847, but the station was nearly a mile from the course, while Inveresk on the main Edinburgh-Berwick line was served only by stopping trains and was no nearer the Links.)

As to the buildings themselves, Bruntsfield had a temporary clubhouse while WB Taylor designed the 1898 building ‘in a subdued cottage style’ (Fig. 7). Royal Burgess (1896-7, by RM Cameron, was ‘Best Jacobean in harl and half-timber’ (Fig. 8). Two
stone panels from the Musselburgh clubhouse were built in, emphasising the Edinburgh origins of the club. One was the city’s coat-of-arms, the other a specially-commissioned panel by John Rhind (1828-1892), known as the ‘Rhind Stone’, showing two golfers and their caddies on Bruntsfield Links, the original home of the Burgess Club, with Edinburgh Castle in the background (Fig. 9).

Royal Musselburgh was the last to move, in 1922, to Prestongrange, just east of Musselburgh. There they acquired a distressed estate complete with a fine boundary wall and mature trees. Prestongrange House itself is most impressive. A Sixteenth Century tower house (in which was found a fine painted ceiling of 1581) was extended in the Seventeenth Century, then rebuilt and reconstructed inside in the Eighteenth. Burn and Playfair, leading architects of the Nineteenth Century, further added and restored in Renaissance style. The end-result is a splendid pile, which, despite its seeming hotch-potch growth, illustrates well the evolution of a great mansion, set in spacious parkland. In the Twentieth Century the necessary adjuncts of a big modern golf club have been tucked in discreetly at one end (Fig. 10). By the 1920s there were regular bus services on either side of the estate, on the high and low roads from Musselburgh and the tram terminus at Levenhall – and the celebrated Mrs Forman’s – to Prestonpans.

Musselburgh was probably unique in having such a concentration of high-class golf in one smallish town at one period, and for this to be dispersed quite dramatically in the space of a few years. What was not unique was the combination of social and economic forces acting on the golfers and their clubs at the time. It is hoped that readers will consider their own golfing environments and find in Musselburgh some parallels for the development of these.
The byword here begins with the letter ‘H’, ‘H’ as in Hurricane. That topic has dominated our news for the last three months. I’m sure you’ve seen hours of coverage on TV but it just doesn’t do the situation justice. One of our members, a resident of Florida, gave this account after Hurricane Wilma plowed through his region a couple weeks after Katrina nailed south Florida, New Orleans and the rest of the gulf coast: ‘Wilma was scary, what with the collection in the house that can’t be insured for hurricane. Had to go out in the middle of the storm to cut an awning off the frame, which had torn loose from the house and threatened to break through a front window. Scarier than a monster Disney ride.’

The ‘H’ word also had a bearing on the Golf Collectors’ Society meeting in St Augustine, Florida, September 12-14. A hurricane called Ophelia meandered its way in the Atlantic, putting several hundred miles of coastline of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina into a state of nervous anticipation. Florida, particularly the city of St Augustine, was one zone of possible landfall and that prospect certainly made some members think twice about traveling into the proverbial eye of the storm. As it turned out, Ophelia went to North Carolina and spared the Jacksonville area. Subsequently, attendance was down from past years but those brave souls who made the trip were rewarded by fellowship and a lot of good stuff on the trade tables. It doesn’t seem that long for some of the members of longstanding but 2005 marked the Society’s 35th annual meeting.

The hickory golf events featured a new contest this year: the putting contest on the World Golf Hall of Fame 18-hole putting course won by Greg Kolkman with Tim Flynn finishing first on the steel shaft side. Regulation hickory golf saw these winners emerge: Bill Kreischer (Open champion) and Roger Hill (net), Sonnie Chappie and Max Hill (Senior winner and Senior net).

The National Hickory Championship is making a move in 2006. The new site will be the famous Pinehurst Resort and Country Club, site of the 1999 and 2005 US Opens. Pinehurst has eight courses and the NHC will get a crack at two of them: the oldest, #1, parts of which date to 1898, and #8, the ‘Centennial Course’, a Tom Fazio design opened in 1997. The dates are July 28-30, 2006. Information will be available at www.nationalhickory.com Photos from the results of 2004 can be seen there now.

The Pinehurst area has about 40 golf courses, including the eight owned by the resort, and another well-known Pinehurst-area resort, Mid Pines, was the scene of the final hickory tournament in the year’s rotation of ‘hickory majors’. Played over the weekend of November 4-6, Mid Pines pro and tournament organizer Rob Pilewski reported a great turn out with over 60 participants.

Some familiar names topped the leader board when it was all over. Kelly Miller (Peggy Kirk Bell’s son-in-law) used his local knowledge to win the Open Division. Sonnie Chappie took top honors in the Net Division (Scott Patrick being third). The Senior Open and Net Divisions were won by Chuck McMullin and Tad Moore, respectively.

USGA Museum and Library curator Rand Jerris, has been working overtime directing the progress of museum building renovations as well as construction of the Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History. The groundbreaking ceremony took place November 17 and ‘The King’ was there to turn a spade of dirt.

Rand also reports the museum is working with the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on a potential loan of Alan Shepard’s legendary ‘Moon Club’ for the year 2006. Initial discussions have been
positive, and it is hoped a deal will be finalized by mid-November.

One recent and very stellar acquisition to the museum’s collection is the silver medal awarded to Jack Nicklaus as medallist in sectional qualifying for the 1954 US Junior Amateur. This is the earliest known USGA medal won by Nicklaus. The staff at the Nicklaus Museum, who worked directly with Jack and Barbara Nicklaus, confirmed the authenticity of this medal. This acquisition demonstrates once again the significance of the strategic planning process that USGA museum undertook last year.

Speaking of the Nicklaus Museum, I was there, in Columbus, Ohio, just a week before I wrote this column. It is snugly situated in the sports complex on the campus of the Ohio State University, next to the Schottenstein Center, where basketball, ice hockey and a number of other indoor sports are played—and the OSU sports museum is located—and behind the baseball stadium and Jesse Owens Track and Field Stadium. While a quick tour can be done in an hour or so, to read most of the display information and absorb all the displays would take at least three hours, a perfect diversion, I found, before a 3.30 PM football kickoff in the nearby 106,000 seat Ohio Stadium. One of America’s great educational institutions, OSU has 58,000 students and has graduated over 500,000 since 1870, but a very few graduates could possibly be more high profile than the Golden Bear.

