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Cover Picture

J Michael Brown’s picture for the Life Association Calendar features the 1897 Ladies’ Golf Championship at Gullane. This Championship marked the first time that Scottish ladies turned out in force. The picture includes all three of the Orr sisters, playing out of the nearby North Berwick Club, two of whom contested the Final,

THE BRITISH GOLF COLLECTORS SOCIETY
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Captain’s Letter

One geologist says that below the sand of the links is another fast-draining layer made of pebbles that in past ages were thrown up beyond the high water mark; these then anchored blown sand, which was colonised by marram grass. I think the major beach erosion at Aberdovey, eating into the dunes there, reveals just that: I must look for the pebble layer again in April.

We miss Mrs Squires’ Quarto Bookshop at St Andrews, which shut a year ago. Ever watchful, every new golf book quickly reached her shelves to join the old ones, and she was a great raconteur with a mischievous turn of anecdote. One eager collector proposed to buy her Badminton volumes on Golf and Driving. In vain she told him that the second volume was about horses. ‘Must be horses on the golf course’ he mused. Her readable recent memoirs are available and entitled In Quarto.

The new Principal of St Andrews University is a lady – first ever – and she is an expert on terrorism, but has not turned her attention to the R&A. By tradition she might be an honorary member of the ancient club after a while in office at the University, so the local gossips and wits are watching with interest.

On the Links the main winter work this year is serious pruning of the gorse, cutting it right back to the ancient ankle-twisting stumps of the last pruning. This reveals many balls – and occasional clubs thrown in anger. Our St Andrews Citizen letter-writers are a grumpy lot, and after much grumbling about the new Castle Course, the pruning is the latest irritant to the irritable. The Links are sacred to some.

The other winter works are revetting the bunkers, facing them anew with layered turfs. The old bunker edges are trimmed, and after these sharp fresh cuts made into the fairways, an important matter is revealed. The grassy top-soil is only a foot or so thick and that there is pure sand underneath. Hence the rapid drainage of the golf courses after rain. The early townspeople knew to use the links only for pasture and never to plough them up. They knew that when dry, the ploughed broken topsoil would simply blow away and leave a sandy wilderness.

Winter is a good time to get a bit of personal writing done. One project I have is the grinding task of assembling a list of Scottish golfing biographies from A to Z, and I’ve got to ‘C’. It should go faster at X, Y and Z, particularly since ‘The Babe’ claimed no Scots blood. Using public transport, my Fife bus pass assists in getting to the National Library in Edinburgh, and your talented Editor and I (pictured) had a jaunt to Napier University to track down the Clark Archives, the papers and collection of one of many Edinburgh publishers who took in interest in golf in the 1800s. Much remain there to be uncovered: we will be back.

Looks like a challenge is emerging of the World against a skilled jeu de crosse team at a venue near Brussels. This will be organised by Sara and Geert Nijs; their recent book on that game (entitled Choule) is essential and revealing reading for us all.

David Hamilton
Society News

People and Things

David Malcolm and Peter Crabtree win USGA Book Award

We must all delight in the news that the USGA has announced in February that the winners of the prestigious 2008 Herbert Warren Wind Book Award is to Tom Morris of St Andrews by BGCS members David Malcolm and Peter Crabtree.

The announcement by Rand Jerris, Director of the USGA Museum and Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History, praises the high quality of content and production values of the book that ‘set new standards in golf biography and historical scholarship’.

Peter Crabtree is well known to most of us as a founder member and past-Captain of the Society, with a fine collection of books, clubs, artwork and other memorabilia, who has increasingly refined his interests in recent years to St Andrews and particularly, the Morris family. David Malcolm, a more recent member, may be less familiar. Born and raised in St Andrews, he had a long career as a research geneticist in the USA and Europe, before returning to teach at Madras College, St Andrews. His interest and research into the Morris family has been continuous and lifelong. As a lad he caddied for Herbert Warren Wind over the New Course and describes him as one of his idols.

David and Peter will receive their awards at the Golf Writers of America Annual Dinner to be held at Augusta on the 8th of April, just before the Masters. Our thoughts and heartiest congratulations will be with them.
Proposed Name Change
The Editor thanks all those members who contacted him with their views on the suggested name change for the Society, aimed at reflecting better, the membership’s interest in golfing history and heritage. Responses indicated a clear split of opinion: a number of recent new members accepted the logic of moving to a title that incorporated the word ‘heritage’. But there was also a body of strong opinion, typically, but not exclusively from longer-standing members, that we should stick with the present title. After very great consideration, the Committee felt, unanimously, that a proposal for name change was very unlikely to generate the 75% margin of preference required for a Society rule change and that we should not proceed with it.

Subscriptions
Subscriptions for 2009 became due for payment on the 1st of January. Will members please note that subscriptions that remain unpaid after the 31st of March 2009 will result in that member being excluded from membership of the Society and thus ineligible to receive further copies of Through the Green and to partake in Society events. Subscriptions again remain unchanged at the level of recent previous years, viz:

- Full member UK £32
- Joint Full member UK £42
- Full member, - continental Europe €50
- Overseas Associate US $70

Subscriptions should ideally be paid by Standing Order to the Honorary Treasurer of the Society, David Moffat, at Moffat Gilbert, 5 Clarendon Place, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5QL, tel. 01926 334373 and at moffat@btinternet.com

New Captain Drives in a Shrewsbury GC
BGCS member Alex Carson (above) drove himself into office for the year at a chilly Shrewsbury Golf Club on the 1st of January. Alex plans to inject a good dose of tradition into his captain’s year, with at least one slide show for the members, using the audio-visual equipment provided by BGCS to its members for such occasions.

Captains Elect ...
... in Cambridgeshire where Nigel Notley has been appointed Captain of Royal Worlington and Newmarket for the coming year. This follows soon after fellow BGCS member and keen hickory player Michael Smith, who was Captain in 2007.

... and Somerset, where Robin Griffiths has been confirmed as next year’s Captain of Burnham and Berrow GC

Was Golf Originally a Scottish Game?
Michael Flannery, author of the monumental Golf Through the Ages, has a new website www.michaelflannerygolf.com linked into golf tourism but with a hefty portion of heritage. The latest issue lists a new series from him appearing in Golf International, entitled Golf – The True History. The website trailer suggests that Michael is setting out a thesis for the Continental origins of golf. Methinks a reprise of the controversy of 100 years ago, when Hutchinson, Garden Smith and others also suggested the idea.

Silloth Postcards
There is a good selection of old postcards featuring Silloth on Solway GC on the Club website www.sillothgolfclub.co.uk/oldpostcards.htm They belong to BGCS member David Low, a member of the Club. There is also a view of the March Club newsletter, which has a short piece about one of them, a picture of Kirkaldy v Taylor in 1896, on one of the miniscule original greens. Also a piece in the September newsletter about Vardon v Renouf, including another of the postcards and a fine image of the two players outside the old clubhouse. Renouf looks so young. There is also on the website, the offer of a remained copy of the Club history at a modest £10, which with the weak pound, must represent a considerable dollar bargain.

Scanned copies of Through the Green
Following the publication in December of the Index of all past articles that have appeared in Through the Green, our new webmaster, Dick Durran, published it on the Society website: britgolfcollectors.wyenet.co.uk The promised scans of all previous issues of Through the Green have also been completed, and were published on the website at the end of February. Quality is mostly good, particularly in the last few years, when the original files for printing the magazine, have been used. The length of time required for
download of individual copies may vary, depending on the size and complexity of the original illustrations, but if readers are patient on the initial download, the speed of navigation between pages, and clarity of images and text, are excellent. The quality of reproduction on the two first years up to the end of 1989 is poor and needs attention. Also, the scans should ideally be searchable, and members are asked to be patient until we acquire the necessary skills to allow us to follow this up.

**Castle Stuart Golf Course, Inverness**
The North Scottish Region was given sight of an exciting project on the Moray Firth in October, when Hamish Ewan, Harry Bowden, Ian Nalder and Douglas Fowle were given a preview fourball of the new Castle Stewart course. So far it has been termed neither a Championship nor a resort course, despite playing lengths varying from 5145 to over 7400 yards. The fourball chose the shortest layout as being most suitable for their hickories, and enjoyed the splendid views over the Firth towards the Black Isle.

The generous fairways and playable rough are to be kept that way. Some 40 of the bunkers are bereft of rakes, leaving players to revert to the earlier days of smoothing them out with your own feet. The huge areas of open wasteland remind of golf courses at the fin de siecle, while the sinuous greens require the shot into them to be from a position that has to be carefully planned. Project leader Mark Parsinen suggests that the design team, led by Gil Hanse, will not be averse to tweaking things after the official opening this coming June and

Hamish is examining the possibility of a future meeting here for the North Scottish Region. Just for the record, Harry Bowden’s concluding birdie the honours for him and Hamish over Ian and Douglas in a close match.

**Events**

**Scottish Region Matchplay**
This year’s Scottish Matchplay Championship was won by Erick Davidson who beat Hamish Ewan in the Final. Congratulations to Erick on a remarkable effort considering he has only recently been able to get back to golf after several years of severe back problems and the possibility that he might never have swung a club again. Entry form for this year’s championship is included with this magazine.

**Forthcoming Events**

**Early Season**
The Bonhams Early Season Sale at Chester on Tuesday on the 24th of March has a nice Dunlop ball Dispenser and Osmond patent caddy, and a number of interesting balls at what look like reasonable estimates. Books include Johnston and Johnston’s Chronicles of Golf and William Caesar’s Carnoustie Golf Links Bazaar. There are 354 lots in total; the auction starts at 11am.

Members will already be aware of the **Welsh Weekend at Machynlleth and Aberdovey**, on the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of April. Liz MacDonald is organising and if you ring her quickly, you may just get a late entry to this most popular of outings.

Meetings of the North Scotland region are small, informal and great fun, typically exploring the exquisite village and town courses of the Highland Region. Yet another such is the picturesquely-named **Fortrose and Rosemarkie** course due to be visited on the 28th of April. Members wishing to take advantage of off-season air fares into Inverness and Aberdeen airports will enjoy a warm welcome.

Late entries may also be possible to the major event of the year, **President’s Day at Hoylake** on Friday the 8th of May. We will say farewell and thanks to John Beharrell after many years of his distinguished leadership and wise counsel and shall then welcome Philip Truett into the presidential chair. Philip was our Captain in 1992/92 and has continued to be a staunch supporter of Society events. Phone Peter Heath, the organiser, if you wish to enquire about late entries to this, our most popular event. (Tel 0121 455 9599.) A new feature of this Hoylake fixture is the **Mullock’s auction** to be held the following morning, Saturday the 9th, at nearby Leasowe Castle Hotel, immediately next door to Leasowe Golf Club.

**Centenary Hickory Match v Temple GC**
Temple GC in Berkshire is a well-known for its association with Henry Cotton and will host a hickory match against the Society on the 10th of May, soon after President’s Day. Nigel Notley is organising. Ring him on 01462 742029 if you would like to play.

**The Midlands in May**
A clutch of meetings in the Midlands take place at the end of May. On the 16th and 17th, **centenary hickory matches** are due against Rushcliffe and Radcliffe on Trent Golf Clubs. Players interested in accommodation at the host clubs should enquire of the organiser, Keith Bilbie, on 0115 920 732731. Both matches are strategically arranged just before the **Central England Hickory Championship** for the ‘Tony Thorpe Trophy’, in memory of our late Hon Secretary. Tony’s service to both BGCS and the Coxmoor Club will
also be commemorated by the presentation of a memorial bench. The day’s play at Coxmoor will also include competition for the BGCS Seniors Trophy. Members wishing to play with modern equipment will be made most welcome. Applications forms for the Coxmoor fixtures are included, and should be returned to Keith Bilbie.

Scottish Region

Full details are included with this magazine of the complex of events around the time of the Scottish Hickory Championship at Gullane at the end of May. In addition to the usual competitions at Musselburgh Old Links and Gullane 3 on Friday the 29th, Captain’s Day will be held at nearby Kilspindie, on Wednesday, the 27th. This will be preceded in the morning by a collectors’ fair at Gullane, where table fees are very reasonable, and bargains will abound. The next morning, Thursday, will see a meeting of the Literati of the Links at Craigielaw GC followed by lunch and a visit to Archie Baird’s Museum, near the first tee at Gullane GC. Later that afternoon, there is an opportunity to play over the historic Bruntsfield Links in the heart of Edinburgh. The Bruntsfield Short Course is set out just above the Meadows, close to the 18th century hostelry The Golf Tavern, where we shall meet afterwards for quarts of ale and gallons of claret. David Hamilton and Ron Beatt are organising this great celebration of golf heritage and application forms are included.

Mid-Summer Hickory Matches

The annual hickory matches against Royal Worlington and Hunstanton Golf Clubs are due to take place earlier than usual, on the June the 16th and 17th respectively. These are deservedly popular and members are asked to ring the organiser, Nigel Notley, on 01462 742029, if they would like to play.

The Society has been invited to play centenary hickory matches at Strathtay GC, Perthshire, and at Scarborough North Cliff, on the same day, 20th of June. Hamish Ewan on 01463 231145 and John Pearson (01904 628711) are the respective organisers, if you would like to play. The hospitality sounds great at both venues.

The Society will play a match against Walton Heath members on June the 27th. This popular fixture is being organised by John Hawkins whom you should ring if you would like to play. (Tel 01293 550381).

Last year’s hickory match against the Mackenzie Society at Cavendish GC was an enjoyable affair, and will be repeated on Friday, the 3rd of July. Richard Atherton is organising. Ring him on 01298 25937 if you want a game.

The following Sunday, the 5th of July, we are invited to a hickory match against Shrewsbury GC as part of their centenary celebrations. Alex Carson is their Captain; John Mullock is organising our team. (Tel 01694 77177)

Midlands Region Spring Meeting at Whittington Heath

The Midlands Spring Meeting is being held at that fine course, Whittington Heath, on Friday the 26th of June. The Club was founded near Lichfield, Staffordshire, in 1889, and this particular course laid out on classic heathland by Harry Colt, in 1924. Steels and hickory both welcome. Entry form is included with this magazine and should be returned to the organiser, Keith Bilbie.

European Events

The Bro-Bålsta Hickory Open will be held on the 7th of June at Bro-Bålsta GK, the home golf course of Annika Sörenstam. Members of BGCS and their guests are warmly invited to participate. Details are available from the organiser, Patric Andersson at hickory.bbgk@telia.com

Arrangements are well in hand for the Hickory Grail match on the 30th/31st of July between European and USA members of BGCS at the Falsterbo course at the extreme south-western tip of Sweden. The Club is generously hosting this event as part of

New Members

We have a number of new members to our Society and look forward to meeting them at future events.

Tom Buggy
Neil Crafter
Chris Deinlein
Jack Desieck
John Elliot
Robin Meyer
Janette Wright
Hyde Park, NY
McLaren Flat, SA
Greensboro, NC
Gt Barrington, MA
Edinburgh
Lewes
Aborne
General
Darwin, MacKenzie
Clubs
Books, Cards, Ephemera
Clubs
Books, Clubs, Balls
General

It is particularly pleasant to welcome Janette Wright, nee Robertson, former Girl’s and Scottish Champion, and Curtis Cup team member. With BGCS members Bridget Jackson, Gillian Clark (Atkinson) and Veronica Beharrell (Anstey), Janette was in the 1951 touring side that was so successful in Australia and New Zealand, as recounted by Bridget in her TTG article of December 2006.

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We are sad to report the sudden and unexpected passing of Barry Kay on New Year’s Day. Barry joined the Society ten years ago but due to his many commitments in golf administration it was only in the past five years or so that he was able to take a full part in many of our fixtures and meetings.

Barry was a past-Captain and a Trustee of Matlock Golf Club. He was Derbyshire 2nd Team and Colts Captain for eight years and then became County Secretary between 1995 and 2000 of the Derbyshire Golf Union and was President of the DGU 2002-2004. He served on the Midlands Golf Union and was President 2007-2008. He represented the DGU as a voting member on the English Golf Union from 1995 to 2008. In 2008, he was elected Captain of the Midlands Region of the British Golf Collectors Society and was very much looking forward to his two years in office. We shall miss his wise counsel.

Before golf, Barry was an enthusiastic rugby player of some note playing for The Old Baileyians for over twenty years and for his county, Derbyshire. He also represented the Three Counties, Notts, Lincs & Derby, in the County Championships.

Barry was not a fanatical collector of golfing memorabilia, but he loved the history of the game and in particular golfing personalities both past and modern, playing regularly at Matlock with his hickory clubs and reading books on the history of the game. A major contribution to the BGCS and his Club was his writing the Matlock GC history, *MATLOCK GC 1906-2006: 100 years of golf in Cuckoostone Dale*, the research for which took over twenty years. Over the last five years Barry and his wife Shirley enjoyed playing in many centenary hickory matches, our President’s Day at Hoylake, and the weekend at Aberdovey. In fact, on New Year’s Eve they were planning their programme for 2009 to complete the full house, with visits to Hoylake, Rye, the Open Meeting at Turnberry and a number of others.

He was quietly spoken, no airs and graces, had the air of an avuncular headmaster, which he was until his retirement, and dearly loved Derbyshire golf. Perhaps the best word to describe him would be a true gentleman, in both senses of the word. It can be truly said that he took much pleasure from golf but he put back so much more into the game he loved.

R.A.D.
IT IS SOMETIMES MAGICAL and often rewarding how things work out in today’s Internet world. On a lazy day last summer I was perusing the North Berwick website as part of my dreaming about another golf trip to Scotland and the courses I might play. While wandering through the website I came across a photograph that included John M Inglis, with a caption that said he played in matches with Gilbert Nichols and Fred McLeod at the Montgomery Country Club in Alabama in 1909. An intriguing question arose – could this be the John M Inglis who was the greenkeeper/professional at my own Dutchess Golf and Country Club in New York from 1898 to 1901?

Remarkably, a few days later I received an email from Ken Snodgrass, Executive Director of the Locust Grove Historic Site that was the home of William H Young, the first Dutchess Green Chairman. The email contained an attachment of a recently discovered photograph of John M Inglis at Dutchess in 1900. Comparison with the North Berwick photograph seemed to indicate that the Dutchess Inglis and the Montgomery Inglis could be the same man.

I was now caught in that tangled web of curiosity. An inquiry to the Montgomery CC resulted in a phone call from club historian Forrest McConnell Jr who later sent information about the Montgomery Inglis, information which included the claim that Inglis came to Montgomery in 1903 from the Fairview Country Club in New York. Comparison with the North Berwick photograph seemed to indicate that the Dutchess Inglis and the Montgomery Inglis could be the same man.

I was now caught in that tangled web of curiosity. An inquiry to the Montgomery CC resulted in a phone call from club historian Forrest McConnell Jr who later sent information about the Montgomery Inglis, information which included the claim that Inglis came to Montgomery in 1903 from the Fairview Country Club in New York. Enter next North Berwick historian Douglas Seaton who referred me to the Seagle Electronic Golf Library (SEGL) at the USGA Museum, an online collection of early US golf magazines. Many hours of research revealed that the Fairview Inglis was John R not John M. More research followed and concluded with a comparison of signatures on letters written by John M in 1898 when he applied for the Dutchess position and in 1918 when he was at the Montgomery CC. The signatures left no doubt that the Dutchess Inglis and the Montgomery Inglis was in fact the same man.