Nigel and Fiona were ‘up east’ not too long ago, playing golf in New Jersey. Paul Fireman, the former CEO of Reebok, built a course in the ‘Garden State’ on land across the Hudson River and south of Manhattan. While most current architects are blending nature with their works—majestic mountains, endless prairies or sweeping ocean views—Liberty National Golf Club affords spectacular urban views of the Statue of Liberty, the Wall Street skyline and the several bridges across the Hudson River. Will this city setting inspire a new chapter in course architecture? Fireman’s project was the work of a lifetime and took years to complete at a price tag of $130 million.

Some reorganizing was done to the GCS Executive Committee this autumn when President Jim Dryer resigned before the end of his full term. Andrew Crewe, the VP, moved into the President’s chair. Those who have been to the January ‘Cabin Fever’ meeting in Dayton undoubtedly know Andy has been a great host, an able organizer and a friend to all in collecting. Good luck, Andrew.

You may be up to date with news of the political consternation currently embroiling the White House and the US Congress but you’ll be relieved to know that the politicians’ golf hasn’t been negatively affected. Golf Digest recently listed the top 200 golfers among the power-elite in Washington. As you might guess, the list contained a few surprises. ‘W’, our President, weighed in at a six-way tie for 108th with a 15 handicap. Shamefully, he is behind soon-to-be-retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor who plays off a 12.8 slope (you go, girl!). However, he looks pretty good against former Speaker of the House and Georgia Congressman Newt Gingrich whose handicap is listed as 47. With a handicap like that he’s either the ultimate duffer or a dead ringer. Hang on to your wallet.

Looking ahead to next year, the GCS National Meeting will be held at the Suncoast Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. In the past the GCS has convened in some of America’s most amenable towns including the Windy City, the Motor City, Falls City, Music City, Circle City, Rubber City, Kansas City, the Gateway to the West (St. Louis), ‘Hotlanta’ and the Big D (‘…little A, double L-A-S…’). Next, we’ll be heading to ‘Sin City’. The host city wants its visitors to understand, ‘what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas’, which will be a great relief for some of our more colorful characters. Come November 12-14, we’ll see how well a bunch of crazed golf nuts can behave.

The GCS web site is progressing into a picturesque place to get information on our group. It should be especially handy for our British and European friends who can find out what’s cooking in the Western Hemisphere simply by clicking their mouse. I hesitate to think it might make redundant the Letter From America but I’ll do my best to report interesting, and possibly arcane happenings from over here. Don’t be shy about visiting www.golfcollectors.com And don’t be bashful about taking advantage of cheap air fares and flying to Dayton for Andrew Crewe’s Cabin Fever Meeting, January 12-14.

Bing used to sing, ‘May your days be merry and bright, and may all your Christmases be white’. I’ll lift a glass to that.

Brown Ale
A Worcestershire Stalwart

John Moreton
recalls the career of Dr William Tweedle, a fine Midlands golfer

As the Worcestershire Union of Golf Clubs celebrates its centenary this year it is fitting to remember the feats of one of the county’s greatest players, a member of its most successful team during the 1930s.

Dr William Tweddell was born in Whickham, County Durham in 1897. On his father’s farm at Leyburn, North Yorkshire, was part of the local nine hole golf course. Before he was seven years old William was taking full advantage of its proximity. The club appointed a professional in 1907; William thought ‘he was the most marvellous man on earth’. On leaving school he joined the University and Public School Battalion as a private and was sent to France in 1915 with the Royal Fusiliers. He returned home after six months to be commissioned in the Durham Light Infantry. He told The Birmingham Post, ‘A subaltern’s life was not usually a long one in those days but I lived a charmed existence.’ Wounded twice, he was decorated with the Military Cross and bar at Paschendale in 1917.

William studied medicine at Aberdeen University and was a member of the golf team from 1922 until 1924, having a plus handicap. Two years later he was invited to purchase a medical practice in Stourbridge. The club already had a number of exceptional players, including Eric and Douglas Fiddian and the Humphries family. He joined and took the practice. The club did not accept his plus 3 handicap at first, making him play off scratch. After he had won five successive competitions his plus handicap was reinstated.

Tweedell was invited to take part in the county trial at Blackwell in 1927 and made one of the three holes in one he had that year, which was one of his very best. He took his annual holiday to coincide with the Amateur Championship, which was held at Hoylake that year. Having lost in the sixth round of the English Amateur to Jack Beddard of Staffordshire he was reticent about entering. His sister persuaded him to change his mind – his entry was filed by telegram! His arrival at the course was also delayed and he only had time for one practice round.

A surge of form took him through the first rounds and Tweedell reached the semi-finals, where his opponent was Roger Wethered. The doctor got off to a flying start, winning the first five holes. Wethered staged a slight recovery but eventually lost 4 and 3. John Behrend in The Amateur described the final as an anti-climax, Tweedell beating DE Landale by 7 and 6. The margin would have been greater but for the distraction caused by a Pathe News cameraman getting too close to the action, and poor marshalling of the huge crowds.

This success set up an intriguing encounter later in the season. The English Amateur Champion was Phil Perkins, the great Warwickshire player. The two counties met at Blackwell on the 12th of October and the two champions faced each other. James Coventry, golf correspondent of the Birmingham Evening Post, wrote that it was ‘a splendid match, in which the golf, if not immaculate was full of interest, punctuated by occasional thrills.’ The doctor made a poor start and was soon two down, but got back to all square snatching the Eighth ‘like a brand from the burning’. He eventually won the match by 2 and 1, assisting Worcestershire to a victory by eight matches to three.

He also aided the county’s performance as runner-up to Surrey in the finals of the English County Championship at Little Aston, having the joint best individual score of 157, one of few players to break 80 on a windy day. He won the Midland Open Championship during that year.