End of story? Not quite. The research revealed that John M Inglis had a remarkable range of outstanding skills. He was all of a course designer, innovative greenkeeper, accomplished player, respected tournament director and a well known club maker who invented the perforated golf grip. More curiosity – was there information about the other early Dutchess professionals additional to that contained in Club records? The satisfaction of that curiosity led to much additional research and this documentation of biographies of the Dutchess professionals in the club’s first twelve years from 1897 to 1908. Not included in this article are biographical details of Mungo Park, who designed the original Dutchess nine-hole course and who appears to have played a role in the hiring of the first three Dutchess professionals. Mungo’s contribution is recorded in the June TG article Transatlantic Connections, by his grandson, fellow-BGCS member, Mungo Park III.

John Forman (1897)

John Forman was born in Leith, Scotland around 1860. He was both a caddy and player at Musselburgh and North Berwick. His caddy loops included Old and Young Tom Morris, Davie Strath and other notable players. His skill as a player was complimented by Open champion Bob Ferguson who, after a close match, commented ‘today I had all I could do to beat four men’ – Forman.

John also worked as a club and golf ball maker at Thornton & Co in Edinburgh and was a licensed professional at North Berwick in 1895. He emigrated to America in March, 1897, to the position at Dutchess. Club records show his job description as ‘Green Keeper, Instructor of Golf, and Maker of Clubs and Balls’. His salary was $50/month for seven months. There is nothing more in Club records about John’s time at Dutchess, but in the September, 1919 issue of the American Golfer magazine an article mentions that he ‘laid out’ the nine-hole course at Dutchess – a questionable claim. Club records show that ‘Young Mungo’ Park was paid $25 plus expenses for the course design. Perhaps John assisted with the design or refined the original layout. Whatever his role, it’s possible that he influenced the then common practice of naming golf holes. Two of the original Dutchess holes, Trap and Perfection, are named holes at North Berwick.

The American Golfer article also includes John’s
recollection of the first hole in one at Dutchess, made by him with a ‘guttie’ (gutta percha) ball at what was then the 177-yard eighth hole. The account includes his reference to an unwritten Scottish rule that a bottle of Scotch whisky be given to the caddy or opponent of the player ‘guilty of such a feat’. John complied and, after a trip to town with Club President John Adriance, Green Chairman William H Young and Club Captain Will Adriance to procure the whisky, he presented it to his opponent, the Reverend CA Smith of the First Presbyterian Church. Outside of a ‘slight refresher’ by all except Rev Smith, the contents of the bottle remained intact in Dr Smith’s home locker for many years in remembrance of the occasion.

A letter from Green Chairman Young invited John to return to Dutchess for the 1898 season. He declined and in 1898 he became an assistant professional and club maker for Willie Dunn Jr at the Ardsley Casino Golf Club in Dobbs Ferry, New York. During his time at Ardsley John played in the US Open. Records of the 1899 tournament at Baltimore Country Club show that he scored 98-91-89-90 – 368 and finished in 47th place.

In 1901 John moved to the Westfield Golf Club (New Jersey) and then to the Danville Golf Club (Virginia). He was the Head Professional and Greenkeeper at both clubs, and also a club maker. In 1924 he moved from Danville to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where he died in 1928.

**John M Inglis (1898-August, 1901)**

Except for the faded 1900 photograph shown, which was procured from the Locust Grove Historic Site, there is little about John M (Milne) Inglis in Club records. The records show only that he was hired by the Club in 1898 at a salary of $40/month, that he was permitted to give golf lessons at 50 cents each and sell clubs and golf balls, and that he was allowed use of the upper room of the tiny first clubhouse. John left Dutchess in August, 1901 for unknown reasons. However, his story goes well beyond his time at Dutchess.

John M Inglis was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1878. In Edinburgh he worked as a club and ball maker with William Frier at the Braid Hills Golf Club and later with John and Andrew Dickson. Inglis emigrated to America in 1897. He initially lived in New York City and worked at Slazenger and Son in the city as a club and ball maker. He married Anne (Annie) Rutherford, a Scot, in Brooklyn, New York in August, 1898.

John’s last name is the same as the maiden name of Willie Park Jr’s second wife; thus, he possibly was a relative of the Park family on an in-law basis. Willie Park Jr was a famous Open Champion, prolific international course designer (including the US Open course at Olympia Fields in Chicago), renowned club maker, and entrepreneurial golf businessman who established golf stores for his clubs in Scotland, England and America. A Park store in New York City was managed by Willie’s younger brother Mungo, designer of the original Dutchess nine-hole course. The probable relationship of Inglis to the Park family suggests the possibility that it may have been a factor in bringing him to Dutchess. Correspondence from Inglis to Green Chairman Young when he applied for the Dutchess position includes both Mungo Park and John Forman as referees. It also included positive letters of reference (‘testimonials’ as John M called them) from his Edinburgh employers.

John, nicknamed Jock, came to the Montgomery Country Club in Alabama in 1903 (his activity in late 1901 and in 1902 is unknown, although it appears that he returned to Scotland in August, 1901). Information from historian Forrest McConnell Jr at the Montgomery CC says that Willie Park Jr ‘trained Jock all about the golf business’. Upon his arrival in Montgomery John designed the new course at the Club. In a sixteen-year tenure there he established a nationwide reputation.
As further evidence of John’s wide range of skills, when the Alabama Golf Association was formed in 1915 John was appointed Secretary/Treasurer, a position he held until he left the Montgomery Country Club. He was also a highly respected tournament director who conducted the Alabama Amateur and Southern Amateur championships for several years.

John M Inglis left the Montgomery CC for a position at the Savannah Golf Club in 1920, where he furthered his greenkeeping reputation. In the 2002 book *Keepers of the Green* there’s an item about Inglis solving a moles problem by using peanuts. He inserted crystals of strychnine into the shells and placed the shells in the underground runways of the moles. In 1924 John accepted a greenkeeper position at the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond. Soon after his arrival there he died suddenly of pneumonia. News of his death was published in national golf magazines and in the USGA Green Section’s publication.

Quite a man! If we only knew why Dutchess lost him.

George F Sparling (September, 1901-1905)
Two from Scotland and now one from Ireland! George F Sparling emigrated from County Clare to America in 1895 at the age of 15. A carpenter by trade, he began to learn the craft of club making at Slazenger and Son in New York City. At the age of eighteen he became an assistant professional and club maker at summer resorts in the Lennox, Massachusetts area. In 1898 he was an assistant to Mungo Park at Dyker Meadow in Brooklyn, New York and later was an assistant to William Tucker at St Andrew’s in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

There is little information about Sparling’s activity at Dutchess. An item in Club records indicates that at some point during his time at Dutchess his wife Elizabeth was in charge of the clubhouse. There is also an unusual sidelight. In 1904 an agreement was reached with the Powelton Club in nearby Newburgh, New York to ‘share’ George. He was to provide his services to Powelton for two days a week with payment to Dutchess of $20 per month. By the following year this arrangement was apparently going poorly. Play at Powelton had fallen off and Sparling ‘did not put in appearances’. The agreement was terminated with a single payment to Dutchess of $50 for the full season.

George left Dutchess after the 1905 season. He went to Dunwoodie, New York in 1906 and to the White Beeches Club in Hayworth, New Jersey in 1907. A 1907 article in the *New York Times* about a VanCortlandt Park tournament describes Sparling as ‘the young New Jersey professional from Hayworth’. George was apparently a pretty good player but one susceptible to the inconsistency that plagues most who play the game. His excellent first day 36-hole score of 140 led the field, but a second
day score of 158 left him out of the money.

The highlights of Sparling’s career came at the Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield, Connecticut, a club that has hosted a number of USGA championships. The course at Brooklawn is considered one of the best examples of the work of famous golf course architect AW Tillinghast. George came to Brooklawn in 1908 and remained for 40 years until his retirement in 1947. In his time there he hired a young assistant professional named Eugenio Saraceni, later to be known as Gene Sarazen. At first George assigned him to club making, club repairs and some menial shop tasks. But, after observing his playing skills and potential (including the experience of being out-driven by the brash young man), he took a greater interest and was credited with being a significant contributor to Sarazen’s development as a player. After winning the 1922 US Open, Sarazen commented that ‘Mr Sparling taught me the fundamentals of everything I know about golf’. After his retirement from Brooklawn, George Sparling remained in Fairfield. He died there in 1964 at the age of 84.

WC (Willie) Gaudin (1906)
Dutchess extended its hiring of professionals from Great Britain, this time from England, with the hiring of WC Gaudin in 1906. William Charles Gaudin (also called Will and Willie) was a member of a well known golfing family from Jersey in the Channel Islands. He was born in 1874. In an article titled Recollections of My Early Golf written by famous English professional Harry Vardon for Golf Illustrated magazine, Vardon wrote that during his teenage years during which his golf play was limited: ‘I played mostly with Willie Gaudin, who subsequently went to America.’ More about Gaudin and Vardon later.

WC Gaudin was the golf professional at the Bradford Golf Club in Yorkshire, England from 1897 to 1902 and was the first professional at the Scarborough South Cliff GC in England when the Club was founded in 1903. He was also a club and ball maker. During his time in England he participated in six Open Championships, including at Muirfield in 1901 (33rd), at Hoylake in 1902 (38th) and at Sandwich in 1904 (41st).

In 1905 he left Scarborough and went to the famous Royal Portrush Golf Club in Ireland. For unknown reasons his tenure at Portrush was short-lived. His 1918 application for US citizenship shows that he sailed from Liverpool to America on the RMS Oceanic and arrived in New York City on Christmas Day, 1905.

Gaudin was hired at Dutchess for the 1906 season at a salary of $40/month plus a $30 bonus ‘if his services are satisfactory’. Like his predecessor George Sparling, Willie was a fairly good player. In 1906 he finished tied for fifth place in the Metropolitan Open Championship at the Hollywood GC in Long Branch, New Jersey with a 72-hole score of 302 that featured a 72 in the first round. He also won the low gross prize in the handicap part of the event with another 72. Also in 1906 at the Hudson River Golf Association tournament at St Andrew’s in Westchester County, Gaudin played in a featured professional match against host pro Jack Hutchinson. Willie won the match 3 and 2 with a score of 73.

Willie Gaudin was well-liked and well-respected at Dutchess. An article in the May, 1906 edition of the Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle newspaper had this to say about him:

The Club’s new professional William Gaudin, who by the way was a next door neighbor of Harry Vardon the world’s champion golfer, is proving himself as an excellent greens keeper and is much sought after by the members as he is an excellent teacher and by far the best player the Club has yet had. On Friday in a match against several of the best players of the Club he made a score of 75, which is a very low score at this time of the season. This is Gaudin’s first position in this country, he having come direct from Portrush, Ireland which is the home of Miss Adair, the women’s champion,
she being coached by Gaudin for the match last season.

At the end of the 1906 season Willie, who was about to be married, offered to return to Dutchess the following year for $50/month and use of the clubhouse, plus the employment of his wife Mary ‘to look after the clubhouse’. There is no Club record of the reason why but his offer was declined. Gaudin went to the Midland GC in Garden City, Long Island in 1907 and in that year participated in the US Open at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. He finished in a tie for 30th place with a score of 325.

Little information has been found for him after 1907. He maintained a residence in New York City and it appears that he may have been in and out of golf. Family descendants recall mention that he made clubs for Abercrombie & Fitch, a company that also had a golf school with a resident professional in 1917. A 1918 WWI Draft Registration record shows his occupation as a carpenter employed by the US Government in Perryville, Maryland, the site of a newly built munitions plant. However, a 1920 US Census record lists his occupation as golfer. He died of tuberculosis in New York City in 1921 at the age of 47, leaving behind his wife and five children.

Gaudin apparently continued his relationship with Harry Vardon after their teenage years. In 1903 while at Scarborough, via the British PGA he sent a letter to Harry who had become ill with tuberculosis while at Scarborough, via the British PGA he sent a letter to Harry with Harry Vardon after their teenage years. In 1903 while at Scarborough, via the British PGA he sent a letter to Harry who had become ill with tuberculosis while at Scarborough, via the British PGA he sent a letter to Harry. Vardon's letter to Harry who had become ill with tuberculosis while at Scarborough, via the British PGA he sent a letter to Harry. Vardon apparently continued his relationship with Harry Vardon after their teenage years. In 1903 while at Scarborough, via the British PGA he sent a letter to Harry who had become ill with tuberculosis while at Scarborough, via the British PGA he sent a letter to Harry. Vardon’s illness had this disability not afflicted him. Harry Vardon died in England in 1937 at the age of 66.

A twist of fate – the teenage friends and golf companions were both struck by tuberculosis. It is interesting to wonder if Vardon became aware of Gaudin’s illness and if he corresponded with him. Like Vardon, Gaudin was hospitalized in a sanatorium; he was in the Hospital and House of Rest for Consumptives in New York City for seven months before his death.

George Gordon (1907)

Less is known about George Gordon than any of the other early Dutchess professionals. Immigration records show that he came to America in 1906, that his occupation was professional golfer, and that his last residence was St Andrews, Scotland.

It is believed that George left Dutchess for the Onondaga Golf and Country Club near Syracuse, New York. A 1909 article in the Syracuse Herald newspaper reported that he set a new record for what was then the Club’s nine-hole course with a score of 36. He also participated in the 1909 US Open and finished 52nd with a score of 323. His career was interrupted by service in World War I, during which he received three medals for distinguished service. His activity after the war is unknown. An article in the August 4, 1925 edition of the Syracuse Herald reported his death as ‘George Gordon, 40, former pro at Onondaga Country Club’.

George Simpson (1908)

George O Simpson was clearly the best player among the early Dutchess professionals. He won the Scottish Amateur Championship in 1907, the same year that he came to America. After he left Dutchess for the Chicago area in 1909 he reached the finals of the 1910 Western Open at matchplay where he lost to twenty-year-old amateur Chick Evans, later to become, in 1916, the first player to win the US Amateur and the US Open in the same year.

In the 1911 US Open at the Chicago GC, George finished regulation play in a three-way tie with John McDermott and Mike Brady with a score of 307. McDermott won the playoff with a score of 80 to Brady’s 83 and Simpson’s disappointing 85. George also finished third in the 1916 Western Open. During his time in the Chicago area he set course records at the LaGrange CC and the Oak Park CC. He also set a course record at Omaha CC.

George Simpson was born in 1887 in Monifieth, Scotland near Carnoustie. There are no details about his time at Dutchess in Club records except that he replaced E Killrick as Professional one month after Killrick was hired. Articles in the New York Times in 1908 associate him with Dutchess and mention his play in the Metropolitan Open. George went to the LaGrange CC in 1909 then to the Wheaton GC in 1911. A 1913 article in The American Golfer magazine reported that he had been engaged as the Golf Professional at Omaha CC, Nebraska and that he also had a winter position in Mobile, Alabama. He returned to the Chicago area at the Oak Park CC in...
1915. He was a member of the National Executive Committee of the US PGA in 1919. He remained at Oak Park until he died suddenly of pneumonia in 1920 at the young age of 33. An Oak Park friend made the following tribute: 'Simpson stood for all that is best in golf; ... it will be many years before Scotland sends us such another.'

Afterword
Six men from three countries in Great Britain found their way to Dutchess in its early years as greenkeepers and professionals. Remarkably, four of them were at or under the age of 21 when they came to America; the other two were in their thirties. All six seized the opportunity presented by the first boom period of golf club development in America.

That these men served in multiple capacities is not surprising. At the time of their arrival in America what is now the separate and specialized fields of course designer, greenkeeper, club professional, touring professional, club maker and ball maker did not exist in this country. What perhaps is surprising, and notable, is the ability most of these men displayed in their careers after leaving Dutchess. A March, 1898 article in The New York Times titled Scotch Golfers Coming bemoaned the quality of the professionals who were coming from abroad with the comment that ‘the majority of professionals are simply graduated caddies who have been brought up on the links from the time they were able to walk’, – a shortsighted comment in general and certainly not the case with the early Dutchess professionals.

Unfortunately, details about the activity of most of these men at Dutchess remain largely unknown. But we now can appreciate what they accomplished after leaving our Club.

Acknowledgements
This document was written with the assistance of three men who share my enthusiasm for golf history, and with the cooperation of Ken Snodgrass and archivist Angela Stultz at the Locust Grove Historic Site that was the source of the 1898 John M Inglis letters to Green Chairman William H Young and the 1900 photograph of Inglis at Dutchess.

Forrest McConnell Jr, historian and avid golf club collector at Montgomery CC in Alabama, provided much information and materials related to John M Inglis at his Club. He has also very generously provided two clubs made by Inglis, at least one of which was apparently made while he was at Dutchess. The clubs have become a significant addition to the Dutchess history display.

Douglas Seaton, historian at the North Berwick Golf Club in Scotland, did much more than lead me to the Seagle Electronic Golf Library at the USGA Museum. He provided significant information about the activity of John Forman and John M Inglis in Scotland. Plus, his explanation of the use of a mother’s surname as a middle name by Scottish professionals when they emigrated to America was one of the keys that unlocked the puzzle of John M Inglis as the professional who served at both Dutchess and Montgomery.

Mungo Park, grandson of the man of the same name who designed the original Dutchess nine-hole course, contributed information related to both his grandfather and Willie Park Jr and assisted in exploration of the relationship between the Park and Inglis families.

Thanks also to Ralph Sparling, nephew of George Sparling and Virginia Feser, granddaughter of WC Gaudin, who provided information from their family sources.

About the Author
Tom Buggy, a BGCS member, is the Historian and past President of Dutchess G and CC. He is the author of the Club’s centennial history Golf’s Lady of the Hudson, published in 1997. He has also published a compilation of articles about the accomplishments of Ray Billows, the Club’s most famous player, a three-time runner-up in the US Amateur and twice Walker Cup representative.

Dutchess Golf and Country Club
Dutchess Golf and Country Club was founded in Poughkeepsie, New York, in April, 1897. It was among the first 150 clubs in America and an early member of the USGA. Since it was expanded from nine to eighteen holes in 1925 the golf course has seen relatively little change – it is a parkland course of modest length that features charming variety and a stern challenge. The Club has hosted a number of qualifying events for the US Amateur and Metropolitan GA Amateur Championships.

Endnotes
1 North Berwick did not have a permanent professional until 1967. Instead the Club licensed, on average, ten professionals to work at the club, four to give lessons and six to play with members. A licensing system remains in place today at St Andrews and Carnoustie.

2 Why Sparling left Dutchess may be explained by the following comment of Club President John Adriance at the 1906 Annual Meeting: ‘The question of whether it is wise for the Club to continue the great expense of a permanent professional during the entire year is a problem which is to be solved, as certainly during the past year we have not received anything like the benefit we should from a party who received as large a salary as it has been necessary to pay George F Sparling.’ Did President Adriance misjudge Sparling’s abilities and potential?