These performances earned Dr Tweedell selection as Captain of the Walker Cup team the following year in Chicago. He was partnered by Phil Perkins in the foursomes which they lost. Perkins lost to Bobby Jones and Tweedell to George von Elm in the singles. Jones and Tweedell became great friends and
maintained contact for many years. The doctor was captain of the team again in 1936 after his epic final in the Amateur against Lawson Little at Royal Lytham and St Annes the previous year. Little won a close and exciting contest on the last hole. Earlier, Tweddell had eliminated his friend and club-mate, Eric Fiddian. Little’s caddy was carrying over twenty clubs and it is believed it was Dr Tweddell who proposed the limit of fourteen clubs, for by now he was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

Tweddell represented his country on several more occasions, won the Worcestershire County Championship three times and participated in the county’s success in the 1930s when they won the English County Finals three times and reached the finals on three other occasions, equalling the records of Lancashire and Surrey.

Bobby Jones entered the Amateur Championship in 1930, defeating Eric Fiddian in the seventh round. After winning the final Jones went to Hoylake for the Open Championship and the historic victory that enabled him to achieve the ‘Grand Slam’. Despite his tiredness, the very next day he honoured an invitation from Tweddell to join him, Eric Fiddian and Stanley Lunt, another great Worcestershire player, in a fourball match at Blackwell.

Dr Tweddell’s last international match came in 1956 when he captained the British Senior team against America and Canada in Bermuda. In 1961 he drove in as Captain of the Royal and Ancient, Bobby Jones sending his congratulations. By a happy coincidence his son Michael won the George Glennie Medal during his captaincy. Michael captained the Worcestershire team in 1993-94. Then, in the county’s centenary year, Michael’s son Matthew made his debut for the county’s junior team.

On his election as Captain of the R&A, Stourbridge Golf Club commissioned his portrait, which hangs in the clubhouse. On the day it was presented, Michael beat his older brother William in the final of the club championship.

In addition to his other positions he was President of the Midland Counties Golf Association and in 1967 succeeded Guy Bigwood as President of Worcestershire. William Tweddell died in 1984.

The Centenary History of the Worcestershire Union of Golf Clubs by John Moreton is reviewed later in this magazine. It is available from Grant Books or the Worcestershire Secretary, Andrew Boyd, The Bear’s Den, Upper Street, Defford, Worcestershire, WR8 9BG.
IT IS AMAZING how much each of our lives is touched by chance and coincidence. The past year has seen two particular books, for quite different reasons, come to my attention and end up on my desk. By chance the books were golf club centenary histories for the same period – 1899 to 1999. Coincidentally, each book narrates details about its course and early aviators. The books were: *Rhos-on-Sea Golf Club – A Centenary History 1899-1999* by Gordon Tates and Fred Wolley; and *A Century of Golf at Cruden Bay 1899-1999*, compiled by Donia Keith. Another coincidence to emerge was that the early aviator at Rhos-on-Sea had an influence on what later took place at Cruden Bay! What follows are extracts from each book and these should explain things more clearly.

**Rhos-on-Sea Golf Club**

With a feeling of euphoria aroused by the lovely panorama of Snowdonia’s mountains before him, but with concern about a fault in the controls and a shortage of fuel, Robert Loraine landed his Farman biplane on the Rhos-on-Sea golf course at 7.50am on Friday the 10th of August, 1910. He was the first airman to land in North Wales, having set off from Blackpool some 90 minutes earlier with the intention of putting down in Llandudno. When interviewed, he reported that to land he selected a spot free of bunkers on a fairway, which ‘gleamed like an emerald’. The biplane landed so softly it caused no damage to the fairway. The flight constituted an over-sea record of 63 miles in an hour and a half.

The pilot was met by Mr Henry Goldsmith, the
course owner, who ran out over the greens in pyjamas and waving a toothbrush. Mr Loraine was taken to the clubhouse to breakfast while Club members went out to rope off the machine. This action proved to be necessary as crowds soon appeared and golf was abandoned for the day because sightseers surged around the plane and settled down to picnics.

An engineer was called for as the biplane needed repairs, and he arrived by 3pm, when the crowd was estimated to be at least 10,000. Because of the crowd’s encroachment, Loraine could not take off until 7pm. The intention was to fly to Holyhead in Anglesey but, partly due to instrument failure and partly due to fatigue, he found himself nearer to the Isle of Man than to Anglesey and he had to turn south to correct his position. This detour over the Irish Sea was never charted but it was his longest-ever sea trip!

**Cruden Bay Golf Club**
The first flight across the North Sea (Scotland to Norway) was made by Kommander Tryggve Gran on the 30\textsuperscript{th} of July, 1914 in a Bleriot monoplane, when he successfully flew more than 300 miles from Cruden Bay to Stavanger. The take-off was from the foreshore sands alongside the fairways of the Cruden Bay Golf Course.

Gran first thought about flying, whilst accompanying Commander Scott on his fatal expedition to the South Pole. (And it was Gran who was first to enter the tent where the expedition members had perished.) He flew for the first time on the 17\textsuperscript{th} of May, 1913, just a week after a conversation aboard the Lusitania with pioneer aviator Robert Loraine, who spoke of flying across the Irish Sea (is this why he wanted to go to Holyhead?). It was during his talk with Loraine that Gran first conceived of the idea to fly from Scotland to Norway. Not being absolutely sure of the mileage he would get from the monoplane, Gran arranged for body compartments to be filled with air cushions to keep it afloat if he landed in the sea. Additionally, he reassured himself: ‘Between Peterhead and Stavanger there are many steamship routes, so that if I drop on the way, I shall have a very good chance of being picked up within a few hours.’

In spite of fog, headwinds, temporary engine failure and airsickness, Gran landed at Klep, a small village twenty miles south of Stavanger, and telegraphed news of his success to his ground crew in Cruden Bay. He had flown the 305 miles in 250 minutes at an average speed of 72 miles an hour. In his dual role as Antarctic explorer and pioneer aviator, Tryggve Gran became a national hero in Norway and his intrepid flight from Cruden Bay was commemorated by issue of a special postage stamp in 1944.

Since airports had not been built in many places, early aviators improvised and made use of parks, golf courses and foreshores for landings, take-off and refuelling. In America this was certainly the case with the early mail service – but that story can be told on another occasion.
The 1912 Yorkshire Championship
Captured on Postcards

A fine pictorial record of an early county Championship found in the collection of
z Jim Gray

JIM GRAY has submitted some interesting postcards from his collection, featuring scenes from the Yorkshire Championship of 1912, at Fixby Hall, the home of Huddersfield Golf Club.

Fixby has always had a major role in the administration of Yorkshire golf. The Huddersfield Club made the initial call for a County Union to be formed in 1894 and provided its first Hon Secretary and President. Up to the 1912 championship, the Club had supplied eight county champions.

Small wonder that Taxameter (JE Parker), of The Yorkshire Observer foresaw another home-club victory over a course that had recently been amended: ‘One cannot help thinking that the fetish of length is carried a little too far, even at Fixby, in the attempt to cope with the far-flying rubber balls.’ He anticipated other difficulties for competitors on the greens, set on rolling parkland with the deceptive borrows that are still a feature of the course: ‘In this matter, at least, the home players should have a distinct advantage in their intimate knowledge and long experience of the peculiarities of the Fixby greens’. Later he was to remark that nearly all the players in the pre-qualifying found themselves ‘to some extent beaten by the course.’

The first two cards in Jim Gray’s series feature the Ladies Championship, which in 1912, was held the previous week. The winner was Miss Branson of the Headingley Golf Club, north of Leeds, who beat Miss Garret of Halifax by 3/1.

The format for the Men’s Championship was the similar to that in the modern era: 36 holes medal qualifying for 32 places in the match-play stages. The big difference was that in 1912, the prequalifying competition
was played simultaneously with the interclub scratch medal for teams of four. So for individual club representatives, every score had to count, with the usual stress associated with team responsibilities. The surprise winners were Baildon, and Taxameter commented on the fact that the local Club had only finished third, despite eight Huddersfield players qualifying in the top 32 for the matchplay stages.

These included the defending champion and local favourite, Douglas Gaunt. In the second round of the match play stages, he took the prized scalp of Eric Lassen, national Amateur Champion of 1908 and already thrice winner of the Yorkshire Championship. In the semi-final, as shown in the postcard series, he beat Frank Robson of Cleveland. He had a flying start in this tie, going three up at the Seventh. However, Robson came back strongly, helped by Gaunt calling a penalty on himself on the Eleventh, where he moved what he thought was loose impediment, which turned out to be fixed and growing. And on the Fourteenth, where Robson holed his mashie. But Gaunt held steady, and eventually won by 2 and 1. The other semi-final was played between two brothers, Leonard and Stonor Crowther, both of them local members. The elder, Stonor, was ahead after the early holes, but Leonard eventually won through.

Leonard Crowther made another slow start in the final against Gaunt, who went out in 38 to go three up after the first eighteen. Still two down, with five to play of the second round, he held his nerve when Gaunt faltered, playing steadily over the last few holes to win his only championship by 2 up.
Musselburgh Links
In regard to fellow Society member Lionel Freedman’s letter in the June issue of TTG and the Captain’s comments in September’s issue, can I try and put a different viewpoint on the all-weather horse track planning application at Musselburgh Links?

Firstly, I would acknowledge Lionel’s contribution along with other Old Course Golf Club members to the much-improved condition of the historic nine holes. Alistair Patterson, the head greenkeeper, has also done a magnificent job in recent years.

I would like to think that I can speak with some authority about the Old Course as I learned to play there and have played on it for some 60 years. I have witnessed changes to the course brought about by racecourse extensions, which have always been detrimental. The greens in the course today, apart from the third and ninth, are the originals as used in the Open Championship. The plan will destroy the first green and replace it with a replica. Not what would be expected on a course of world renown.

Objections range from denying access to the Links as it is proposed to hold some 60 extra race meetings, intrusive pylons for flood lighting, a tarmacadum road on the golf course, sand and rubber track surrounding the golf course with little allowance for rough, (balls will be lifted and dropped without penalty). Golfers will be required to walk over the sand and rubber concoction four times in nine holes.

Another bone of contention is that the Links is a totally inappropriate venue for a commercial development on this massive scale – projected cost £12 million.

I understand that there have been several hundred letters of objection sent to East Lothian Council and a street petition attracted over 1200 names.

This world-famous golf course must not be treated in this manner and I would urge fellow members to make their views known to the Director of Environment at East Lothian Council in Haddington.

Jim Colville

The Reverend Dr AKH Boyd in St Andrews
Following on from Brian Bowness’ article on Dr Boyd in September TTG, members may be interested in a piece from a 1903 issue of Golfing, about various celebrations of Old Tom’s 82nd birthday. One contributor (Pelican) recalled Tom’s
regrets on the passing of his contemporaries: ‘Now that the Principal (Tulloch) is gone, there are only the Doctor (Boyd) and me left. And soon the Doctor will bury me, and that will be the end of Tom.’

*Pelican* went on to note that it was Dr Boyd that had pre-deceased Tom, who had been ‘one of those who helped to lower AKHB to his last sleep in the beautiful churchyard within the ruins of the grand old Cathedral of St Andrews, looking out to the sea’.

Tom was to survive another five years until 1908, when, at the age of 87, he suffered a fall in the clubhouse of the St Andrews Golf Club, which ultimately proved fatal. This greatly-loved figure was buried with great ceremony in the family lair within the Cathedral precincts.

**David Hamilton**

**St Andrews Photographers**

I very much enjoyed your recent *TTG* article on early St Andrews photographs within the fascinating collection at the University. I attach photographs of plaques commemorating two famous early St Andrews photographers covered in the articles: the Rodgers one is outside his house in the west end of Market Street, close to our own in St Andrews, while the Adamson one is on the current Post Office in South Street, near Holy Trinity Church.