4 The Dundee Evening Telegraph Tournament was the unofficial Scottish Amateur until the official tournament was established in 1920 at St Andrews.
ON HER DAY, she was a match for any of the top lady golfers. From a modest background as a butler’s daughter, the teenage Gladys Bastin风暴 her way from obscurity to the highest reaches of ladies’ golf in the years immediately prior to the First World War. At the age of nineteen she was runner-up in both French and English 1914 Championships to Cecil Leitch, the dominant lady golfer of the day. Her post-war achievements included a victory in the French Championship, and semi-final places in both the British and English Ladies’ Championship. She gained international selection for six consecutive years, and represented Surrey in the County Championship on numerous occasions.

Early days in Ayrshire
Gladys’ father Tom Bastin left employment as a greengrocer at Portsmouth on the English south coast to take up a position of butler at Eglinton Castle, near Kilwinning, Ayrshire, shortly after his marriage to Rowena Jolliffe in 1889. Their daughter Gladys was born on the 16th of December, 1894.

The popularity of golf on Scotland’s west coast was well established, and people from all classes played the game. Gladys’ father was employed by the 15th Earl of Eglinton, a keen sportsman who introduced the game of cricket to his estate and played tennis at Wimbledon, once reaching the third round of the championships. He is said to have cared for his workers and their families. It is probable that the Earl encouraged the sporting talent shown by his butler’s daughter, and assisted her efforts financially.

It was as a member of Troon Municipal that the seventeen-year old Gladys Bastin daringly entered the Ladies’ Open Championship held at Turnberry in May 1912. A score of 89 placed the young upstart tenth in the ‘score’ competition held to determine the placement for the knockout stage. Gladys was beaten in the second round by Mabel Harrison, the reigning Irish Champion, but caught the eye of many observers, including the Surrey-based English international and journalist Eleanor Helme, who remarked on ‘her long fair pigtail down her marvellously straight back’.

Home counties golf
Within twelve months, Gladys had relocated to Coulsdon, Surrey, where she was listed as a member of the recently formed Woodcote Park Club. Here she won the 1913 Captain’s Prize, and her club handicap was recorded as 2 by the end of the year. In June, she competed in her second Ladies’ Championship, held at Lytham and St Annes, reaching the third round before losing to Mrs Cautley of the Thanet Club in Kent. The Times praised her short game, but noted that she was ‘apt to slice her drives’. For good measure she won the Surrey County Cup.

Selection for the County Championship side followed. Making her debut at the bottom of a team of seven, she helped Surrey to success in the South-East region in October by recording victories against opponents from Kent and Sussex. The final round robin series involving the four regional finalists were played at Royal St George’s on the 5th and 6th of November. Gladys, now Surrey’s number six, won all three of her matches The Times commented on the uniform quality of the Surrey team, which had won all but three of the 21 individual matches in the finals: ‘In the case of Surrey, it would hardly be too much to say that the last two players, Miss Bastin and Miss Ramsay, were as good as the first two, Miss Helme and Miss Benton.’ Food for thought for Eleanor Helme, who, playing at the top of the Surrey list had lost her matches against both her Staffordshire and Yorkshire opponents. She once more commented favourably on the straightness of Gladys’ back, and noted that her pigtail had been converted into sausages.
The pace of Gladys’ golf career continued in 1914, and she was unbeaten until a one-hole defeat against Sussex in the last of nine county matches. The Ladies’ Open Championship was held in May of that year at Hunstanton. This time Gladys reached the fifth round, in which she lost a tight match to Mrs Elsie Grant-Suttle 3 & 2. The English Ladies’ Championship followed at Walton Heath. After winning the qualifying round, Gladys progressed to the final, beating Eleanor Helme en route. After a terrific struggle, she eventually lost to the redoubtable Cecil Leitch, who although only four years older than Gladys was already one of the most successful and experienced golfers of the day. Miss Helme wrote:

Miss Leitch won, but only 2 & 1, for her opponent was Miss Bastin, justly nicknamed ‘The Harrier of the Great’. Some people allow the great to trample over them, but there was nothing of the doormat about Miss Bastin.

**Foreign excursions in peace and war**

In mid-June Gladys joined a large contingent of British Ladies who competed in the French Championship at La Boulie, near Versailles. *Golf Illustrated* invited her to act as their reporter for this event. From the clubhouse, she gained the impression of a short course, but she soon realised her mistake when she played it. *The Times* confirmed that its length – over four miles – made it a very hard course for lady golfers. Gladys described the greens as perfect, and superior to those on many British courses at the time of year. Her putting was decisive in a very close semi-final match against Mrs Phelips, which went to the Nineteenth. Her opponent in the final was again Cecil Leitch. Gladys led by 2 holes mid-way through the 36-hole match, thanks to a steady putting performance, which included a fifteen-yarder on the second green. Her lead lasted until her rival won the 31st and 32nd holes included a fifteen-yarder on the second green. Her thanks to a steady putting performance, which led by 2 holes mid-way through the 36-hole match, Mrs Phelips, which went to the Nineteenth. Her British greens as perfect, and superior to those on many hard course for lady golfers. Gladys described the that its length – over four miles – made it a very arduously and enthusiastically in France for two years. Remarkably she was able to play golf at La Boulie while off duty; the German advance never quite reached Paris, and military golfers and aid workers were able to use the course throughout the hostilities.

**Post-war rehabilitation**

The strain of her work took its toll and Gladys was invalided back to England following a breakdown. The *American Golfer* reported her indisposition in early 1919, but *The Times* Golf Correspondent, seemingly insensitive to her weakened state, looked forward to seeing her realise the promise shown before the war. In what today would be considered a patronising and politically incorrect article he wrote:

Had she been a man, it would have been said that her early youth had been mis-spent. Being of the other sex, it is perhaps better to say that she must have been born with a club in her hands.

Gladys had recovered her health sufficiently to enter for the first post-war Ladies Championship at Burnham in October of that year. In the event, the tournament was abandoned due to a rail strike.

By 1920 Gladys was back in full action, playing from the Crowborough Beacon Club. She represented Surrey on nine occasions, winning six times. She reached the third round at the Ladies’ Championship at Newcastle, County Down.

The English Ladies’ Championship at Sheringham in June of that year produced a sensational result; the hitherto unknown eighteen-year old Joyce Wethered beat Cecil Leitch in the final 2 & 1, having at one stage been 6 down. Later to become Lady Heathcoat-Amory, Joyce came to be generally regarded as the finest lady golfer of her generation. Gladys was Joyce’s semi-final victim to the tune of 6 & 5; *Golf Illustrated* recorded that she was ‘not playing her game, but Miss Wethered’s beautiful putting, combined with her great length, was

Although lacking the great length of some of her contemporaries, Miss Bastin hits the ball far enough, and with unusual consistency can generally be depended on to give the best players an anxious time. Her height gives her great command over her shots, and with a safe upright swing she seldom wanders from the fairway.

Her last recorded event prior to the outbreak of war was the *Lady’s Pictorial* Competition held at Stoke Poges in early July 1914. She lost to Gladys Ravenscroft on the Nineteenth. *Golf Illustrated* reported how Gladys had lengthened her drive perceptibly over the last few weeks. No wonder, with all the practice she was getting!

It was highly unfortunate for Gladys Bastin that her meteoric rise to golfing fame should have been curtailed by the outbreak of war. Many lady golfers became volunteer nurses; Gladys played her part very arduously and enthusiastically in France for two years. Remarkably she was able to play golf at La Boulie while off duty; the German advance never quite reached Paris, and military golfers and aid workers were able to use the course throughout the hostilities.

In her own words:

Miss Leitch had the honour, and found the big bunker with her drive on the left of the green. My drive was very indifferent and stopped short in the very heavy grass. I ought to have taken a niblick, but was very tempted, took a mashie, and made a bad mistake, leaving me to play two more onto the green. Miss Leitch made a fine recovery from the bunker onto the green and holed out in two putts, which gave her the lead at last.

Gladys’ luck clearly ran out at this point; on the 34th her second shot was fatally blocked behind a tree. Her opponent hung onto her lead to win 2 & 1, repeating the margin of her victory at Walton Heath.

Cecil Leitch was later to write approvingly of her opponent:

Through the Green, March 2009
certainly rather heartbreaking’. Gladys had come through a close match earlier in the day against Joan Stocker, who was playing on her home course.

In 1921 Gladys Bastin returned a 100% record for her county team from her seven matches, and Surrey became champions again. She once more reached the semi-final of the English Championship, held at St Annes. Returning to Turnberry on what was no doubt a nostalgic occasion for the Ladies’ Championship, Gladys had the misfortune to come up against Joyce Wethered again – this time in the first round. There ensued a titanic struggle, which Bernard Darwin described as ‘a desperate 19-hole affray’. Gladys had been one up as the protagonists stood on the eighteenth tee, but Joyce summoned up all her determination to see her off two holes later.

Championship success at last
The following year Gladys reached the semi-final of the Ladies’ Open Championship at Prince’s Sandwich, only to be beaten by her old adversary Cecil Leitch. But she achieved a long-awaited and well-deserved first win in a major competition, the French Championship at Dieppe in July. In the final Gladys beat Mrs WA Gavin of the Huntercombe Club, 5 & 4. Having established a two hole lead in the morning round, our heroine struck top form after lunch. *Golf Illustrated* reported as follows:

In the afternoon, the play to the turn was very even, and Miss Bastin, out in 39, turned with a lead of 3 holes. Thereafter the golf was magnificent. For five holes her score was 16, and on seven consecutive greens she required only one putt. At the thirteenth she played a fine shot to within a yard of the hole from the tee, but was then stymied by her opponent. Taking a mashie niblick she successfully lofted the stymie and got a two. Such excellent play was invincible and Mrs Gavin could not keep on terms with Miss Bastin, who finished the match on the fourteenth green to become lady champion of France.

One month before, Gladys Bastin had narrowly beaten a strong field, including Mrs Gavin, to win the *Golf Illustrated* Ladies’ Cup competition at Sandy Lodge. Writing in the sponsor’s magazine, Gladys had prophetically mentioned Mrs Gavin’s good form. Her rival won the Canadian Ladies’ championship, and was runner-up in the American Championship that same year, so Gladys’ feat was most meritorious.

Gladys played on six occasions for Surrey during 1922, including a thrashing of old rivals Middlesex in the South-East regional final at The Addington when she beat Edith Leitch, 1 up. Illness prevented her from playing in the County Finals at

*Semi-finalists at Prince’s. 1922 (L to R): Gladys, with Joan Stocker, Joyce Wethered and Cecil Leitch*  
Image courtesy of the LGU
Gladys Bastin was an excellent and successful golfer whose humble background and intermittent poor health may have prevented her from achieving the game’s highest honours. But there is no doubting her popularity among her contemporaries and her extrovert nature will have won her the friendship of many. She gave much to golf in return.

She died in 1960, and was buried at Surbiton, Surrey.

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_Derek Markham is a member of Gladys Bastin’s old club, West Surrey, and is author of their forthcoming centenary history_

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_Hunstanton, but she appeared in the photograph of the victorious team._

An accomplished pianist, Gladys needed little encouragement to entertain her fellow tourists. She played in the ballroom of the Imperial Hotel at Lytham during the 1913 County Finals that were followed by the English Ladies’ Championship. During the 1920 Ladies’ Championship at Royal County Down, she instigated an impromptu concert in which most of her fellow hotel guests joined.

**Career decline**

Following medical advice, Gladys took a break from the game, but made a comeback at her new club, West Surrey, in 1923. In May she represented England against the other Home Countries at Burnham, Somerset, where she beat her Welsh and Irish opponents and halved with her Scottish rival. This event was followed at the same venue by the Ladies’ Championship. Gladys beat Janet Jackson of Ireland in the first round, but lost to Doris Chambers of The Wirral, the eventual winner, in the second.

_The Times_ reported the defeat sympathetically:

> Miss Bastin, when she appeared on the sixth tee, was two up, but she was playing against a lady who was obviously at the top of her form. Miss Chambers played a straightforward accurate game, and in the end just wore down Miss Bastin, who was patently tired out at the end of the round. Miss Bastin is one of the really good lady players, and she is probably the best lady putter living, but there was a lack of symmetry and of sting in her swing with a wooden club today. She had her nose just in front for the greater part of the round, and when she stood two up at the fourteenth the match looked as good as over. Miss Bastin however played a bad tee shot at that hole, and after a series of misadventures in bents, road, and stone wall, she picked the ball up, or rather, ordered the referee to do so. Miss Chambers was still one down, teeing to the short and blind seventeenth. She played a thoroughly firm shot onto the green, whereas Miss Bastin’s was weak. When both balls lay equally close to the hole in four strokes at the last hole, with the game all square, the most horrible thing of the day happened, Miss Bastin missing a putt of a yard. Apparently all golfers are human, even the best putter that the ladies can claim.

This was clear evidence that Gladys’ punishing schedule was taking its toll, but one week later, she was winning the Scratch Medal at West Surrey with a 78. Playing off a handicap of 5, her net score of 73 was also good enough to win the Handicap Medal.

On the 22nd of May she made her only appearance of the year for her county, beating Mrs Morgan of Buckinghamshire at Swinley Forest in another Surrey 7 – 0 triumph. Defence of the two titles won the previous year proved to be beyond her; at Chantilly in the French Championship she was heavily defeated by her Surrey team-mate Mollie Gourlay of Camberley Heath, and she only managed fifth place at the _Golf Illustrated_ competition held at West Hill. She was a notable absentee from the English Ladies’ Championship at Ganton, and the finals of the County Championship at the same course.

In 1924 Gladys became Ladies’ Captain at West Surrey. She represented her county on three occasions, winning twice to round off an impressive Surrey career record of 41 matches played, of which 34 were won. She found time to represent the Ladies v Gentlemen at Stoke Poges, an annual challenge that year won by the Ladies for the first time.

At the Ladies’ Championship held at Troon in 1925, her old rival Cecil Leitch eliminated her from the competition in the fourth round in adverse weather conditions. _The Times_ was again sympathetic: ‘Miss Bastin is always a fighter, but she is not very strong, and this was an afternoon for the big battalions.’

By 1930 she had moved clubs, becoming a founder member of a new course at Calcot Park, Reading, near the Gate House Hotel where she was by now living with her parents.

During the 1930s she acted as Secretary of the Lady Golfers’ Club, located at Whitehall Court in London. Accommodation in the Capital was clearly a major attraction to its members, and a Bridge Room was listed among its amenities. The establishment housed many documents and artefacts pertaining to the women’s game belonging to the Women Golfers’ Museum.

Gladys Bastin was an excellent and successful golfer whose humble background and intermittent poor health may have prevented her from achieving the game’s highest honours. But there is no doubting her popularity among her contemporaries and her extrovert nature will have won her the friendship of many. She gave much to golf in return.

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_Derek Markham is a member of Gladys Bastin’s old club, West Surrey, and is author of their forthcoming centenary history_
OVERCOME by the tragedy of terrible bushfires, Australians can think of little else these days. Marysville is in the middle of it – a delightful town in a wonderful forest setting with an attractive golf course, or it was, until a week or so ago. Now the streets are rows of brick rubble, the trees black totem poles in mourning for the many Marysville people killed by the fires. It’s a town I always wanted to go back to, stay in the B&B, play the course every day for a week, but not now.

When you lose something iconic like Marysville and something precious like many of its people, you feel the loss severely. Perhaps that has some link to our respect for history, that the threads of yesterday and yesteryear are part of the fabric of our society and our-selves. They surely are.

Club histories – practical experiences
Take my own club on the outskirts of Sydney, where it is proud to distance itself from the City by calling itself Windsor Country Golf Club. To be clear, we mean ‘the country’ where the farms are, not ‘the country club’ where the city gentlemen are. Windsor is one of the Macquarie towns, so-called after the Scottish soldier and administrator, Lachlan Macquarie (1761-1824) who was the fifth governor of the colony of NSW in the period January 1810 to November 1821. There’s a lot of history in Windsor and some of it is about golf.

WCGC was formed in 1962 and leased a dairy farm bisected by the railway and bordered on the west by Rickaby’s Creek. There’s a nine-hole public course over the road next to the ‘resort’ with the wonderfully colonial name of ‘The Rum Corps Barracks’ but few people play there. Many of the Club’s founders are still members and others still live in the town. If you want to know something about the history of the Club, you ask one of these people, or more than one because they experienced or remember different things. When the Board decided to set up a history group last year to write a book for the 50th anniversary in 2012, three of its members formed the core. One of them visited the local history society and was shown a photograph of the first golfers in the district – the date was 1905 not 1962.

Only five kilometres away from Windsor is Richmond where golf has been played since 1897 – their first interclub match was played against the Royal Sydney Club in 1899. It seems there was a City connection then. A Windsor Golf Club had been formed before 1905 and they played at Richmond until Mr James Gosper made his paddock available for play. The Mayor of Windsor Mr JJ Paine hosted the proceedings, attended by 75 people and his wife, Mrs Nan Paine hit the first ball and competed in the event. Now for the connections – Gosper’s paddock is the site of the public golf course, the Windsor Associates award the Nan Paine trophy to the golfer with the best net aggregate over the year’s six medal rounds and John Paine, grandson of the couple is a current club member.

These details emerged in the first few months of research and it provides a whole new perspective on ‘golf in the Windsor district’ and the grounds on which it has been played. This discovery shows how golf’s history is such an interesting and fertile field for research. It is for this reason that the Australian Golf Heritage Society is encouraging all golf clubs in its home state of New South Wales to establish history groups. AGHS uses a statement from Australia’s greatest golfer, Peter Thomson to reinforce this point:

Club golf is the very essence of the game. It is not the Open Championship nor the televised professional purses that give golf its plasma, it is the friendly matches played on home territory between people paying their dues to support their own links and nurture what has been handed down to them. That is the game’s lifeblood. In turn this trust is passed onto the next generation intact and solvent and in this manner a club perpetuates, carried along on a solid rock of loyalty and affection. Some clubs have a special character which sets them apart. It is not the quality of the course or the accommodation of the building that distinguishes them. It is more essentially the membership, past and present, and the file of achievement over a period of decades that creates a tradition.

There is another reason. More than twenty years ago, The NSW Golf Association commissioned David Innes to write The Story of Golf in New South Wales and a useful volume was duly produced. David sent a letter to all the clubs asking for contributions and some were long others short and some sent nothing. Based on these contributions, David made the most of what he could and for many years it has been the only book available and a constant source of reference, even for this letter. However, the passage of twenty years, the development of golf and the initial limitations suggest rather strongly that an update is essential. Erwin Huber responded to the need and drafted a long list of questions based on
Through the Green, March 2009

his experience of writing *For the Common Good* – the history of Moore Park GC, which was the first public golf course in NSW, only five miles from the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Erwin’s questions have been tested at two clubs and revised into a survey format that will provide a structure and direction for any golf club history group. The survey is available for free download from: http://www.britgolfcollectors.co.uk

The AGHS Championship, an 18-hole stroke event was held at Cronulla GC last November. Open to both men and women golfers, members and non-members of the Society, it is played under the current Rules of Golf, but players must use pre-1940 wooden-shafted clubs.