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**Help Wanted**

**Enid Wilson Autograph Clubs**

I’m trying to locate any steel shafted club approximately from the 1930s stamped for Enid Wilson. A photo of the whole club head showing markings will suffice. Thanks.

*Pete Georgiady*

dundonian@earthlink.net

**Mystery Clubhouse**

Can any one please identify the clubhouse shown here? There are no clues whatsoever on the postcard even to suggest a locality.

*Alan Jackson,*

01452 612849. alanjackson@blueyonder.co.uk
Identification Help Please
I have a smooth-faced cleek with a partially eroded stamping that says ‘BMC Glasgow’. From the asymmetry of the initials, I surmise that there were, originally, five initials (ie ‘- - B M C’) and I wonder if anybody in the society has an iron with a better example of the same stamping who can fill in the missing initials for me or, better yet, tell me more about the maker.

Curt Frederixon
freedrop@excite.com

The Irish Close Championship 1903
The photograph below depicts a group of lady golfers at their Irish Close Championship of around 1903. The lady in black, wearing a sort of Cossack hat, just to the left of the trophy, is known to be Gwennie Parr, who was then the Irish Captain.

I wonder if any of our members can help to provide details of the individuals and setting.

John Gillum
(Tel 01707 261232)

Small Ads: Wanted

Help for Colchester Golf Club
Our Golf Club celebrates its centenary in 2007. I would be interested in hearing from any member who may have anything relating to it. Cuttings, photos, etc. from the past to loan, copy or sell. Please contact me at 26 Pearmain Way, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 0NP. Alternatively godfrey.taylor@tesco.net or telephone 01206 330680.

Photographic Material
Wanted for my own collection: vintage golf films, negatives and slides of famous golfers, golf courses, club houses and other golf related matters. Old films can be in any format – 8mm, 16mm or 35mm – and can be home made or professionally taken. Contact Keith Forsyth at KeithForsyth@hotmail.com or 01309 672898.
Whilst recently touring with the Lady Wife in Northern France, I came across L’affiche de Golf by Alexis Orloff and published by Editions Milan at 37 euros, approximately £25. Unfortunately it was published in 2002 and therefore out-of-print from the publishers but copies of it are still available on Amazon. The book contains several hundred poster, magazine and book cover images and the explanatory text is in both French and English. The posters date from the turn of the 19th Century up to the present day and cover travel, competitions, fashion, manufacturers’ advertisements and golf illustrations generally. There are a number which are well known on this side of the Channel notably those for the railway companies and resorts, such as Gleneagles, St Andrews, Southport, Turnberry, North Berwick and Silloth. I particularly liked the one for Fedhala in Morocco whose selling point was that it was only 59 hours from Paris! The colour reproduction is excellent and really I have only two gripes. The first is that little information is given on publication date of each poster and the second is that the player putting out at the Montreux Golf Course is described as Bobby Locke when it is clearly Leo Diegel. Very much worth trying to get.

Hit & Hope is by David Owen and was published by Simon & Schuster in 2003 at £14.99. I obtained my copy recently at SportsPages in London and can highly recommend it for a Christmas stocking filler. The author is a staff writer for The New Yorker and a contributing editor for Golf Digest, and has written several books on golf including My Usual Game and The Making of the Masters. He has a wry sense of humour and clearly needs one as he lives with his family in northwest Connecticut where the winter weather closes the small nine hole course, where he and a group of friends play. The majority of these essays were written for Golf Digest and are now republished with a number being revised from the originals. He writes with the mind set of the average club golfer who appreciates his Sunday morning round with a group of like minded friends and who like him are willing to spice up the game with variations on small betting systems and formats. I liked his description of a tensome played at night with the help of torches and his club professional, Bob, who occasionally joins them, playing only with an eight iron. Another game they appear to have invented is ‘Boss’, which allows the winner of a hole to nominate the conditions for the next small bet on the following hole. One of the group decided that anyone out-driving him would pay him. As he was clearly the worst driver he cashed in on that hole. David has a great love for the game, has a droll turn of phrase and has also a thoughtful approach to the game. As he says ‘Best of all, reading about golf is less susceptible than golf itself to the depredations of age. When the yips have stolen our putting strokes, when we can no longer lift our drivers, when even a golf cart seems like too much effort, we will still have golf’s huge and continually growing library to keep us in the game – even if we have to hire a caddy to read it to us.’

Tom Crow – King of Clubs by Tom Crow with Al Barkow is published by British American Publishing Ltd at £13.99 and I again obtained my copy from SportsPages. The name may not mean a lot to the average golfer but he was a notable Australian Amateur champion in 1961 and was runner-up in 1964. He also represented his country in the Eisenhower Cup in 1962 and 1964. He started in commercial golf as a sales representative for Dunlop Australia, which in turn led him to becoming personal assistant to Peter Thomson with whom he travelled extensively worldwide including America. He had taken an early interest in club design and manufacture which eventually lead him to founding Cobra Golf with $60,000 dollars and selling it two decades later for $750 million. So essentially this book is a biography of Tom Crow and the Cobra Golf Company. Tom Crow has a number of trenchant views on the way golf club equipment manufacturing is heading and its influence on course design. Not the best-written golf book but one interesting in content particularly, if like me, your preferred driver and fairway woods are Cobra.
A Centenary Round
Banchory Golf Club 1905 – 2005
by
W Stewart Wilson

Like so many other clubs, many of the records of Banchory Golf Club were destroyed by fire – in 1978. However Stewart Wilson has been able to obtain records from the Ladies Committee which has been in existence from 1909 and also from the Aberdeen Daily Journal which was the forerunner of the Aberdeen Press and Journal, the prominent daily for the North East of Scotland.

The course was unusual for Deeside on its foundation in that it was the first eighteen-hole course in the area – albeit only eleven holes were available for play when Archie Simpson and Robert Mearns played a match at the official opening on the 3rd July, 1905.

Other notable professionals who played the course were Harry Vardon and George Duncan in 1908 and again in 1919, this time watched by Prince Albert (later George VI). Arthur Havers also played against Duncan here in the 1920s. Alf Padgham appeared in the 1930s and in the 1960s Ken Bousfield just failed to break the course record when he partnered Eric Brown in a charity exhibition match against Max Faulkner and Dave Thomas.

In 1970 Harry Bannerman took over as Professional at the Club and was still there when he appeared in the Ryder Cup team of 1971; I am sure that most members will recall his record there. Paul Lawrie was an assistant in the 1980s.

As well as these colourful characters there are many interesting stories about Banchory Golf Club and its development, which are told in eighteen chapters with the nineteenth being a record of club plaudits over the last 30 years.

The book has some interesting photographs of the early course and inside the back cover a map of the Old Course to give a better understanding of the layout then.

Produced in hardback, at just over A5 size with a dustjacket, copies are available from the Secretary at Banchory Golf Club, Kinneskie, Banchory, AB31 5TA at a cost of £5.00 + £2.00 p&p.

Review by Hamish Ewan

Willie Park Junior – The Man who took Golf to the World
by
Walter Stephen

Walter Stephen has written a charming and whimsical book. Willie Park Junior – The Man who took Golf to the World is a broad critique, which extends beyond the limited biography of Willie’s life. It pieces in the places, events and times that surrounded him, and offers the reader a contextual picture of the man and his work, before examining hole by hole, some of the courses associated with him.

Mr Stephen’s book invites analogies. Like a good meal, interesting wine and jazz, it demands the attention and interaction of the reader in developing its themes. These are explored in a structure that evolves rather than dictates, and which is further enriched on re-reading. In two parts, the book examines the life and times, and then the legacy of Willie Park Jnr.

In a wide sweep, the first part of the book takes in local knowledge and reminiscence of Musselburgh, its links, and golfing history. But it extends further to include geology and its affects on landscape, social and economic history, politics, philosophy, urban design, literature and much more. At times the clarity of the argument seems in danger of being lost in a tangle of different topics, with John Updike and AP Herbert rubbing shoulders with Carlyle. But Mr Stephen plays fondly and adeptly with language, and manages to gather in the many threads, to weave a narrative that portrays the richness and excitement.
of golf’s transitional period. At times the language is Darwinian, at times pure Wodehouse, as when describing the last hole at Turnhouse: ‘I showed my unfitness for the big occasion by hewing my way wastefully towards the green as my follower’s blood pressure rose.’ I can forgive a good deal from an author who can make me chuckle at his turn of phrase.

It seems that there is much of Walter Stephen in this book. It is witty and erudite, occasionally whimsical, often inspiring. For the high handicap golfer the book’s structure is a recognisable friend. Not for us the carefully devised and clinically executed journey from tee to green, but a more chaotic approach, often enriching and usually enjoyable; always interesting. Mr Stephen has reproduced some of this structure in prose, making pertinent connections to areas not normally enjoyed in golf writing. His book is a good walk (sometimes a romp) through some rare historical landscapes; in this case ‘a good walk, bettered’.

This account of Willie Park is available from the Luath Press, 543/2 Castlehill, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 2ND at a published price of £25, but at a special price to BGCS members of £20 plus £1 p&p. Credit card facilities available. Telephone Number 0131 225 4326.

Review by Mungo Park

(Mungo Park, author of a 2003 article on Willie Park in TTG, and a welcome recent recruit to BGCS, is a great nephew of Young Willie - Ed)

Forgive us our Press Passes
edited by Michael McDonnell

The Association of Golf Writers (AGW) has produced this volume as a celebration of its 67-year-old history. Formed in 1938, it had Bernard Darwin of The Times as its first President and George Greenwood of The Daily Telegraph, as its first Chairman. The names of some of the founder members should be familiar to anyone with a golf library: Guy Campbell, Geoffrey Cousins, Lionel Edwards, Eleanor Helme, Percy Huggins, Henry Longhurst, Frank Moran, and Fred Pignon. And a new crop in the immediate post-war era: Browning, Crawley, Pennink, Prain, Scott, Stanley, Ward-Thomas, Wind and others.

Despite its sub-title, The History of the Association of Golf Writers, the detail of how the Association was established and developed forms only a minor part of the volume; the bulk of it is devoted to colourful anecdote and reminiscence. The membership displays its professional skills in telling us about working conditions in the days before and after the technological revolution, the need always to pool information and co-operate, rather than compete, and of the deep friendships that form as a result. And along the way, the pen pictures of the great and not-so-great figures of golfing literature from the 20th century, the incidents, the struggles, the characters and the fun they had. Good fellowship and irascibility are celebrated equally. The name of Leonard Crawley crops up more than once, in a fond, and sometimes hilarious remembrance. We should also remind ourselves the some of them were seriously good golfers; Darwin, Mackinlay, Wind, Crawley, Longhurst, (Enid) Wilson and Steel all competed in (and sometimes won) national championships and/or played for their respective countries.

The volume has been compiled and edited by the immediate past-President of the Association, Michael McDonnell, who has preserved a light tone and entertaining read throughout.

Forgive us our Press Passes is published by the Queen Anne Press, Windmill Cottage, Mackereye End, Harpenden, Essex AL5 5DR, telephone 01582 715866. The book is case-bound in well over 200 pages, with an attractive dustwrapper. I understand it is not being distributed commercially, but is available to BGCS members at a modest £13.50, including p&p. Just the job for the Christmas holiday. Highly recommended.

Review by John Pearson

From The Swamp To The Dunes
by Alan F Garth and Sylvia Jones

While the sand-belt courses of Melbourne’s eastern suburbs are justifiably world famous there is a course some three hours drive from the central business district, heading west along the Great Ocean road, at Port Fairy. There is a run of about twelve miles of sand dunes, held in place by marram grass and protected from the sea by rocks, between Warrnambool and Port Fairy which nature evidently intended to be home to several golf courses. Only one made it, and it wasn’t always where it is today.

This 88-page, soft cover, history of a hidden treasure of a golf course traces the development of the club and its course from the ‘colonial days’ (it
was founded in 1899, two years before Federation)
in ten-year spans. As such it is a social history of the
area as well as the town and its golfing fraternity.
Publicans, businessmen and schoolmasters come
and go and several of them make important
contributions, as do the fairer sex. The club has
survived two world wars and a great depression
with very rarely any more than 300 members, when
so many of its bigger brethren have been unable to
balance their books and have gone out of existence.