Rex McKay, from Port Kembla and Pymble GCs, won the scratch division with an excellent gross score of 82 and Tony Pickrell, from North Ryde GC, won the handicap division with 72 net off a handicap of 16. John Garth from Cronulla Golf Club won a splendid mid 1920s putter, for the best net score by a non-member. Definitely the best-dressed player was Geoff Martin from Avondale Golf Club, in the picture with AGHS Captain Michael Sheret.

Hickory golf at The Lakes, since 1928 the host of championships and the home of champions currently undergoing a large scale redesign. A friendly match against the members allowed AGHS players the chance to be tested over seven of the new holes on this very sandy links course. Match play with hickories makes a testing course so much more enjoyable when the distance factor and par are out of the equation. It was hot too – in the high 30s. The result of the matches was not important, although it was the Society by a nose; what was important for some was experiencing the challenge of playing with old clubs – that a few of them joined AGHS was a bonus.

From the Laird of Leith whose opinions are his own.

Wanted for Purchase or Swap


**Ron Muszalski**, 1155 Monarch Lane J2, Pacific Grove, Ca. 93950, USA. RHM@redshift.com. Tel. 00 1 831.648.8937

I am OFFERING golf club histories and general golf books FOR golf club handbooks (especially) and golf club histories I don’t have. I would buy the latter if a swap could not be negotiated. Please ring Robin Griffiths on 01278 788321, or email golf788321@aol.com to find my particular wants list.

**Scorecard collections**, particularly Rest of The World cards, the older the better. Also, **Open Programmes pre-1962**. David Norman at 01793 750651 or email davenorman@fsmail.net

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Irish Musings
by John Hanna

I wonder how many TTG readers have heard of Eddie Hackett? This man has been described as ‘the greatest links designer of our time’, yet outside of Ireland and perhaps even within, he is relatively unknown. He is without doubt this country’s greatest golf course architect.

He was born in Dublin in 1910, the son of a publican and educated at the Catholic University School. His early life was one of poverty and illness; he spent long spells in hospital with tuberculosis. He was first introduced to the game of golf by his father playing at Skerries Golf Club, a course in the north of County Dublin. His father was proud to tell his son that he was one of the first Catholic tradesmen to gain entry into a golf club in Dublin. Due to his health golf was the only sport his doctors allowed Eddie to play and he showed early talent for the game. He joined Hermitage Golf Club in 1927 and when he was 21 years of age he began an apprenticeship with Fred Smyth, the great club maker and Professional at Royal Dublin. This did not work out and two years later he was out of work. At this time he spent five months in Belgium with Henry Cotton at the Waterloo Club. After this he left for South Africa, where he became an assistant to Sid Brews at the Johannesburg Golf Club. After nearly a year he was back in Dublin. He was offered a job at Elm Park, where stayed until he was 29 years old. In 1939 he was appointed as Head Professional at Portmarnock in succession to the great Willie Nolan. His wage was just £10 per week. An interesting fact is that while professional at Elm Park Eddie had charged two shillings and sixpence (12½ p) for a round or a lesson, whereas Nolan’s fee at Portmarnock had only been one shilling and sixpence (7½ p). Eddie began to expand rapidly the stock in his shop, and despite the difficulties of the War he went to great trouble to find his members new clubs and clothing. As a teacher he was highly respected and he also worked hard on his own game practising for many hours. At this time there were very few tournaments, but the Michael Moran Matchplay Tournament was still being played. Hackett found himself in the final having beaten Harry Bradshaw at the 21st hole in the semi-final. In the Championship of 1942 he was again runner-up, this time losing to Harry. He became well-known to the wider Dublin public while at Portmarnock as he wrote a popular weekly golf column in the Irish Press and later the Sunday Independent.

One of Hackett’s outstanding memories was of 1936 when he was at the Open Championship at Hoylake as a spectator. He went into the dining room intending to eat alone. However James Braid called him over to sit with the Great Triumvirate: James Braid, Harry Vardon and JH Taylor. He sat enthralled as he listened to their reminiscences, especially as they were sharing a magnum of champagne. This was to celebrate their reunion at Open Championships. Between them they had won the Championship sixteen times.

Introduction to golf course architecture
He left Portmarnock in 1950 and worked for the next five years in his brother’s weaving mill. It is said that the mill was so successful that he saw a greater future there. At the same time he set up an indoor golf school in the Old Belvedere football grounds at Anglesea Road. He soon remembered the advice of his doctor to take up an outdoor life as during this period he suffered more illness, spending nine months in bed in hospital in a near-fatal battle against meningitis. On recovery, thinking his golfing days were over, he ran his own tobacconists and newsagents shop in Phibsborough until 1962. The arrival of the age of supermarkets soon put an end to that and a new change of direction was required. He was now 52. The call of golf was still strong so he bought a station wagon and some golf equipment and travelled all over the country giving lessons at clubs that had no professional. The playing of the Canada Cup at Portmarnock in 1960 had created a new interest in the game of golf.
Bill Menton, the Secretary to the Golfing Union of Ireland, was being flooded with enquiries from clubs, potential golf course owners and golfers about possible golf course architecture and coaching. This was the beginning of a new era in Irish golf. The first real task came in 1964 when Menton told him that Malahide GC wished to extend their course to eighteen holes. Such was his modesty that he told Menton that he knew nothing about drawing out golf courses. To which the reply was that he had been in the game long enough to know how. This was his introduction to golf course architecture.

Overnight he was an expert and Ireland’s only golf architect. In a modest sort of way he explained his success on the fact that the clubs had nowhere else to go. If they went to an English architect they were too expensive. Often he only charged £200, explaining that in the beginning he hadn’t the confidence in his abilities. Sometimes if the challenge seemed too great he would say ‘if I was in your position and I wanted to make some money I wouldn’t use Hackett, I would use a Nicklaus or a Palmer or a Trent Jones. Of course in some cases they did. Palmer was hired for Tralee, and Robert Trent Jones Senior for Ballybunion New. Almost simultaneously in the late 1960s and the early 70s the golfers at Waterville, Connemara and Donegal got the bug again and they wanted new large championship courses. All used the same architect, the little known ex-club professional Eddie Hackett. He certainly produced at Murvagh ‘a championship links where the tiger and holiday golfer are equally at home’

In London in July 1971 eight golf course architects met together to establish The British Association of Golf Course Architects. The name was changed to British Institute in the early 1990s. At the Institute’s Silver Jubilee Dinner in held at Wentworth in October 1996, the Institute awarded silver medals to four Fellows for their outstanding contribution to golf course architecture. One of these was Eddie Hackett.

Design Philosophy

Probably as a result of his Catholic education Eddie Hackett was a deeply religious man. In many ways the act of creating a new golf course was a spiritual task. His design philosophy was minimalist. This was like Tom Morris who used to say that God was the best course designer. Eddie thought that his job as the architect was to seek the best natural routing for the holes over the piece of land with which he had to work. This meant very little costly earth-moving and little disturbance to the natural surroundings. Of course he was lucky with so many of his courses being built in natural Irish dune land. He is quoted as saying ‘Mother Nature is the best architect I just try to work with what the Good Lord provides.’ It would perhaps be wrong to pick out one course from his many designs but possibly Hackett’s most famous course is Waterville in County Kerry.

During his career he designed or remodelled all or part of 85 courses, and all of them in Ireland. Contrast this with the American Robert Trent Jones Senior who has designed courses in 23 countries. This is quite remarkable for a man who had no partner and no employees. So what about the design of his courses? Despite his upbringing on some of the best links courses he is unhappy with some of their features such as blind tee shots and hidden hazards. He prefers to make the challenges of a hole visible from the tee. While his courses tend to be long from the back tees, a common feature is, where possible, to have clear landing areas often from spectacularly elevated tees, and also large greens. Nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than at Belmullet Golf Club at Carne. There are no bizarre bunkers, ostentatious ledges, artificial mounds or strangely shaped greens. Hackett does not talk so much about designing holes but finding them.

The famous Alister Mackenzie had certain design principles that he tried to incorporate in the layout of a course. It would appear that Eddie Hackett did not. In advising a young man who wanted to get started in golf course architecture he told him first to go to Killarney and study how the two courses are laid out. He should take them as a pattern to follow in designing courses and bear in mind that the area had been mostly woodland, and much of it affected by the lakes. The student should then remember that no two sites are alike, every one a fresh challenge and the task is to produce the best course possible to suit the golfing capabilities of both the high handicap players and the champions. The designer should also have holes with a variety of directions, the natural features should be used whenever possible to provide interest in play and scenic features. The tees should be aligned properly with no monotony in the shape of the greens or locations of bunkers. Long holes were to be broken up by short holes between them and no two par five holes or par threes were to be in succession. Finally it should be ensured that there is adequate space between the holes so that only a very wayward shot can endanger other persons.

Any golfer who has played any of Eddie Hackett’s courses will recognise these in his many excellent designs. What an amazing man and what a contribution he made to not only golf in Ireland but also to the economy of the west of the country. Eddie Hackett died in 1997 aged 86. His latter years on his beloved links must have been healthy for him.

References


THE HONOUR OF WINNING a major sporting event is given to very few of us but most of those who win are afforded an opportunity to do so again. Although we were warned by the ancient Greeks that 'Those whom the Gods love, die young', many of us might wish that the Gods had restrained their affection for Jack Allan, a young man who won the Amateur Golf Championship at his first attempt.

The Early Years and Schooling
Alexander John Travers Allan, always known as Jack, had a Scottish father and an English mother. His father, Alexander, had graduated MD from Edinburgh in 1858 and as an Assistant Surgeon had joined the 17th Foot in 1859. In 1874, as Surgeon Major, he was working at the Royal Navy hospital in Portland, on the Dorset coast, famous as the largest artificial harbour in the country and with the 6,000 foot long breakwater, built by convicts. It was here that his son was born, on the 17th of November 1875. Subsequent postings saw Alexander in the Sudan in 1885, but with promotion to Deputy Surgeon General in 1890, he was returned to Britain and became Principal Medical Officer for Scotland. The different postings meant that Allan had frequent changes of school culminating in the final and fortunate move in 1891 to Edinburgh:

Southampton Private School To 1885
Southsea Grammar School 1885-1887
Private Tutor 1887-1889
Robert Gordon's College Aberdeen 1889-1890
Dublin High School 1890-1891
George Watson's College 1891-1892

In Edinburgh the family lived at 16, Nile Grove, in the southern suburb of Morningside. The outstanding academic reputation of Watson's College needs no additional encomium from one who was not a pupil there and the school was rated one of the best training schools for athletes in the country.1 After two years Allan had been taught so well that he passed the Educational Institute of Scotland exams in English, Latin, French, Arithmetic, History and Geography, Latin Composition and Algebra Euclid, although only the first four subjects were required for entry to the School of Medicine.2

Edinburgh University School of Medicine
On the 18th of October 1892, Allan matriculated with number 1167.3 He signed his full name in a neat, firm hand with no flamboyant flourishes or curlicues, but any pride that he may have felt at following in his father's career would be tempered by the sad knowledge that the latter had died earlier in the year, aged 56.

Classes, with compulsory attendance, were held on six days of the week, only Sunday being free. At the end of his first year Allan sat the First Professional Examination (First MB) in Botany, Natural History (Zoology), Physics, Chemistry and Practical Physics. He passed all except Zoology, which he had to sit again, or 'remit', as the book has it, but he passed at the second attempt.2 In the Summer of 1894 he sat the Second MB, even today regarded as the hardest hurdle giving rise to the largest failure rate, and passed Anatomy, Practical Anatomy, Practical Physiology, Practical Pharmacy, but not, unfortunately, Physiology, and Materia Medica and Therapeutics, which he had to remit in the autumn, when he passed both. Third MB involving Pathology, Practical Pathology, Medical Jurisprudence and Public Health posed no problems and so he entered his final two years to face a daunting seventeen subjects or courses. The number of lectures in each subject varied, 100, 50, 35, 25, 13 but not all the courses were taken at once, being split over the years 1895-97 and he progressed satisfactorily to reach the Final MB examinations in July 1897. These consisted of written papers and oral/practical examinations in Clinical Surgery, Clinical Medicine and Practical Midwifery. Scanning some of the exam papers from Allan's time it is clear that the Final exams included several questions from the 'lesser' eleven subjects that had been taken during the last two years, so this made for a wide ranging and severe test. Allan had to sign the book again, in the same neat but firm signature, attesting that he was over the age of 21 years and that he expected to graduate on the 31st of July 1897.
Building a local reputation in golf

Not until 1892 when he was at University did Allan turn to golf, playing at the Braid Hills, a public course that was fairly close to Nile Grove. He was self taught and a quick student because within two years he had reduced the course record to 69 shots, which remained unbroken until after his death, and he repeatedly won the University Golf Club Gold Medal. He was also a member of the Watsonian Golf Club and in 1895 he not only won the Club's Summer Meeting at Gullane, but equalled the course record score of 70, set by AM Ross. Along the way he set new records at Glencorse (64) and Mortonhall (70). He was elected Vice Captain of the University Golf Club on the 27th of November 1896 and on the 5th of December he won the Scratch prize in the University Season opener, with a gross 75 at Musselburgh, off a handicap of +2. On the 26th of February 1897 he played for Edinburgh against St Andrews University at North Berwick, and won his match in a comprehensive team victory. Over three weekends leading to the 17th of April he played for Watsonians in five matches as they won the Dispatch Trophy Tournament. However he was human after all, and on the 3rd of July 1897, at a Watsonian Club meeting at North Berwick, playing in gale force winds he took 102 shots, which was well behind the winning total of 86, although this did nothing to besmirch his burgeoning local reputation for golf.

The Amateur Golf Championship, 1897

Perhaps because the Final was contested by players aged 19 and 21 years some have dismissed it as being a 'weak' contest. The correspondent for The Scotsman described the field of 74 entrants as 'embracing all the outstanding golfers of the day, with only Horace Hutchinson being absent'. Numbers do not necessarily signify quality but in the field were previous winners MacFie (1885), Ball (1888, '90, '92, '94 and Open Champion 1890), Laidlay (1889, '91), Balfour-Melville (1895), Tait (1896), and also future winners Hilton, Hutchings, Maxwell, and Robb. Other big guns of the day were HS Colt and S Mure Fergusson while Laurie Auchterlonie again entered, before turning professional, emigrating, and winning the US Open in 1902.

The venue

The Championship was played at Muirfield, which had already hosted the Open Championship in 1892 and 1896 when Hilton and Vardon won respectively, on both occasions with fields of less than 74 competitors. The correspondents of The Times and The Scotsman wrote of the four mile distance from Drem Station to the course, but buses were provided to meet each train and ferried the spectators both ways while a special train left Drem for Edinburgh at 6.15 each evening. Entrants who had paid their one guinea fee to play in the competition received vouchers for discounted rail fares. Both correspondents wrote about the fine condition of the course, which needed only a little rain (it soon received this), better than in the previous year with the greens 'keen but remarkably true'. Both were generous in their praise of Mr Hope and Mr Asher, the Captain and Secretary respectively, of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, for the arrangements, 'for which no effort seems to have spared' and were 'admirable and complete and passed off without the slightest hitch'. The correspondent for Golf thought that the arrangements went 'like clockwork', and that the tents and marquees provided for the spectators were to be commended, while the players and officials enjoyed the luxurious clubhouse facilities.

The 27th of April

The weather throughout the day was an 'Easterly wind, wretched, being bleak, wet and dismal all day', so although as yet unnoticed and unmentioned by the Press, both Allan and Robb were two of the 54 competitors fortunate to receive a bye in the first round. This produced no surprises with all the famous names progressing, but in the afternoon the second round saw the carnage start as the 'Knights of Great Renown' slew each other. First, twenty year-old Maxwell who had joined Tantallon Golf Club just so that he could play in the Championship, and for whom his teacher, Ben Sayers, caddied, beat Ball after extra holes in a match that Ball afterwards claimed was one of the hardest in which he had ever played. Balfour-Melville beat MacFie by 6&4, Turnbull beat Hutchings after extra holes and thus also did Miller defeat Laidlay.

The 28th of April

For the third round the air 'was clear and mild, and there were welcome gleams of sunshine'. The Times correspondent mentioned that 'the weather was fine and the greens were easy'. After the rain they would be, wouldn't they, if one did not have to put on them under pressure? More 'Knights' tumbled out and half the winners from the previous round found themselves progressing no further. Mure Fergusson lost to Walker by 6&5, Greig beat Tait by one hole, while Balfour–Melville beat Turnbull by 6&4 and Colt beat Miller by 2&1. Allan and Robb continued on their way unaffected and it was at this stage The Times stated 'So complete a collapse of leading men in the game at so early a stage has not previously occurred in the history of the tournament'. In the fourth round, played in the afternoon, Maxwell accounted for Hilton by 6&5, Lawson beat Greig by one hole and Balfour-Melville beat Colt by 6&4, so that some of the casualties were simply as a result of the absence of seeding of the
more prominent players. Allan and Robb continued on their way but at last their names and progress were mentioned in the newspaper and magazine columns, not simply listed in the results.

The 29th of April
With seven Scotsmen in the last eight only Spencer was left to uphold the honour of English golf, which had The Scotsman correspondent gloating that ‘Scotsmen have once more established their supremacy in the game which is particularly their own’. The weather was pleasant all morning when Low beat Spencer by 3&2; then Robb accounted for Maxwell by one hole. Allan disposed of Auchterlonie by 2 up and Balfour-Melville halted Lawson’s progress by 5&4. By the afternoon the weather had become boisterous, with a strong west wind so the players’ powers were tested to the full and it was in these conditions that Robb squeezed past Low after extra holes while Allan, combined ‘the coolness of youth, brilliant play and deadly putting’ to defeat Balfour-Melville by 3&1. Now the Press noticed them! ‘A young generation of players has sprung up. It was in the nature of things that, with the yearly increasing popularity of the game, new figures would appear … and the ‘charmed circle’ within which one was accustomed to look for the champion, would be broken.’

Getting to the Final
So little attention had been paid by the Press to the two finalists that it might be useful to compare their two paths:

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<td>Round 1</td>
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<td>Round 2</td>
<td>FF Ridley by 2&amp;1</td>
<td>J Hornby by 3&amp;2</td>
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<td>Round 3</td>
<td>DG Greenlees by 3&amp;2</td>
<td>W Fogo by 4&amp;3</td>
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<td>Round 4</td>
<td>AW Smith by 3&amp;2</td>
<td>HGB Ellis by 7&amp;6</td>
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<td>Round 5</td>
<td>L Auchterlonie by 2up</td>
<td>R Maxwell 1up</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Final</td>
<td>L Balfour-Melville by 3&amp;1</td>
<td>J Low at the 21st.</td>
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The Final, a mishap and criticism
‘Favourable weather, with a pretty stiff south-west wind, bright sunshine and the air fresh and bracing, and the arrangements all that could be asked for’ saw the first hole halved in 4, but thereafter Allan took control. He was 3 up after four holes, and 3 up at the turn, out in 43 to Robb’s 49. Coming in, Robb fought back with 39 shots to Allan’s 42, but he was still one down at lunch. The next nine holes were fairly even with Allan out in 42 to Robb’s 43, even though Allan hit into, and played out of, the pond on the seventh, but crucially he was 2 up. The tenth hole was halved and then came disaster for Robb. Allan hooked his second shot at the eleventh hole so that it hit the wall guarding a field and rebounded onto the course, some four yards behind the ball of Robb. The correspondent noted:

Robb’s caddie picked up the ball and pocketed it while Robb went forward and played his. It might, at first, have been supposed that the caddie thought that Mr Allan’s ball was in the field, but his subsequent conduct did not admit of this charitable excuse, and after the Captain and the members of the committee looked closely into the matter, they saw fit to ask his employer to dismiss him from the scene and awarded the hole to Mr Allan.