All in all this is a golf club that any true believer
would be proud to be a member of, and this little
volume should sit on the book shelf of all self
respecting golf historians. The production of it,
while not being written by professional writers, has
been aided in no small measure by the fact that over
the years some club members have been employees
of the local newspaper and/or councillors on
the council so there has been a literary mine of
information to be borrowed, just as well, as early
records were destroyed by fire.

From the Swamp to the Dunes costs $16 and I
have no doubt that an email to Trevor Brown, info@portfairygolf.com.au will elicit the appropriate
postage cost.

Review by Peter Gompertz

In Quarto
by Margaret Squires

This is not a golf book; it is a book about a bookshop
– ‘The best golf bookshop on earth’ according to
Today’s Golfer. So in writing of her experiences at
Quarto, maybe Margaret Squires is creating a new
collecting category.

Quarto is an institution in St Andrews and is in
Golf Place, – just along from the eighteenth green on
the Old Course, and the British Golf Museum. Golf
is a speciality, but not an exclusive one, and the shop
has a lively trade in student texts, Scottish history and
other traditional subject areas.

The shop was founded by four friends in 1969, of
whom Margaret is the only one not to have moved
away or retired. A pointed letter of complaint about
a mis-spelled article on the shop, to the editor of
the Scottish Book Collector, generated an invitation
to write a regular column from which this volume
of essays is selected. Margaret has a sharp eye for
the quirks of the trade and all that impinges on
it. So we have her observations on slow sellers,
hidden treasures, book characters, chancers,
new technology, Prince William, obscure titles,
controversy, haggling, bureaucracy, golf books,
marginalia, odd volumes and odd customers as
well as many others. Golf is a recurring theme and
the shop appears to be well-patronised by BGCS
members. David Hamilton and Graeme Lennie
get a mention, and others, though anonymous, are
recognisable.

This is a diverting and entertaining read. It comes
in 93 pages, bound in card covers close to A5 format,
nicely laid out and published by Capella Archive and
available from Quarto on 01344 474616 for a modest
£7.95 +p&p. Recommended.

Review by John Pearson

The Northern Amateur Championship
at the Moray Golf Club
1894 - 2005
by John McConnachie

Having read and enjoyed John McConnachie’s
history of Moray Golf Club written for its Centenary
in 1989 I was keen to lay hands on his more recent
venture which was produced in time for the 100th
playing of this prestigious tournament.

The introduction is written by our own
David Hamilton, who gives glowing praise to
John’s abilities as a storyteller. This must be a
recommendation in itself.

In the early years of this competition you will
find many references to winners with familiar
names to collectors, the most famous probably
being Robert Harris, followed closely by Donald
Grant of Royal Dornoch. After intervention by the
SGU in 1923 to restrict the use of ‘Championship’
to the national open and amateur championships of
Scotland the tournament was renamed the Moray
Open.

The entry for this competition in 2005 was 372
competitors with both the Old and New courses
being used for qualifying. Playing standards are
very high as is John McConnachie’s tale of this
unique championship. It provides a very easy read
whether you are acquainted with the area or not.

The book is slightly larger than A5 size and
runs to 83 pages, with numerous photographs and
other illustrations. It is available from The Secretary,
Moray Golf Club, Stotfield Rd, Lossiemouth, Moray,
for a modest £10 plus (about) £2 p&p.

Review by Hamish Ewan
The Worcestershire Union Of Golf Clubs
by John Moreton

On the 17th November 1905, at the instigation of the Worcestershire Golf Club, the sixth oldest club in England and the oldest in the county, thirteen golf clubs in Worcestershire agreed to form a union thus following the lead of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (1893), Yorkshire (1894), Cornwall (1896), Nottinghamshire and Sussex (1899) and Lincolnshire (1900). There was a belief at the time that the Royal and Ancient was interested only in regulating the affairs of coastal courses and had little interest in, or knowledge of, the requirements of inland clubs. So apart from organising county championships and inter-county matches, one of the most important aims of the county unions was to lay down local rules for clubs in their county and generally to provide frameworks within which the clubs could operate.

The book traces the growth of clubs in the county, not always an easy task because, being on the periphery of Birmingham and with frequent boundary changes, there was an amount of to-ing and fro-ing of clubs between counties. Then there are the personalities who stood out in the county’s activities. While much of the detail will be of particular interest to those who live in Worcestershire and the Midlands, many of the personalities are well-known in the National scene and so are of general interest: the early rivalry of Edward Blackwell and Frank Wooley; the rise in the ‘20s and ‘30s of Dr William Tweddell, Eric Fiddian and Stanley Lunt. The roll of honour is impressive: two Amateur Champions; four English Amateur Champions; two Captains of the Royal and Ancient; four Presidents of the English Golf Union; and fourteen English internationals, two Scottish and one Welsh, – four of whom played in the Walker Cup. A formidable record by any standards,

John Moreton has produced another very well written history. As one would expect of an officer of the Worcestershire Union, John has researched his subject thoroughly and this is a comprehensive history not only of the county union but of golf in the county. Produced in hardback with dust cover and attractive endpapers, it is available at all clubs that are members of the Union, or from Grant Books at £20 plus post and packing.

Review by Alan Jackson

The Secret of Golf
by George Peper

George Peper steered GOLF Magazine as editor for 25 years, and his latest book takes a long and considered look at instructional methods. Peper is too wise to suggest either that there is a final solution, or that golfers are easily led by the latest Messiah or snake oil cures. He treads a careful line between being amused and flippant about the eternal search for golfing success and on the other hand being too serious about the search. Instead he emerges as a wise therapist offering a range of options to golfing valetudarians. There is no-off-the peg teaching method for all, Peper opines, but concludes that tailor-made solutions (so to speak) come in all forms. His choices here – in 47 varieties – have historical depth. Nor is this simply an American story and Peper honours the teachings of Cotton, Boomer, Jacobs and Locke, and does not forget to include a lady teacher – Jennifer Scott.

Peper is looking for systems rather than tips, seeking the teachers with an underlying principle that leads on to a raft of technical suggestions. The offerings of some distinguished players of recent times are accordingly not to be found here. Instructional books are dull, but this is different. His eclectic mix of messages, old and recent, gives a fast pace and the guru’s life and career are interleaved with the core of his message, followed by a précis or passage from the instructional, using attractively re-worked diagrams. Peper writes with grace and style, and although the title suggests a slight-hearted verdict, this study is a serious tribute to professional players and teachers, with the sources acknowledged and indexed in scholarly detail. He also works in some excellent history and forgotten scraps – Chi Chi Rodriguez as the first advocate of physical fitness in golf; Tommy Armour as first to describe the yips; and Paul Bertholy the first to recommend golfing drills sans club or ball. Gary Player’s well-known ‘walk-through’ swing finish was, it turns out, also used by Willie Park.

For some hackers, the secret could be revealed as sudden moments of enlightenment. Ed Sullivan’s epiphany was, if not on the road to Damascus, certainly on the Burma Road at Wentworth, when the teacher Mindy Blake told Sullivan the secret, and Blake was rewarded by profitable chat show exposure. During the Troon Open of 1982 for all of two days the golfing world was in awe of Bobby Clampett’s advocacy of Homer Kelley’s system, until
Clampett fell from grace in the third round, never to rise again.

The recipe for success is a complex mix. You need a consistent system with an underlying philosophy. You need a distinguished patron to testify to the enriching qualities of the message, and if a golfing magazine takes it up, you are made. Peper, as an insider, shows that the journals had a major role in supporting individual teachers, and that the editors took their search seriously, since the journal could also be rewarded by sales. The rise in circulation of Golf Digest in the early 1970s was based on Dick Aultman’s ‘Square-to-Square’ method. In Britain the teachings of ‘Mr X’ entranced Golf Monthly readers, for a while, in the 1960s, and Peper tells the inside story of this mysterious messiah.

Forgotten methods are dealt with tactfully and charitably. Mullin’s ‘no-back-swing swing’ – as in baseball – made sense and Peper shrewdly observes that if the system had fortuitously produced a winner of a major, we would all now be raising the club vertically. Methods evolve and change. Science and evidence-based instruction came in with George Pelz’s detailed analysis of video evidence. It turned out that leaving the pin in does assist when pitching, and ‘Big Easy’ Els has a fast swing after all, one camouflaged by graceful body movement. And there were the devices – Hogan’s headphones (Chuck not Ben); and Henry Cotton’s car tyre. Enter the psychologists – Timothy Gallwey’s ‘Inner Game’; and Darrin Gee’s cure is only available in Hawaii. Rotella’s therapy doubtless was aided by being ‘Dr Bob’. Then there were the mavericks – Count Yogi had no friends in the profession, and Fred Shoemaker prospered for a while by urging – Count Yogi had no friends in the profession, and Fred Shoemaker prospered for a while by urging the pupils to throw their clubs down the fairway.

Poignantly, most teachers-with-a-message are not fair-weather prima donnas who give up when out of favour. They keep going. It is heartening to know of their self-belief and that they do not cut and run when the faithful start to desert. Homer Kelley (of Clampett fame) still teaches in California, and you get a diploma and doctorate at the end of the course.

Peper, who modestly conceals from us who were his own mentors, is now an enthusiastic citizen and single-figure player at St Andrews. There will be more evangelists with a golfing secret and many followers. There is no final solution, but the hunt goes on. The Secret of Golf is published by the Workman House Press, New York, and is available in the UK from the high street chains and usual specialists, at a recommended £20.

Review by David Hamilton

Auction News

Graham Rowley of Old Golf Auctions tells me that his online auction in October realized some good prices. Star result was a world record for a programme (for the 1921 Open) at £4025. Marsh’s Blackheath Golfing Lays made £4425; Cundell’s The Rules of the Thistle Golf Club £5000; a signed copy of Park’s The Art of Putting (£1325); Balfour’s Reminiscences of Golf on St Andrews Links (£1600); and Darwin’s A Golfer’s Gallery by Old Masters (£1000). A silver plated drinks tray once owned by Harry Vardon went for £750.

The next Old Golf Auction will start on the 17th of December and finish on Saturday the 31st of December and Sunday, the 1st of January.

The next Bonham’s auction at Chester is on Saturday, the 28th of January, the day immediately after the Chester trade fair. Kevin McGimpsey’s enthusiasm for balls is well-known, and he has included within the miscellaneous lots, an unused tin of Halley’s ball paint, (est £2-300). At the other end of the painting scale, an oil of Felixstowe Ferry GC by Lionel Percy Smythe, dated 1904, is estimated at £20–30,000, while a Craig Campbell oil portrait of Jack Nicklaus, commemorating his last Open and signed by the great man, is estimated at £12-18,000. Other lots include a 1951 Open programme signed by Max Faulkner, the winner, Locke, Daly Cotton, Havers, Bradshaw and others (est £5-800); a scrapbook and other items relating to Bert Jolley, the 1927 Ryder Cup player (est £4-600); and an interesting section on Hoylake memorabilia.

Lyon & Turnbull are holding a sale of golf, fishing and sporting memorabilia at Broughton Place, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 7th of February, for which the closing date is December 12th. It includes some tasty items, including; an iron mould for smooth gutties c1850, from the Harry B Wood Collection, as used by Forgan; a collection of original Thomas Hodge etchings; five Stanhopes, each showing different view of Old Tom Morris; Henry Cotton’s menu from the 1953 Ryder Cup team dinner, the last page with written notes for his speech; a rare and mint P McEwan gutty ball; a Joyce’s Indented ball, mint, with an unusual shamrocks pattern; and a longnose club by D Strath; a John Henry ‘Centro’ centre shafted driver, c1890; Tommy Armour’s personal sterling silver cigarette case; and an 1871 Viewworth GC Challenge Medal with winners engraved to the reverse.