Robb’s cause was lost and although he won the thirteenth hole, Allan triumphed by 4&2, the coup de grace being the holing of a long downhill putt by Allan on the sixteenth green, for his par four.

Allan’s Watsonian teammates hoisted him shoulder high and carried him to the Clubhouse where Mr Hope presented him with the Gold Medal and presented the trophy to the University Golf Club, who put it on display in the University Union for a year. Sadly, neither Robb, nor either of the beaten semi-finalists turned up at the Ceremony to collect their medals. It was generally agreed that the finalists had not played as well as they had done in the preliminary rounds and several of the ‘Knights of Great Renown’ voiced considerable criticism of the course afterwards. One critic was scathing about the absence of forecaddies, claiming that this would have prevented the debacle of the 29th hole, rather than cavil in a disgruntled manner, and given proximity of Muirfield to the Firth of Forth and the North Sea, I believe that George Pottinger’s nautical aphorism provides the best summary: ‘This was a year when youth was both on the prow and at the helm.’

How good were the finalists?
 Critics claim that the Luck of the draw which led to so many ‘Knights of Great Renown’, demolishing each other made progress to the final easy for Robb and Allan, but this overlooks a salient point. Both finalists were already highly regarded as outstanding young golfers. Robb was the son of a Fife farmer and at nineteen worked as a clerk in the Clydesdale Bank of St Andrews. Thick set and sturdy he did not take a full swing, but was quick, eager and business-like, in the approved St Andrews style. He had already secured fame in several tournaments when Old Tom Morris claimed that Robb would hold his own with any amateur or professional and in 1897 he had been in splendid form winning nearly all of the trophies of the St Andrews Club while also holding the course record of 74. He was the low amateur, aged seventeen, in the Open Championship of 1895 when JH Taylor won at St. Andrews, and in 1900 he lost to Hilton in the final of the Amateur Championship, appearing in the scene that was used as the sepia-toned cover image.
of this publication in 2008. In 1906 he achieved the triumph and Championship that he sought, at Hoylake, and he also played for Scotland against England on five occasions.

Allan, at age 21 was 5 foot 10 inches tall and slim, weighing about 11 stone. His success came as no surprise to the local golfing fraternity and an international player had prophesied 'he'll be a champion and before long too.' Although 'he had not previously courted fame in these open meetings, he is known among Edinburgh golfers ... as a really capable golfer, strong in all parts of the game, and excelling in that he posses a wonderfully easy and pretty style'. His 'style had a good deal of individuality... standing almost upright he has a long, easy, slow, and what at first glance might appear to be a loose swing'. He was not a long hitter but never pressed, being regularly out driven by Robb. However, his drives went far enough and were sure and arrow-straight, while 'his approaching and putting, in which he gave the impression of topping the ball, were as deadly as a mortal's could be'. Critics complained that he hit his pitching and chipping iron shots in a unorthodox fashion and 'not played off the wrist', in the accepted St. Andrews style, but this was before Walter Hagen pointed out that in golf it is not 'How, but How Many', that counts. Everyone agreed that he was a splendid putter. He played with courage and a coolness that at times was nonchalant and seemingly carefree, so calm that it almost amounted to casualness and he never hurried or appeared to become concerned at a bad break or his opponent’s good fortune. Calm and imperturbable he fought his own fight.

He had two idiosyncratic characteristics: he played bare-headed through choice and eschewed any form of nail, stud or tacket in his golfing shoes, claiming that this allowed him to stay in balance and swing within himself. One correspondent who criticised Robert Maxwell for constantly seeking advice from his caddy, Ben Sayers, during a round, overlooked that Maxwell demonstrated considerable consistency and skill by being able to hit the shots as instructed. However, there could be no such comment made about Allan who preferred his own counsel at all times, and in fact selected as his caddy for the Championship the smallest boy he could find on the Gullane road. To the surprise of many Allan took the train to Drem each day and then cycled the eight mile round trip to Muirfield and back wearing the same ‘boots wi nae tackets’ as the locals put it, throughout the day.

A disappointment and graduation
Until the start of 1897 Sunday was the only day of the week in which there was no compulsory attendance at University classes, and the accounts above show that Allan was playing a great deal of golf, including his finest hour and performance, in the run up to his final year classes and exams. He sat his final exams during the summer and when the results were posted, Allan had easily passed both parts of Surgery and Medicine. But he had also failed both parts of Midwifery. It would be easy to attribute his initial failure in the Midwifery finals to inadequate study, but it is also testament to his sporting prowess and intellect that he passed all the other exams while playing so much golf.

Remit was scheduled for October and on this occasion Allan passed both parts, so at a graduation ceremony held in conjunction with one other colleague on the 23rd of October, he was awarded the degrees Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, MB ChB, and became Dr Allan. He was registered with the General Medical Council on the 8th of November, 1897 giving him a licence to practise medicine, and his name appears in the Medical Register for 1898 and in the Edinburgh University Calendar of 1898-99.
Medical practice
Allan had missed the opportunity to apply for a position as resident physician or surgeon in the Royal Infirmary, but in those days there was no legal compulsion for new graduates to undertake these roles, although many did so in order to gain experience. Allan could have joined an established general practice or even set up in his own practice, but as we now know, he had contracted tuberculosis. He would have been aware of the disease, his prognosis and also of the risk of passing on the disease to any patients that he treated. In the limited records that I have found of general practice groups in Edinburgh at the time his name does not appear, leading to the supposition that, although fully licensed, Allan, following graduation, never practised medicine in any meaningful manner.

A medical conundrum
How did Allan come to contract tuberculosis? ‘Consumption’, as it was known then, was rife in the crowded, dirty inner cities of Scotland and many families in Edinburgh still kept cows in byres either next door to, or even underneath, their dwellings. Although Allan’s family lived on the edge of the city, in Morningside, it is recorded that large numbers of invalids with tuberculosis flocked to that area during the winter and spring. Also in his final years as a student Allan worked as an assistant to Dr Haultain, a senior and well-respected obstetrician and gynaecologist in Edinburgh, who was himself a scratch golfer, Captain of Mortonhall Golf Club and also Captain of the Carlton Club, for whom Allan played cricket. Despite Allan’s previous good health and a suitable environment with plenty of exercise in the fresh air, all of which were regarded as powerful defences against infection, and also good prognostic indicators for spontaneous resolution of the disease, it must be considered a strong possibility that he contracted the disease from patients that he saw or examined. He went to Mavisbank Sanatorium, in Aberdeen, where treatment at that time would have involved a diet with plenty of eggs, fresh milk, and sleeping in a bed near an open window. If the day were dry he would be outside perhaps doing some light manual garden labour or just walking. In the absence of any specific treatment he would be given creosote capsules, cod liver oil, and Fowler’s solution, which contained arsenic, but all to no avail. The disease was relentless and progressed rapidly.

Called home
Allan died at home in Nile Grove on the 3rd of March 1898, and was buried in Morningside Cemetery on the 5th. Wreaths went sent by The University Athletic Club, the University Golf Club, The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, The Watsonian Golf Club, Carlton Club, The University Union, Officials, Nurses and Patients at Mavisbank, which gives some idea of the esteem in which this young man was held. Brief obituaries appeared in the British Medical Journal and in the Edinburgh Medical Journal but the one from which it seems most appropriate to quote some passages was written by those who knew him best, his friends and colleagues. What stunned everybody was not the suddenness of his death which was by no means unexpected but the rapid grave development which rendered hope of recovery impossible. His eminently social, straightforward nature made him always a favourite and his loss has been sustained by those present at the University. He began to play golf when he started his student career in 1892, he was self-taught and his easy style could have been termed indifferent, with consummate coolness. This bare-headed laddie, relying entirely on his own judgement and knowledge of the game, defeated opponents with the accuracy of his game, all round excellent, perfect approach play and almost certain accuracy in putting. His sportsman-like spirit was shown by the number of times he acceded a half and his character was shown by the unassuming manner in which he carried his success. No lofty pedestal was his and he was willing to indulge in his favourite pastime with friends, be they pretty good, bad or indifferent. He thus combined the
true attributes of those whom we as students love
to honour. Though pre-eminently distinguished
in sport he possessed more than average ability in
completing his medical curriculum in the shortest
time available.

Well, almost, but honestly who cares now?

Allan must have been an unusual and remarkable
character to have generated such affection from
so many and there remains a memorial to him in
the existence of the Jack Allan Trophy, played for
each year as the Scottish Universities Individual
Golf Championship. Golf’s greatest essayist,
Bernard Darwin, himself twice a semi-finalist in the
Championship including at Muirfield in 1909, but
who never saw him play, wistfully questions what
Allan might have won, and later lists Allan among
the people that he wished to have seen play.25,
26 How many of us will ever be honoured by that
accolade?

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Looking forward to a fine day on Gullane Hill at the Scottish Hickory Championship.
As most of us are aware, Babe Zaharias (Mildred Didrikson) was the most accomplished woman golfer of her day. She was born at Port Arthur, Texas, in June 1916 and died at Galveston, Texas, of cancer in September, 1956. Arguably she could be favourably compared with present-day golfers. However she was an athlete of renown before she took up golf. In the 1932 Olympic Games she won three gold medals with world records: the Women’s 80 metre hurdles, javelin and high jump.

On giving up athletics, she took up golf and won the Texas Women’s Open in 1940, 1945 and 1946; the US National Women’s Amateur in 1946; and the British Ladies’ Amateur Championship in 1947, being the first American to do so. In August 1947 she turned professional and went on to win the US National Women’s Open in 1948, 1949 and 1950. In winning the Tampa Open in 1951, she set up a then women’s world record aggregate of 288 for 72 holes. She was voted Women Athlete of the year in 1932, 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1950 and in 1949 was voted the greatest woman athlete of the half-century. Babe was the first woman to hold the post of Head Professional at a golf club and was a courageous and fighting character who left her considerable mark on the world of sport.

The Athlete

To commemorate her athletic feats the Dominican Republic issued a set of eight stamps on the 24th of January 1957, the 17 cent denomination depicting the then Mildred Didrikson (miss-spelt Didrickson on the stamp), hurdling at the 1932 Games (Fig. 1). This stamp was also issued imperforate (Fig. 2). I also have in my collection, souvenir sheets in both perforate and imperforate format. On the 8th of February 1957 the Dominican Republic used the same set of stamps overprinted and surcharged with Hungarian Refugee Fund +2c. (Fig. 3). First day
Through the Green, March 2009

covers of course, were produced (though are difficult to find), and I have a perforate example. Imperforate souvenir sheets showing other notable athletes are not illustrated here.

At the third Pan-American Games in Chicago in 1959, the Dominican Republic issued the original stamps on the 10th of September, but this time overprinting with the surcharge of a runner, again in red. Fig. 4 shows an imperforate example, which I believe was the only type issued.

Liberia, on the 19th of August 1996, issued a set of eight stamps commemorating the Olympics, which were then being held in Atlanta, Georgia, one of which featured Babe Didrikson (Fig. 5). Then on the 12th of April 2004 the Dominican Republic again returned to the Olympics theme with an Olympic History set of eight stamps, one of which shows M Didrikson (Fig. 6).

Finally, the Guinea Republic in 2007 issued a souvenir sheet commemorating the 1932 Olympic Games at Los Angeles (Fig. 7). The background features Charles Lindbergh and his Spirit of St Louis with the stamp depicting the Babe in both her athletic and golfing roles.

The Golfer

On the 22nd of September 1981, the USA issued two stamps commemorating the achievements of Bobby Jones and Babe Zaharias. Fig. 8 illustrates the first day cover that commemorate Babe’s golfing exploits, with a Pinehurst NC cancellation. Fig 9 is a full-size illustration of the individual stamp showing The Babe holding the British Ladies’ Amateur Championship Trophy, which she won at Gullane in 1947.

Somalia issued a souvenir sheet (date unknown) later, of some ‘Lady Golfing Greats’, including the Babe (Fig. 10).

These then are the only stamps featuring the Babe that have been issued. It is sad that there has only been one stamp issued by the USA for such a distinguished citizen.

Copy date for the June issue of TTG is 15th of May
The term ‘classic clubs’ probably means different things to different people but in the purist sense there are three main defining criteria: the age of the club, the pre-eminence of the maker and the quality of manufacture.

**Age**

Most classic clubs were produced post-World War II and probably before 1980. This is by no means exclusive. Some of the pre-War Wilson sand wedges are highly desirable and many people would consider them classics. An example would be the Wilson Helen Hicks National Champ model that was used by Lee Trevino in the 1972 Open Championship at Muirfield. This club is kept in the British Golf Museum at St Andrews is exceptionally aesthetic in appearance and dates from the late 1930s. From the same decade are some very collectable sand wedges used and developed by Gene Sarazen and Wilson although most do not bear his name. Some of the persimmon woods produced by Hillerich and Bradsby in the 1930s could be considered very collectable because of their very graceful shape.

**Manufacturers**

After the Second World War golf had a period of significant development, and manufacturers such as MacGregor, Hogan, Wilson, and Hillerich and Bradsby all started to offer clubs of high quality and graceful appearance. These companies are probably best remembered for their persimmon woods but some of the irons are still today the best-looking shape ever produced. It is interesting to observe that a high proportion of professionals still play with irons that, although of recent manufacture, are copied from the MacGregor Tommy Armour Silver Scot 985 model.

Whilst the companies in the USA were pre-eminent, some British manufacturers also made clubs that are highly desirable. John Letters made clubs that were sold as Fred Daly Master Model. The sand wedge in this set is one of the best shapes ever produced. They also made clubs for Dunlop that were used by Tony Jacklin in the 1969 Open championship at Royal Lytham. A feature of this model, designated Maxfli, was the square toe very similar to the Roberto de Vincenzo model and still playable today. George Nicoll made several Henry Cotton wedges.
Cotton models for a long period, some of which are very collectable.

Technology
During the 1950s shafts began to improve with the development of the Dynamic and later the Rocket shaft. New manufacturing techniques brought performance improvements. Whilst Hillerich and Bradsby did not produce the volume of clubs made by MacGregor, Wilson and Hogan, they were consistent in their quality and aesthetic appearance. MacGregor was undoubtedly the company of the 1960s with such classic models as the 1964 Tourney DX, the 1967 Nicklaus VIP and the 1967 Tommy Armour Silver Scot 985. A reproduction of the VIP was used by Jack Nicklaus and David Graham at Muirfield in 1980. The following year this was available from club professionals as the MacGregor Muirfield. Whilst it is only 30 years old it is still a classic golf club.

The Ben Hogan company produced several classic irons and woods during the 1970s. Examples of these are the first Apex launched in 1973 and known as the Apex Classic. Two other important models were the Apex 2 and the Medallion, both from the late 1970s. Many people will remember the Staff models made by Wilson over a long period of time and they are considered by some to be a benchmark for classic irons. More difficult to find than the irons and woods, are the bags from these decades, particularly the Staff or Tournament bags.

One of the major benefits of collecting classic clubs is that the irons in particular can be used week by week without the player being very disadvantaged. Providing most of the weight is below the middle of the blade, the classic iron will project the ball on a good trajectory.

Putters
Besides sets of irons and persimmon woods another very important area of classic club collection is that of putters. The Wilson Company probably led in this field but MacGregor also made some very good models. Any area of collection can be very restricted or quite broad depending on interest of a given individual. With this in mind it may be considered that early Ping putters should be thought of as classic.

For those people who are concerned with value, some of the classic clubs may bring significant amounts of money when offered at auction. These are usually clubs produced in limited numbers or owned by some particular player or celebrity. For those who are interested in the clubs themselves, it is a glorious opportunity to collect affordable artifacts that can still be used.

See the fixture list for details of the outing organised by John Holt at Clitheroe GC in September, aimed specifically at members wishing to play with classic clubs, but also allowing hickories and modern clubs (Ed)
AND SO, what now seems an immeasurable length of time since I first introduced you to Part One of early ladies golf books, we now reach a truly golden era of play. For between the 1930s and the late 1950s, as teaching methods and the general overall standard of play advanced, there emerged several players, who became household names of the game and forever true legends. In turn several of these celebrities published their own ‘secrets for success’. Therefore let our slightly updated journey continue, based upon my chapter within *Aspects of Collecting Golf Books* published by Grant Books (1996).

**The match of the century**
This article would be totally incomplete without extensive coverage to the illustrious and stunning career of Miss Joyce Wethered (born 1901). Miss Enid Wilson, who was the most knowledgeable ladies golfing historian of my generation, stated without hesitation, that Miss Wethered was the greatest player either side of the Atlantic that she ever saw. Even Bobbie Jones waxed lyrical about her in the most glowing terms. Therefore Joyce Wethered’s *Golfing Memories and Methods* (Hutchinson, 1933), was a long overdue account of her reminiscences, and in particular her numerous victories in the Autumn Worplesdon Mixed Foursomes. Also revealed are the secrets of Miss Wethered’s technical skills, which are graphically illustrated by the numerous pull out pages of her swing sequence; these helped her achieve victories in every one of the five English Championships she entered, besides her four British titles.

Describing the final scene of her greatest comeback fairy tale British victory over America’s much-loved Glenna Collett, Joyce Wethered’s following quotation encapsulates the modesty of this truly outstanding but shy champion. Recalling their epic final in 1929, when she came out of retirement she wrote:

> It was only when the prize-giving and the speeches were over that I began to feel really free once more. Then came the awakening to the fact that the greatest ambition of my life had been realised after all – the winning of a championship at St Andrews. As a finale of ten years from my first championship it seemed together too good to be true.

**Long overdue biography**
Since the publication of *Aspects*, Basil Ashton Tinkler, from Devon, has masterminded a beautifully crafted tribute to our champion, aptly entitled *Joyce Wethered - The Great Lady of Golf* (Tempus, 2004). In fact I had the great pleasure of welcoming Basil into our home some nine years ago to carry out research, and recently I was fortunate enough to relocate him for a suitable quote:

> I loved writing the book and I could not believe that no one had previously written a biography on this amazing lady. In fact it annoyed me intensely when the publisher didn’t even give her a hard cover! – in fact, dare I say the publishers were extremely difficult!

Yes I would readily agree, for sadly with time the delightful colourfully-illustrated card covers depicting JW’s graceful but assertive follow through will indeed become tatty, which is a great shame. However I fully recommend it as a jolly good read and I learnt much. Apparently 2,000 copies were published at £16.99. Therefore it is a must for every library.

Another set of fascinating facts and figures details the 1935 American Tour, which JW undertook as a professional. For between May 30th and September 15th she and various others famous players participated in a series of 51 fourball matches, which must surely have been an exhausting undertaking.
And finally devotees of our legend will no doubt have visited her former home of Knightshayes Court, near Tiverton, which she and her husband Sir John Heathcoat-Amory lovingly created. This is now in the capable hands of the National Trust and attracted almost 100,000 visitors last year. I would imagine that Lady Amory would have been greatly pleased – what a suitable tribute.

A close friend of the Wethereds and one of the finest champions of those golden years, Mlle Thion de la Chaume (later Madame Rene Lacoste (born 1908) and title holder of the 1924 Girls’ Championship and the 1927 British Ladies, at the time of compiling Aspects paid a glowing tribute to Lady Amory:

Joyce Wethered was certainly the best player of her time and maybe ever. With a beautiful swing she was the most modest and agreeable opponent. Worplesdon Foursomes were perhaps the most exciting meetings, with most of the champions of the day competing in the most friendly atmosphere. I was lucky to stay several times with the Wethered family – who were the most enjoyable people – both Joyce and Roger having a very good sense of humour.

(Lady Amory passed away in 1997 and Madame Lacoste in 2001)

The British rebel
Some while ago, I was fortunate to acquire an innocuous but immensely-revealing Zigzag magazine issued in the summer of 1935 and ‘devoted to new and forthcoming books’. It contains a four-page article by A Sports Lion. The ferocious beast in question was the legendary Miss Enid Wilson, (born 1911), who frequently ruffled the fur of many a young cub, as I can well confirm. She was the much-revered golfing correspondent of the Daily Telegraph from the late ‘40s until her retirement in the early 1970s, also submitting weekly articles to Golf Illustrated and other periodicals. As she roamed the course on her daily exercises, with everything, it appeared, bar the kitchen sink, slung around her shoulders she was a formidable character. Lurking within the bushes she would be observed, perched high aloft her shooting stick, and woe betide anyone who played a bad shot, for out would come the note pad and biro and the following day within her report, some caustic comment would appear, plus the necessary corrective medicine! Whilst Enid Wilson could be cruel at times with her pen, she had the most wonderful way with words, as can be gauged by this tribute she gave on Cecil Leith, when I asked her what CL was like. Back came her crystal clear answer: ‘She was like a meteor that swept across the sky at St Andrews – magic isn’t it.’

Glenna Collett (left) and Joyce Wethered pose outside the R&A Clubhouse at St Andrews in 1929
A further insight into the fiercely competitive character of Miss Wilson, can be gauged from the following piece, which she kindly wrote within my own copy of her *So That’s What I Do!* (Methuen, 1935):

Bob Lewis was a mandarin of Fleet Street, producing two or three magazines each year. The photographer Bertram Eary was superb. Bob knew a director of Methuen’s and arranged for us to do the book, supply the material and write the book. We were the first of the golf picture books fifty years ahead of our time. We argued over every picture and caption.

With its art deco dust wrapper the book, according to the publishers, ‘presents in picture form a complete collection of common errors and provides explanations’. Sadly there is only one plate of the author, taken during her 1933 semi-final appearance in The American Women’s Championship. As Lady Amory states in her joint foreword with the late Sir Henry Cotton, ‘naturally I should have liked to see something more of Enid Wilson’s own game’.

By rights Enid Wilson should have won the USA title, but lost twice in the semi-finals. Patricia Davies, the eminent golf writer (and sadly widow of the much respected and loved writer Dai Davies), indicated (at the time) that Enid Wilson was far too interested in watching the wild life, generally absorbing the American life style and accepting the warm hospitality of the people, to devote full concentration to her matches. Indeed Enid indicated that they treated her like the very Queen herself!

**Distinguished visitors**

In his foreword to Enid’s *A Gallery of Women Golfers* (Country Life, 1961), Bernard Darwin indicates that this three-times winner of the Ladies title ‘knows her stuff’. Indeed she does, and the book is just what her title implies – a wonderful cavalcade of golfing ladies from every conceivable part of the Commonwealth and beyond. This is the most action-packed ladies golf book ever, with no less than 478 photographs – a living testimony of a lifetime of reporting. Indeed no other ladies author can write within their own work, as Miss Wilson has kindly written within my own copy: ‘This book contains four photographs which I did not take, because I was not born’.

In addition, Miss Wilson makes her book even more pleasurable with her dry sense of humour, anecdotes and numerous amusing and strange happenings, that occurred on and off the courses of the world. Needless to say this manual can, and will, be enjoyed by both men and women alike. Here then is the ultimate scrap book, which while appealing to all, will especially bring fond memories to all players who recall the text and photos. There will never be a lady quite like Miss Wilson. A Sporting Lioness indeed.

Miss Wilson died in 1996 and knowing her half sister Frances Hindle from Bristol, I was highly honoured to be asked to be one of the five guest speakers, at her Thanksgiving Service at Knowle Park Golf Club. It was without doubt the scariest privilege I have ever had in my entire life!

**Golf’s great loss**

As with Miss Leitch, ‘another bright star who illuminated the skies throughout the golfing world from China to Peru’, as we are told in the preface to her *A Stroke A Hole* (Blackie, 1937), was Miss Pam Barton. All who were fortunate to watch or meet her were hugely impressed with what they saw and heard. Had it not been for her tragic untimely death in November 1943, at the tender age of 26, in an aircraft accident at Manston, Kent, she would have continued after the hostilities of World War II had ceased. Her record for one so young was aptly captured in Miss Rhonda Glenn’s *The Illustrated History of Women’s Golf* (Taylor, 1993).

An indication of the impression Miss Barton made upon her countless admirers and array of friends all over the world during her young and sadly short life (1917–1943), can be gauged from this tribute from Mrs Valentine (Jessie Anderson), from the greatly-loved three-times Ladies and six-times Scottish champion (born 1915):

Pam Barton was the most spectacular golfer – hit the ball very hard and did not mind being in the most terrible place. We went on the team to Australia and New Zealand and what fun she was to have as a member.

Pam Barton’s book, within Blackie’s Sports Series
was priced at a modest 2s 6d. It was the first moving picture manual of its kind, immensely visionary for its time, covering Miss Barton’s favourite eighteen holes.

Just before Miss Wilson passed away, she indicated within a taped interview I had the pleasure to share with her, that ‘Pam Barton’s sad untimely death put British ladies golf back at least twenty years’. What an amazing statement and fitting tribute to one so young, who had won the American and our Ladies title twice before her early death.

Later that year Jessie Valentine in collaboration with George Houghton produced her own teaching manual entitled *Better Golf Definitely* (Pelham, 1967), but personally I found it rather a disappointment, as there were no actual photographs of this 5ft 2in champion. I recall watching her in partnership with fellow Scot Jean Donald, winning the Northern Foursomes in the mid 60s, at Hoylake and being greatly in awe of wee Jessie’s uncanny consistency of play and gracious friendly manner towards the gallery.

Mrs Valentine died in 2006.

*The American breakthrough – The Babe*

Over the years, our shores have witnessed the arrival of numerous outstanding foreign champions, who have subsequently returned home with our much-prized Ladies title. However, none have captivated the public’s imagination more acutely than the legendary American, (although of Norwegian parentage) Mildred Didrikson Zaharias, known affectionately throughout the sporting world as simply, The Babe.

As with Lottie Dod, in a previous era, she was a winner at every sport she attempted. The Babe touched the hearts of all who came in contact with this most charismatic of human beings, from Presidents, the great and famous and to the vast galleries that flocked to watch her extraordinary deeds. More books have been written on The Babe, than any other female golfing personality. Indeed open any sporting encyclopaedia and her amazing story will attract your instant attention, as it did mine, as a sports mad teenager. In fact it will be my one regret to my dying day, that I was not taken as an eight-year-old to Cavendish Golf Club (near Buxton, Derbyshire), where the American touring professionals were playing an exhibition match in 1951. For legend relates that The Babe limbered up holding no less than six clubs in her hands at once – or has time allowed this fact to grow from maybe four clubs?

Someone who is qualified to speak authoritatively on matters concerning The Babe from first hand experience is our greatly admired and respected – and indeed my own first England Captain – Mrs Maureen Garrett (nee Ruttle), who played on the 1948 Curtis Cup team. Furthermore as many will confirm, no other person either side of the Atlantic, has done more to stimulate affection and moreover friendly rivalry between past Curtis Cup players of both nations than Mrs Garrett. Begun in 1955 Maureen was the 1983 winner of the USGA Bob Jones Award, which is as most know the highest honour a person can receive from this prestigious ruling body. The USGA website gives a complete list of winners. Moreover to emphasise her immense contribution, Mrs Garrett is the only lady outside
the USA to have been accredited with this award. Furthermore she was in 1996 elected a member of the Awards Committee – again the only foreigner. She generously gave this quote:

I played against The Babe in the semi-final of a championship at St Augustine in Florida in 1947 and lost 2 and 1. I think I managed to stay with her until the 17th because I putted well that day. Most of her opponents she overwhelmed with her power, but she had a good short game too. Having been with her in the same hotels and watched her practise my remaining impression is of someone who was rather a rough diamond but underneath had a heart of gold. She was a very strong tough character, but a friendly smile would come across her face at times. She could do so many things well. I recall her knitting argyle socks for her husband George and playing the mouth organ at the same time! Having competed in the 1932 Olympics - she was a great athlete, it now seems even sadder that she should lose her battle to cancer.

Having returned home with our British trophy in 1947, which she won at Gullane, The Babe swiftly relinquished her amateur status and capitalised on her tremendous earning potential by publishing her fine instruction manual entitled, *Championship Golf* (Sampson Low, 1949) with its excellent question and answer format; along with 51 full-page analytical photographs. The Babe’s dedication sums up the feelings of all golfers:

There are times when a golfer is tempted to throw his clubs away and forget the whole ‘humblin’ business’, and other times when he wouldn’t trade places with a king (or a queen) – that’s when the shots are long and true and the putts are dropping.

Walter Hagen wrote the foreword for this amazing young woman.

Her own autobiography entitled *This Life I’ve Led* (Robert Hale, 1956), was completed shortly before her death and is dedicated:

In memory of my mother and father, and to my husband, George, without whom there never would have been a life to lead.

Of the nine books on The Babe that we have in our collection without doubt the one that stands head and shoulders above all others, has got to be one of the most captivating and absorbing biographies ever written. This is entitled, *BABE: the life and legend of Babe Didrikson Zaharias* by Susan E Cayleff (Univ. Illinois Press, 1995), which sadly I did not know about at the time *Aspects* went to press. Every page contains fascinating facts and figures about this captivating human being. Goodness knows how long the book took Susan Cayleff to compile, for there are 742 cross references alone! The Babe
inspired all she met, no more so than when she was nearing her sad death. For according to the author the Babe’s outstanding qualities even inspired Ben Hogan and Sam Snead, whilst playing in the Canada Cup at Wentworth in 1956, to request that play be suspended in order to pray for her, and all players observed a moment of silence on her 45th birthday.

Even President Eisenhower on the day of her death, began his daily news conference from The White House to the nation, by paying her a heartfelt and moving tribute, saying that ‘sadly she had lost her last battle’.

I make no apologies for devoting so much space to The Babe, for she was totally unique, and her like will never be seen again.

Centenary histories
In 1992 the Ladies Golf Union, to mark their centenary, published (with Mainstream) *One Hundred Years of Women’s Golf* by Lewine Mair, Golf Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*. Whilst hurriedly constructed, the book is easy to read throughout. Abundantly illustrated it brings to life the leading figures of the women’s game, since its birth in 1893. The foreword is by HRH The Duke of York.

Of the national histories, without a doubt, I personally found the *Irish Ladies’ Golf Union (1893–1993)* by Dermot Gilleece and John Redmond, published by The Irish Ladies’ Golf Union, the best by far, with its profusion of early photographs and fascinating stories of the formative players. Although not the easiest to handle, it is an excellent read.

County publications
Since *Aspects*, numerous counties have produced their own centenary publications. By rights all should have a mention but space sadly prevents this.

The *Yorkshire Ladies County Golf Association 1900 – 2000*, compiled in the Millennium year, is an excellent account. It is a researchers dream, as it gives a year-by-year account of their long and proud history, which produced countless champions at every level – and All England County Team Champions on numerous occasions. Today they are always the team to beat. The compiler Heather Cawdry indicated that she was highly relieved to have finished her labour of love, and that she was looking forward to reducing her handicap!

The dustwrapper of *A Celebration of Ladies’ Golf in Gloucestershire*, (Private, 2003), uses the famous 1890 illustration from the *Illustrated London News* showing play over the ladies’ course at Minchinhampton Common. This history naturally mentions its most illustrious member Lady Margaret Scott, the winner of the first three Ladies Championships and of course champions such as Ruth Porter and Peggy Reece. The author Jenny May is to be congratulated on a really excellent read.

In addition Audrey Boliver’s *Staffordshire Ladies County Golf Association The First 100 Years*, (Private, 2007) with its extensive reference to Bridget Jackson MBE is a most interesting and highly-recommended read. Indeed all who were interviewed straight away remarked: ‘Oh Bridget – she IS Staffordshire Ladies Golf!’ for Bridget’s golfing career spans the whole of the last 50 years, who as a fifteen year-old won the British Girls, which was to be the start of an illustrious career – both as a player and an excellent and highly respected administrator, at all levels.

Club histories
Of the 49 ladies’ clubs listed within the directory of *Our Lady of the Green*, (1899), sadly only a handful now survive, but my own favourite is *Royal Portrush Ladies – a Backward Glance* (Private, 1992). The Club elected its first Lady Captain, Mrs Magill, in 1892, and hosted the British Ladies’ Championship in 1895. With its tasteful classy purple and gold front cover, and sepia coloured pages, brimming full of attractive formats *Laying the Turf* starts the ball rolling, by mentioning a distinguished array of the many greats within the game, who have brought glory to this famous club. We are told the book: ‘has been written and printed in a very short time but without the assistance and zeal of very many people this would not have been possible’. However whilst this is not obvious a Miss Kath Stewart-Moore, it strikes me, should take most of the credit for initially accepting the challenge to carry out the necessary research to get the book started.

Another that I would highly recommend from the original list is *The Aberdeen Ladies Golf Club, a centenary history 1892-1992* by Mrs Ruby Turberville (R MacAskill, 1992). I especially liked the chapter *What’s Cooking?* For besides serving up numerous revealing stories from the kitchen, over the past 100 years, readers are treated to fourteen pages of mouth-watering, north-of-the-border naughty but nice delights!

And finally I must mention *Formby Ladies’ Golf Club*, (Private, 1996). The foundation of the Ladies’ Club in 1896 followed a notice being placed in Formby Golf Club:

You are requested to attend a Meeting in the Dining Room of the Club on Thursday the 5th December at 4 o’clock in the afternoon, when steps will be taken for the formation of the Ladies Club. Signed the Secretary. 26-11.95.

The Ladies’ Club commissioned the eminent ladies sports writer Patricia Davies (nee Madill) to formulate this excellent publication, with its double cover illustration taken from a 1963 painting by E Gerrard, depicting one of the famous pine tree lined holes and rolling greens. Miss Beryl Brown (later Newton) brought much fame to the Club, in the ’20s
and ’30s by reaching the semi-finals of the Ladies Championship on no less than three occasions.

**Golf’s Golden Girl**

As a player I won but a single golf book – but what a gem and even now after 40 years viewing the fifteen sequence photos of the fluid swing of the all-conquering American Miss Micky Wright, brings instant goose pimples – for it is sheer perfection. Indeed her countless achievements meant the rewriting of the record books, such was her greatness. Referring once more to Rhonda Glenn’s *The Illustrated History of Women’s Golf*, readers are informed that:

During her career Miss Wright won more than one-fourth of the tournaments she entered. Those who saw her play believe that she was in the elite class of Vardon, Bob Jones, Ben Hogan and Jack Nicklaus.

And lastly the greatest possible tribute: ‘It’s the swing that Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson called the best in the world.’ Her book, *Play Golf the Wright Way* (Cassel, 1962) will have helped countless women achieve greater honours, for in her modest and unassuming manner she reveals her techniques. In a letter Miss Wright kindly gave me the following comments on her book:

From a teacher’s point of view, the most valuable parts of my book, I suppose would be: 1. Maintaining the relative square position throughout the swing. 2. Good balance through correct footwork, and of course the previous two are dependent upon a correct grip.

Undoubtedly Miss Wright’s instructional manual must rank as one of the finest of all time. If golf is all about obtaining a flawless swing, then this book must rank as my favourite. As for the actual written word, Mabel Stringer’s *Golfing Reminiscences* (1924) has to be up there with the very best. What a privilege it has been to hold them all and so many others.

**What of the future?**

Having now viewed hundreds of pages from an array of ladies’ golf books, I wonder what future golfing generations will gain from publications in, say another 100 years time? Maybe in an attempt to introduce more fun into this now-so-serious a game, we would learn of the re-introduction of the ‘Miss Higgins’, hickory-shafted clubs, the stymie and furthermore the compulsory use of the floating golf ball, thus compelling all to play the water shot, as hilariously depicted with George Duncan’s *Golf for Women* (1912). Maybe not – but only history will relate and God willing by that time I will, I trust, be playing my dream round over Royal Liverpool, with those legendary Cheshire erstwhile Ladies Champions, Mollie Graham (1901), Lottie Dod (1904), Gladys Ravenscroft (1912), Muriel Dodd (1913) and Doris Chambers (1923). Ah what tales and advice will they give me!

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Radio was the greatest media phenomenon of the 1920s and 1930s in Britain. The number of licence holders increased from 595,496 in 1923, the first full year of the British Broadcasting Company to 9,082,666 in 1939. It was a form of domestic entertainment that gripped the nation. This article is a survey of the development of golf coverage on the radio between 1923 and 1939. Between those years, at least 125 commentaries on golf matches and 60 talks were broadcast on radio by the BBC. To understand these broadcasts fully, it is necessary to trace the development of the BBC and specifically, the broadcasting of sports by it.

The British Broadcasting Company was formed on the 18th of October 1922 and made its first transmission on the 14th of November 1922. It was created by a consortium of companies with a strong commercial interest in the spread of radio. It was licensed and thereby tightly controlled by the Government through the Post Office. Its funding came through licence fees, collected by the Post Office and, for a short time, through a royalty on the sale of radio equipment. The Government was determined to avoid the free market growth that had occurred in the USA, which had resulted in what it called ‘the chaos of the ether’. The Government felt that licensing a single company was the best way to achieve this. One of the Government’s concerns was to restrict the wavelengths used by broadcasters so that they did not interfere with those used by the military. The country was to be divided into eight zones centred around London, Cardiff, Plymouth, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow or Edinburgh and Aberdeen. John Reith was appointed General Manager on the 14th of December 1922 and began work on the 30th of December.

The new company could not broadcast advertising material. There was a very strong lobby of newspaper interests which prevailed and the BBC could not broadcast live news, which included sports. On the 11th of November, three days before the first transmission, an agreement was reached with the news collecting bodies, the Proprietor’s Association and the Newspaper Society, that they would supply the BBC with summaries of the world’s news to cover approximately 30 minutes of transmission time.

Not all the stations came on stream at the same time and it took eleven months to set up the basic coverage. On the 23rd of August, 1923, when six of the eight stations were transmitting, the BBC introduced simultaneous broadcasting. This was the transmission of the same programme by all stations in the country using telephone wires to interconnect different stations so that the output from one microphone would operate in many stations simultaneously. Prior to that date, a programme transmitted in London, would only be heard by listeners who could pick up the London signal.

The BBC wanted to improve the amount of coverage throughout the country and did this by opening a series of ten low powered relay stations around the country where the programmes would be taken via simultaneous broadcasts. These were in place by the end of 1924 along with a new...
main station in Belfast. The relay stations took their programmes from London with some local programming in the afternoon and one evening a week. With the creation of nine main stations and ten relay stations between 60% and 70% of the population of England, Scotland and Wales could receive programmes by the end of 1924.

The BBC continued to try to have the ban on live news and sports lifted and this was debated by the Sykes Committee of Inquiry, which took place between April and August 1923. This looked mainly at the relationship between the BBC and the Post Office, particularly with regard to funding, but also debated the question of news and sports coverage. The press lobby prevailed and when the report was published on the 1st of October 1923, there was no change to the status quo recommended.

So where did this leave the coverage of sports and golf in particular? The BBC could not report on sports, but it could talk about it. One of the features of BBC programming in this period were ‘talks’ on specialised subjects and it was under this heading that golf made its debut on the BBC.

**Talk Radio**
It is highly fitting that the first golf talk was given by JH Taylor on the 31st of May 1923 on the London station. This was in the context of a long series of talks under the heading of *Men’s Talk* that ran from May to July at irregular intervals. The series lived up to its name and covered field and sports activities among others and generally lasted ten minutes. For example, the week before, on the 24th of May, Willie Smith, the current champion, gave a talk on billiards.

The only other golf talk in 1923 was given by the distinguished amateur, CB Macfarlane on the 4th of August on the London station. The title of his talk was *Some Golf Hints for the Holidays*. It is important to realize that these two talks would have only reached a limited audience. The full network was not yet up and running and both pre-date simultaneous broadcasting across the regions.

Throughout 1924, Reith continued to push for the BBC to be able to cover sporting events in negotiations with the press representatives. On the 16th of September, Reith brokered a deal that allowed the BBC to broadcast ceremonies, speeches and official functions provided that such broadcasts were limited to a preliminary announcement followed by the event itself without editorial comment. However, he could not win any concession to broadcast sports events. This agreement was to run until the 31st of December 1926.

The golf talks given in 1924 reflect the regional diversity of the BBC that year. There were six in total and all came from the regional stations. J Douglas Gardiner gave two *Golf Chats* from Aberdeen, while HF Johnston gave *A Chat About Golf* from Bournemouth. Captain Rowley gave a *Talk to Women* on golf, also from Bournemouth and Florence Austin addressed *Women’s Corner* about golf from Birmingham. James McCutcheon was the only person that year who talked about a specific subject, namely *The Treatment of Golf Courses*.

Reith was, if nothing else, extremely persistent and once again pursued the idea of broadcasting live sport in 1925. He met with the press representatives on the 20th of February and sought approval to broadcast four specific sports events but was turned down. Reith then referred the matter to the Post Office for arbitration. The Postmaster-General reserved his decision and pointed out to Reith that there would be a committee of inquiry before December 1926, when the licence was due to be renewed and that this would be discussed then. The Committee of Enquiry, chaired by the Earl of Crawford began its deliberations on the 20th of July 1925 and eventually published its report on the 2nd of March 1926.

The BBC tried an interesting approach in 1925 and 1926 to get around the prohibition of live sports coverage. They could not broadcast a commentary, but they could broadcast the event itself. The first event to be broadcast was supposed to be the 1925 Derby, run on the 27th of May. The idea was to capture the sounds and atmosphere of the race, but
without any commentary while it was being run. The whole programme was scheduled to last for twenty minutes, starting at 14:45. However, when the signal was given to start the transmission, the telephone lines carrying the signal went dead and the broadcast had to be abandoned.4

Ten months later, on the 29th of March 1926, the BBC tried again with coverage of a boxing match from the National Sporting Club between Johnny Curley and Harry Corbett. The idea was the same as the 1925 Derby, namely ‘to transmit the general “atmosphere” of the ring and such sounds as may be heard in it during the fight’. The coverage began at 22:00 with a five minute preliminary talk. This was followed by the introduction of the boxers and then the listeners were then treated to ten minutes of the sounds of the fight.5 Presumably they heard a combination of cheering, booing and grunting with little idea of what actually happened. On the 2nd of June there was another attempt to broadcast the Derby in the same format planned for 1925. This time everything worked and the sounds of crowds and horses reached the listeners’ homes, but they had to wait until the evening news to find out who had won.6 These were interesting experiments to find a way of doing live sports that did not contravene the agreement with the press parties.

Reverting back to 1925, there was a major technological breakthrough with the opening of the new Daventry transmitter on the 27th of July. It was the biggest broadcasting station in the world with a 25 kilowatt transmitter. There were excellent land line links with London from where programmes would be provided. It did not broadcast alternative programmes but rather acted as a booster for the London station, thereby extending coverage.

There were eight golf talks during 1925, three of which originated in London and the other five in the regional stations. On the 31st of January 1925, Bernard Darwin made his first broadcast about golf, called Golf from London. The next London broadcast was on the 9th of May, when there was a talk from the anonymous Colonel Bogey. The final London broadcast featured Jim Barnes, the new Open Champion on the 7th of July. Florence Austin gave another chat on golf from Birmingham. The remaining four talks for the year were all chats on golf given by Kolin Robertson from Leeds-Bradford. Those by Robertson, Austin and Colonel Bogey were only broadcast locally. Darwin’s talk went nationwide. Barnes’ was a late piece of scheduling and was not listed in the programmes but it probably went out to all the regions.7

The publication of the Crawford Committee Report on the 2nd of March 1926 would have a monumental impact on the BBC. It recommended that the BBC become a corporation by Royal Charter rather than a private company doing a public service. One of the objectives in the new charter would be ‘to collect news and information relating to current events in any part of the world and in any matter that may be thought fit and to establish and subscribe to news agencies’.8 In short, it would be able to broadcast live sports. On the 14th of July, the Postmaster-General announced officially that the Government would accept the report’s main recommendations and that the British Broadcasting Company would become the British Broadcasting Corporation on the 1st of January 1927.

There were a total of nine golf talks in 1926, three of which originated from London and the other six from the regions. Kolin Robertson gave another three talks to the Leeds-Bradford listeners, while Florence Austin entertained the listeners in Stoke-on-Trent. GC Manford gave the audiences in Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow the benefit of his wisdom about the prospects in the Scotland v England match. Jose Jurado gave a talk on Argentine and English Golf on the 20th of April from London, which went nationwide. Cecil Leitch gave a talk on the 10th of July which was entitled Women’s and Men’s Golf Compared, which went out nationally from London. Two talks were given by golfer turned writer, Eleanor Helme. The first was for a Scottish audience in Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow on the 19th of June and called Ladies Golf. The second, Ladies Golf in 1926 was broadcast from London, but

Cecil Leitch gave a talk on Women’s Golf in 1926, after winning the last of her four Ladies’ Championships
not linked nationally, on the 28th of October.

On the 17th of November 1926, the BBC made a critical policy decision that would affect all its broadcasting, namely to curtail the amount of programming made in the regions. It would replace the existing stations in London, Glasgow, Manchester and Cardiff with new high powered twin wave stations that could eventually broadcast two programmes simultaneously. As a matter of policy, no provincial station was to do any programming which could be better done from London.

**Sport Goes Live**

The renamed British Broadcasting Corporation lost no time in preparing to broadcast live sports as soon as the 1st of January dawned. On the 13th of January, *The Times* reported that after a successful test at Blackheath ‘with the object of investigating the possibilities of broadcasting a running commentary of a Rugby football match’ the BBC would broadcast ‘a descriptive account by an eyewitness from Twickenham on Saturday, when England is playing Wales’.9 The Corporation had constructed a portable broadcasting hut, some 5½ feet high and 4½ feet wide, which would be erected on a platform near the goal line. The amplifying equipment was in a lorry beneath the platform. The honour of the first live sports commentary on the radio in Britain fell to Captain HTB ‘Teddy’ Wakelam on the 15th of January 1927.

A week later, Wakelam broadcast the Arsenal versus Sheffield United football match, which went out on London and Daventry. However, in Scotland there was live coverage of the Scotland versus France rugby match instead. Live sports coverage had arrived in a big way. On the 12th of February, the England versus Ireland rugby match went out on London and Daventry while the England versus Wales football match was broadcast from Manchester, the Rangers versus St Mirren one from Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh and the Port Vale versus Hull City from Stoke-on-Trent.

This same pattern of national and local rugby and football matches was repeated on successive Saturdays through till the end of the rugby and football seasons, culminating with the Scottish stations broadcasting the Scottish Cup Final on the 16th of April and London and Daventry airing the FA Cup Final on the 23rd of April. Also included in the mix on the 26th of March was live coverage of the Oxford versus Cambridge athletics match from Queen’s Club.

On the same day that the Scottish stations broadcast the Scotland versus England football international, the BBC also attempted its most ambitious broadcast yet – the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, where the commentaries followed the crews in a launch. This took place on Saturday, the 2nd of April. Then on the 4th of May, the BBC announced that it would be covering Wimbledon live and ten days later, broadcast the first live cricket match, Essex versus the New Zealand XI. The Derby was covered live on the 1st of June and broadcasting from Wimbledon began on the 29th of June and ended on the 2nd of July.

To cover the lulls in the play for the cricket, there were a number of musical interludes planned while the air time for Wimbledon was quite limited. It was an hour on the 29th of June, 75 minutes on the 30th of June and 30 minutes on the 1st of July. On the final day there was longer coverage from 14:30 until 16:55 with a fifteen-minute interval at 15:45.

**But Not Golf**

So against the background of escalating technological achievements in live broadcast, what was happening with golf? The answer is, not a great deal in comparison to the other sports.

Listeners, however much they had hoped to the contrary, would have to make do with what were called ‘eye-witness’ accounts, which were relatively short summaries of the day’s play.

Darwin, writing in *The Times* on the 21st of January 1927 set out what he saw as the problems of trying to broadcast golf live. He contrasted golf to the 15th of January rugby broadcast. He described the flow of play in the rugby match and mused that:

> It seemed as if an age had passed [in the passage of play], and yet it was only a second or two and I reflected that in those tremendous seconds nothing whatever would have happened in a golf match. Mr. X would still have been executing his placid and ornate waggle, or Mr. Y would have been looking microscopically for his wooden tee which he had knocked out of the ground.

He went on to say that in order to cover golf, there would need to be two people, as there had been with the rugby match. The second man in the booth, whom he christened ‘Dr Watson’ would ‘have greater opportunities for his peculiar talents than he had at Twickenham, because after every tee shot there will be a long, lame interval that will require filling ... “If he gets into a bunker”, he will say, “do you think he will take his niblick?”’

Darwin had visions of having to carry a portable hut on his back to move around the course, but then advocated placing a hut

> In some central position, near to at least two greens. Then, I think, we shall be able to maintain a continual flow. ‘I wonder who will win this hole. I should like to see somebody hole a long putt. I don’t mind which of them does it. By jove! I thought he’d holed that one. I don’t know what is the matter with this hole – the ball won’t go into it.’ This sort of thing could be kept up for a considerable period, but the real fact is – I am
rather relieved to find it so – that golf does not lend itself to this form of reporting.

He emphatically concluded that ‘as far as golf is concerned the pen will remain mightier than the microphone’.

It is important to remember that this article was written after a single live running commentary had taken place. Darwin was quite visionary with regard to broadcasting golf up to the Second World War. There would be no live coverage of golf on the radio until 1937. As will be seen, a single commentary booth was tried in 1937 and a roving report was tried in 1939 using smaller mobile technology than Darwin had envisaged in 1927. Both Darwin and Henry Longhurst had doubts about these later live broadcasts. The BBC itself obviously did not feel any pressure to come up with innovative solutions to the problems of broadcasting live golf as they had done for the Derby and the Boat Race. These problems, pointed out by Darwin, were those of time and space. Golf is not a game of continual motion and it takes place over a very large expanse of terrain. It was much simpler to produce an eye-witness account of an event that summarised the action rather than trying to broadcast the action live. These eye-witness accounts were the only golf coverage up through 1937.

The first summary of a golf event took place on the 17th of March 1927. Interestingly, the first competition to be reported in this new manner was the Ladies’ London Foursomes final day, when the Worpleston pair of Joyce Wethered and Mrs Kennedy defeated the North Hants couple of Miss DR Fowler and Miss Phyllis Lobbett at the 22nd hole. The summariser was Eleanor Helme and she was given seven minutes from 18:45 until 18:52 to tell the story. The broadcast emanated from London and was carried nationally.

Coverage of The Amateur Championship consisted of an account of the final match by Bernard Darwin on the 28th of May, which went out nationally from 21:35 until 21:45. The final day of The Open Championship received slightly better coverage on the 15th of July. Darwin broadcast a fifteen-minute summary between 13:15 and 13:30 and then a further fifteen-minute one after the close of play between 19:55 and 20:10. As two rounds were played on the final day, the lunchtime broadcast would have enabled Darwin to give a summary of the third round and the evening one a summary of the final round.

Regionally, there were ten-minute summaries of the Dispatch Trophy from Edinburgh on the 11th of June and the Welsh Ladies’ Championship from Cardiff on the 2nd of June. The Leeds-Bradford station pushed the boat out a bit with its coverage of the English Ladies’ County Championship at Pannal. Eleanor Helme was given a fifteen-minute slot on the 1st of October to describe the Yorkshire’s team triumph between 19:00 and 19:15. Six days later, Helme had half an hour to give a summary of the final of the English Ladies’ Championship final between Mrs Guedalla and Enid Wilson.

It is not surprising that golf talks dropped dramatically after the introduction of eye-witness accounts. There were only two in 1927. The first was a ten-minute talk from Glasgow by John McAndrew about golf on the 12th of November. The second marked Eleanor Helme’s fourth broadcast of the year and took place from London on the 29th of November. Her topic for a 15 minute talk was Woman’s Golf in 1927. Helme proceeded to make the only golf talk given in 1928, when she broadcast from London on the 16th of March on Golfing Partners and Prospects.

Six golf events were covered in 1928, five of which went out nationally from London. The only one which didn’t was broadcast from Belfast, when Guy Campbell give a fifteen-minute eye-witness account of the Irish Open Championship on the 1st of June. Eleanor Helme gave a fifteen-minute account of the British Ladies’ Amateur Championship on the 19th of May and the English Ladies’ Amateur Championship on the 6th of October, which lasted twenty minutes. The unusual feature of all three of these accounts was that they were all given a day after the championship had finished. The results would all have been known and already digested from the morning newspapers.

As he had done in 1927, Bernard Darwin gave two broadcasts on the final day of The Open Championship on 11 May. The first one lasted from 13:30 until 13:45 and the second from 19:00 to 19:15. He then covered the final of The Amateur Championship on the 26th of May, which he did in a twenty-minute timeslot from 19:25 until 19:45.

Coverage Drops Off

Only two championships were covered in 1929: The Open and The British Ladies’ Amateur. It should be noted that there was no radio coverage of The Amateur Championship. As he had done the last two years, Darwin gave two fifteen-minute summaries of The Open that went out nationally, one at lunchtime and one after the close of play. Eleanor Helme gave a fifteen-minute account of the epic final between Joyce Wethered and Glenna Collett on the 18th of May. Once again, this was the day after the championship had finished.

There were only two golf talks in 1929, but one of them was highly significant. On the 4th of January, The Times announced that the BBC was introducing a new series of talks and lectures and these would include topical debates. This was to be a prestige series with each programme lasting between fifteen and 60 minutes. The first in this new series was a
forty-minute discussion between Bernard Darwin and Harry Graham on The Limiting of the Golf Ball. It was broadcast nationally on the 25th of January from 21:20 to 22:00. The topic of the debate is one still going on today. As we shall see, only one other programme could match the 40-minute running time and that was not until 1935. It is interesting that whereas the broadcasting of golf events was a low priority of the BBC, it kicked off its new high profile series with a golf topic. The only other golf talk that year was limited to Scotland and took place on the 7th of September. John McAndrew spoke for fifteen minutes on Scottish Golf and Golfers.

The next part of the BBC’s technological revolution was ready on the 21st of October 1929 with the opening of the new Brookmans Park transmitter, some fifteen miles from central London. This replaced the original 2LO transmitter on the roof of Selfridges in Oxford Street. A new transmitter at Daventry had opened in August 1927. Both of these were part of a scheme to allow dual transmissions from the same site.

The new Regional scheme came into effect on the 9th of March 1930, bringing the first true alternative programming for listeners. Two different programmes were simultaneously broadcast from 2LO on two different wave lengths. The Daventry station became the Midland Regional station and no longer shared its programme with 2LO 261. The newly re-branded National Programme was transmitted by 2LO 261 and by Daventry 5XX.

The London Regional and Midland Regional programmes were on 2LO 356 and Daventry 5GB. London listeners who could pick up 5GB programmes were on 2LO 356 and Daventry 5XX. The newly re-branded National Programme was broadcast from Daventry 5XX. The new Regional scheme came into effect on the 9th of March 1930, bringing the first true alternative programming for listeners. Two different programmes were simultaneously broadcast from 2LO on two different wave lengths. The Daventry station became the Midland Regional station and no longer shared its programme with 2LO 261. The newly re-branded National Programme was transmitted by 2LO 261 and by Daventry 5XX.

The London Regional and Midland Regional programmes were on 2LO 356 and Daventry 5GB. London listeners who could pick up 5GB would actually get three programmes. Ultimately, there would be five new high-power twin-wave transmitters around the country designed to transmit two programmes, those originating in the region and those on the National station, originating in London and transmitted from Daventry. The North Regional station opened on the 12th of July 1931 and the Scottish one in September 1932. At that stage, Aberdeen became a relay station and the Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee transmitters were closed. The West and Wales Regional station opened in August 1933, completing the original plan to give as much as possible true alternative programming – national and local.

Only three golf events were broadcast in 1930 and for the first time, there were no ladies’ competitions transmitted. As it had done in 1928, the Belfast station broadcast an account of the Irish Open Championship on the 6th of June for twenty minutes. This time, the eye-witness was Major CO Hezlet, who in fact had played in the Championship, finishing 29 strokes behind the winner Charles Whitcombe.

Darwin then gave two summaries of The Open Championship on the 20th of June, both lasting fifteen minutes. As usual, one was at lunchtime and one at the end of play. As in 1929, the BBC declined to transmit any description of The Amateur Championship. The final was played on the 31st of May, which was a Saturday and there was no live sport or eye-witness accounts of other sports that day. This means that there was no audio record for British listeners of Bobby Jones winning the first leg of the Grand Slam. Similarly, there was no coverage of the Walker Cup in 1930.

There were also only three golf talks in 1930. Two of them were by Bernard Darwin both as parts of ongoing series on the National Programme. On the 19th of April he presented the fifth instalment of a series called Holidays at Home and Abroad. Not surprisingly, Darwin’s topic was A Golfing Holiday, which lasted for twenty minutes. His next appearance was on the 10th of June when he spoke for twenty minutes on Some Golfing Hints as the first part of a series called Hints on Sport. The only other talk was a regional one from Cardiff called West Country of England Golf and Golfers given by RE Witherspoon.

Golf coverage on the radio reached a low point in 1931. There were no golf talks broadcast and only two events covered. The first was the final day of The Open. As usual, this consists of a fifteen-minute report at lunchtime and then a ten-minute one after the close of play by Bernard Darwin on the National Programme. The second event was coverage of the first ladies’ international match between Great Britain and France. Eleanor Helme was given five minutes to summarise the day’s play on the National Programme starting at 18:25.

There is a temptation to think that in economically difficult times, the BBC was cutting back on its sports coverage but this is not the case at all. It ran a full programme of live coverage of rugby internationals and the FA Cup. The Boat Race was broadcast as usual and there was extensive live coverage of Wimbledon. There was even a live broadcast of the Kentucky Derby from America on the 16th of May. It remains the inevitable conclusion that golf coverage was a low priority for the BBC.

In May 1931, the first Blattnerphone recording machine was installed at the BBC. This was the first form of tape for playback and electrical editing purposes. Using this and supplemented by other machines of an improved design, it was possible to record and edit programmes.

The golf talk reappeared on the schedules in 1932. On the 5th of March, Bernard Darwin gave a fifteen-minute talk on The Golf Season Begins which went out on the National Programme. On the 17th of August, Frank Moran made a fifteen-minute contribution on Golf to a Scottish Region series called Scotland Out of Doors. Darwin gave another fifteen-
minute talk on the National Programme on the 10th of December simply called Golf. Again, only two events were covered. They were The Amateur and The Open Championships. Darwin was given an unprecedented 35 minutes to give a description of the final day’s play at The Amateur Championship on the 28th of May from 18:30 to 19:05, which went out on the National Programme. He then did two broadcasts from the final day of The Open on the 10th of June. Both lasted fifteen minutes, with the first going out on the National Programme at 13:30 and the second at 21:15.

There was an extremely interesting mix of four golf talks in 1933, all of which went out on the National Programme and all of which lasted fifteen minutes, starting at 18:30. JH Taylor spoke on Golf as a Profession on the 7th of January and then Tom Simpson spoke on Golf Architecture three weeks later. On the 8th of April, Joyce Wethered, as part of the Sports Talk series, spoke about The Lady Golfer and then on the 13th of May, as part of the same series, Bernard Darwin delivered a piece entitled Golf: The Clubs You Carry. On the 17th of July, George C Nash, a prolific broadcaster from Northern Ireland, gave an eye witness account of the opening of the new links at Royal Portrush, which was carried over the Belfast region.

The events coverage for 1933 began with the British Ladies’ Amateur Championship. Darwin gave a ten-minute eye-witness accounts of it on the 18th and 19th of May on the National Programme. As we have seen, previously, the radio coverage was out of synch with the event. The semi-finals were played on the 17th of May and the final on the 18th of May. So, either the programme on the 19th was a repeat of that on the 18th, or the coverage was trailing a day behind.

The final of the Amateur Championship was described by Darwin shortly after it finished on the 24th of June in a fifteen-minute broadcast on the National Programme. Three days later, Darwin gave a ten-minute eye-witness account of the Ryder Cup at Southport, again on the National Programme. This marked the debut of any radio coverage of the Ryder Cup in Britain. There was also a change in format of the coverage of The Open that year. Instead of two broadcasts on the final day, as it had been since 1927, Darwin gave a ten-minute summary at the end of the second day’s play on the 6th of July and then another ten-minute summary at the end of third and final day’s play. These two broadcasts on the National Programme, actually represented a drop in the air time for The Open.

The West & Wales region covered two events that year, the Penfold-Porthcawl Tournament on the 14th of July and the Welsh Amateur Championship on the 9th of September, both of which were transmitted on the final day of the event.

On the 3rd of February 1934, JH Taylor gave another fifteen-minute talk on the National Programme, this time entitled Fifty Years of Golf. On the 11th of August, F Clarke gave a fifteen-minute talk on Golf – The Caddie’s Point of View, which was on the National Programme. SL Mckinlay did a twenty-minute presentation on Golf as part of a Scottish Region series on Scottish Sports and Recreations.

On 26th of May, Bernard Darwin had fifteen minutes of air time as part of the Sports Talk series. His topic was The New Amateur Champion. May the 26th was the final day of the Amateur Championship, which was won by Lawson Little. There was no other coverage of The Amateur that year, so this could be construed as a form of an eye-witness account, probably with more focus on the winner.

Bernard Darwin gave descriptions of both days of the Walker Cup on the 11th and 12th of May on the National Programme. His time allocations were hardly generous: five minutes on the first day and eight minutes on the second. This marked the debut of Walker Cup coverage on the BBC.

The coverage of the British Ladies’ Amateur Championship was divided between West Regional and National coverage. The final day of qualifying was broadcast on West Regional on the 12th of May and then a description of the fourth round and semi-final on the 16th of May. Both descriptions were given by H Lascelles Carr and lasted five minutes. An account of the final was broadcast the same day it was played, the 17th of May on the National Programme. It was described by Eleanor Helme but she was given only five minutes of air time.

Like the previous year, coverage of The Open was split over two days. Darwin’s time was further reduced on the National Programme. On the 28th of June, he had five minutes to describe the second day’s play and on the 29th of June, he had ten minutes to describe the final 36 holes of the Championship. The National station was literally given a boost with the opening of a new transmitter at Droitwich to replace the one at Daventry.

The Impact of Regional Broadcasting

The full impact of the BBC’s new regional scheme could be fully seen in 1935. Nine events were covered regionally while only three were covered nationally. Those were The Amateur, The Open and the British Ladies’ Championships. In all three cases, the precise length of the coverage is hard to determine because of the way the listings were set out, but they would have been on the short side as they shared the same half hour slot as the news, weather and shipping forecast.

Darwin gave a summary of the final of The Amateur on the 25th of May and then the last day’s play at The Open on the 28th of June. The coverage of The Open was now down to a single transmission.
The coverage of The Open was now down to a single transmission. Eleanor Helme gave an eyewitness account of the final of the British Ladies' on the 30th of May, which was the day it was played.

Northern Ireland had become a region in 1934 and was very active, producing eye-witness accounts of Ladies' International Match between Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales; the Irish Open; and the Irish Amateur Championships. All the reports lasted ten minutes. The Midland region covered the English Close Amateur Championship, while the Northern region gave an account of an amateurs versus professionals match. The Scottish Region covered the Scottish Amateur Championship and the Eden Tournament in St Andrews.

On the National Programme on the 11th of May 1935, Henry Longhurst and F Clarke made a contribution to the Sports Talk series with a piece entitled Don't Do That – A Golfer and His Caddie Speak Their Minds. This was Longhurst's debut on the BBC. Then the Scottish Region broadcast a 40 minute programme for golfers on the 3rd of September entitled A Scrapbook for Golfers: Songs, Verses, Stories. Great Games of the Past with Some Notes on the 1935 Season. It was compiled and arranged by SL McKinlay, a notable Scottish amateur golfer.

At the beginning of 1935, the programming under the name of London Regional, became known as Regional and the name ‘Regional’ was dropped from the other stations. The Ullswater Committee of Inquiry began its deliberations on the 17th of April and made its report on the 31st of December 1935. Its terms of reference were ‘to consider the constitution, control and finance of the broadcasting service in this country, including broadcasting to the Empire, television broadcasting and the system of wireless exchanges, should be conducted after 31st December 1936.’ Among many other things, it recommended the continuing regional devolution and this was reflected in the way in which golf was covered.

In 1936, The Open and the Walker Cup were broadcast on the National Programme. In contrast to 1934 and 1935, there was increased coverage of The Open. Darwin broadcast a fifteen minute report at 13:00 on the second day and then a further ten-minute update at 15:50, when play would have still been in progress. He then gave a ten-minute broadcast at 14:00 on the final day and then a five-minute one at 16:20. This was part of an afternoon of sport that included coverage of the Test Match at Lords and the tennis at Wimbledon.

The Walker Cup was played at Pine Valley in New Jersey and the BBC transmitted two ten-minute summaries of the action on the 2nd and 3rd of September. Because of the time difference, these were broadcast at 23:05. Unfortunately, we are not told who gave the eye-witness account.

The Curtis Cup was covered for the first time by Scottish on the 6th of May at 20:35, when a ten-minute summary was given by RE Kingsley. This region was particularly active in 1936 and Kingsley also broadcast five-minute summaries of the amateur international matches between England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales on the 30th and 31st of July. A five-minute summary of the Scottish Amateur Championship by Frank Moran aired on the 2nd of May and Moran did a summary of the same length for the Eden Tournament on the 15th of August. A fifteen-minute account of the British Police Championship was broadcast in Northern Ireland on the 11th of June.

There were two fifteen-minute segments broadcast on National about golf as part of the Sports Talk series. The first was given by Stanley Anderson on the 25th of April and then Darwin gave one on the 20th of June.

The First Live Transmission

1937 was a watershed year in the history of broadcasting golf on the BBC. For the first time, there was a live transmission. This occurred on the 9th of April 1937 and it came from the Midland station, rather than London. The place was Little Aston Golf Club and the event was the final day of The Daily Mail Tournament with Henry Longhurst as the commentator. Longhurst wrote in It Was Good While It Lasted that with commendable enterprise [the BBC] rigged up a glass-fronted hut perched precariously on tall stilts, like those native swamp dwellings that you see in the travel films. It overlooked two greens and three tees – a vantage point not to be found on many golf courses. This early attempt was not unsuccessful. We were lucky in being able to see plenty of play and, in particular, in having a former Open Champion in the person of Arthur Havers fluff an approach shot right under our noses. That sort of thing is the answer to the commentator’s prayer. It lends just that little splash of colour that makes the difference. … on the whole, I had my doubts as to whether the running commentary was a practical proposition for a game so leisurely as golf.

Evidently, the BBC shared Longhurst’s opinion and the technique of having a fixed commentary booth was not repeated again before the Second World War. It would be another two years before another attempt was made to broadcast live golf and when this took place, it was done trying a different type of approach.

Both the Ryder Cup and The Open were given a reasonable wide coverage on the National Programme in the more traditional overview form in 1937. On both days of the Ryder Cup, Bernard Darwin gave a luncheon and a late afternoon summary. On the 29th of June, he spoke for ten minutes at 13:30 and then fifteen minutes at 16:45.

Through the Green, March 2009
This pattern was repeated on the 30th of June. The same format was used for the final two days of The Open. Darwin had the same starting slots for The Open, but his 13:30 broadcast lasted for fifteen minutes on the 8th of July but only ten minutes on the 9th. Both the teatime broadcasts lasted fifteen minutes.

The Regional Programme transmitted a report on The News of the World Tournament on the 16th of September. This was the first time that this event had received radio coverage. The Regional Programme also broadcast coverage of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club's Autumn Meeting on the 29th of September, featuring the competition for the Royal Medal. The Northern Ireland Programme broadcast summaries of the Ulster Scratch Singles, the Ulster Professional Championship, the Irish Ladies' Close Championship and the Irish Open Championship. All the accounts lasted fifteen minutes except for the Ladies' event, which lasted ten. Poppy Wingate, the pioneering woman professional, gave a fifteen-minute talk on the National Programme on the 1st of February. Her subject was Golfing Temperaments and Golfing Wardrobes. Dick Wheildon presented a programme about Midland golf news on the 13th of February.

In 1938, coverage of the Walker Cup was split between the National and the Regional Programmes. The summary of the first day by Darwin was carried on the Regional Programme and consisted of two ten-minute slots, one at 13:30 and one at 16:50. This was repeated the next day, the 4th of June. The difference was that they went out on the National Programme instead. The coverage of The Open was on the Regional Programme for the first time. Darwin broadcast two ten-minute segments on the second day at 13:35 and 16:50. On the final day, he was only allocated a single ten-minute time slot at 13:35 with no summary of the results in the late afternoon. The main sports feature that day was meant to be live coverage of the first day of the third Test Match between England and Australia at Old Trafford. It was scheduled to be transmitted on the Regional Programme from 14:15 until 17:00 and then on the National from 17:00 until 18:00. In fact the day's play was washed out, so it is possible that Darwin was given an unscheduled late afternoon time to give a summary of the results of The Open.

The Midland Programme broadcast two summaries of the Midland Counties Open Golf Championship in September, while the Northern Ireland Programme produced summaries of four events, the Ulster Scratch Singles, a match between the South African Ladies’ Team against one from Portrush, the Irish Professional Championship and the Irish Open Championship. There were two fifteen-minute general golf talks, one from Northern Ireland and one from the Midlands.

Two More Live Broadcasts
And so we finally reach 1939, a year that was bursting with golf on the airwaves, including two live events. However, everything then came to an abrupt halt with the outbreak of the Second World War. The two live events were the English Native Amateur Championship, played at Birkdale and The Amateur Championship at Hoylake.

The first live broadcast took place on the 28th of April and went out on the National Programme. In 1937 Longhurst had been in a stationary booth but now a different approach was tried at the English Amateur. Darwin took on the role of a roving reporter. He had the microphone and was accompanied by two engineers, one of whom carried a transmitter on his back and the other carried the batteries. In his first transmission at 11:00, Darwin tried to follow the play from behind the golfers and this lasted for ten minutes. His second ten-minute slot was at 15:20 and this time, he took a stationary position on a hill by the fourth hole. He later wrote that he had to fill up the time as best he could as every shot was ‘perfectly dull and respectable’. His final broadcast that day was the conventional summary of play at 16:45 for fifteen minutes. The experiment was not repeated the next day, and Darwin gave a fifteen-minute summary at 16:45.

Longhurst wrote that

I listened to Darwin’s ten-minute relay with professional interest, for I had been invited to do similar broadcasts in the amateur championship at Hoylake a few weeks later. If he, with as ready a flow of the English language you will find, should be unable to make anything of it, what hope was there for me? It was soon clear that even he was finding it heavy going and I was not surprised when he returned to the clubhouse with the verdict that in no circumstances did golf lend itself to this form of broadcasting.

Longhurst’s turn came on the 26th of May, the second to last day of The Amateur Championship. There were four transmissions that day, of which the first three were live. However, these only went out in the Northern region. They consisted of three ten-minute slots at 11:00, 13:30 and 15:10. In It Was Good While It Lasted, Longhurst gives an excellent description of the trials and tribulations of trying to broadcast live from the course itself:

The principal snag is that in ten minutes you cannot afford any pauses. The narrative must be continuous. Now, assuming that there is a large crowd following the game, as there was at Hoylake, you have to keep right in front, close to the players, if you are to view any of the play at all. And if you stand close to the players you must be absolutely silent, not only on the stroke, but also while they are preparing for it. You are therefore driven away from the players, the nearest safe
range on a calm day being about fifty yards. But at fifty yards’ range, unless you are perched on a neighbouring sand-hill or equally convenient eminence, you can see nothing whatever except the backs of the crowd.\textsuperscript{15}

The other big challenge was one of the timing of the broadcast. Longhurst planned to do his first broadcast at 11:00 from a mound overlooking the fourth green and cover the quarter final match between AA Duncan and Richard Chapman. The problem was that both players finished the hole at a few seconds before 11:00, leaving Longhurst with nothing to comment upon. He proceeded to fill the air with a description of what he had previously seen as if it was taking place in front of him live. After this epic performance, he returned to the clubhouse, only to discover that due to a technical glitch, they had taken him off the air after four minutes.\textsuperscript{16} The next two live segments passed without quite some much drama.

At 16:50, Longhurst then gave a conventional summary for 10 minutes on the National Programme. The next day, two ten-minute summaries were given at 13:30 and 16:20 on the National Programme and no attempt was made by the Northern Programme to do another live segment. No other attempts to do live broadcasts were attempted that year.

Coverage of the second day’s play at The Open was originated by the Scottish Programme and was the traditional summarised account. There was a fifteen-minute summary at 13:30 and a ten-minute one at 16:50. The lunchtime broadcast was picked up by the Regional Programme, who then transmitted a ten-minute summary by Darwin of the final day’s play at 16:50. The only other golf event to go out nationally in 1939 was the Great Britain versus France ladies’ international match. There were two ten-minute summaries on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} of June, one at 14:00 and one at 16:50.

The Northern Ireland station aired summaries of the Ulster Scratch Singles, the Ulster Professional Championship, the Ladies’ Home International Match and the Irish Open Championship. It also covered the British Ladies’ Amateur Championship, which was played at Portrush. The Welsh station did likewise with the Welsh Women’s Championship and the Welsh Professional Championship.

The National Programme broadcast a fifteen-minute programme about golf ball manufacture on the 1\textsuperscript{st} of February 1939, which was repeated on the Scottish Programme fifteen days later. In a reversal, the Scottish station broadcast \textit{Royal and Ancient: A programme in praise of golf} with research by Robert S Rodger and adapted for broadcasting and produced by RF Dunnett. This was repeated on the National on the 29\textsuperscript{th} of June.

In preparation for the outbreak of war, the BBC put what was called ‘Document C’ into action on the 1\textsuperscript{st} of September. This called for a single synchronised Home Service station to be put into effect, replacing all the other stations. All BBC transmitters began to operate on the same medium wavelength. If one was damaged by bombs, the others could take over. Furthermore and of equal importance, the Germans could not use the transmitters as navigational radio beacons. It is perhaps a fitting way to end the survey with the last golf talk of 1939. It was given on the wartime Home Service by Bernard Darwin on the 14\textsuperscript{th} of October and entitled \textit{This Summer’s Golf}.

\textbf{A Round Up}

Only one golf event was broadcast every year between 1927 and 1939 and that was The Open Championship. In what is now viewed as a golden age of amateur golf, The Amateur Championship only made it to the airways in six years, 1927, 1928, 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1939. There does not seem to be any pattern to the years covered. In a sense the Walker Cup fared better and summaries were broadcast three times, in 1934, 1936 and 1938. It was very notable that the BBC went to the trouble of relaying broadcasts of the 1936 from America.

The \textit{News of the World} PGA Matchplay Championship was second only to The Open in the men’s professional game in this era, yet the only year it
was broadcast was 1937. The Ryder Cup was only transmitted twice, in 1933 and 1937. In contrast to the Walker Cup, no attempt was made to relay the 1935 match from America.

There was a surprising amount of ladies’ golf on the airways. The British Ladies Amateur Championship was covered five times, in 1929, 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1939. The 1939 broadcast was limited to Northern Ireland. Whereas the international match against France was aired in 1931 and 1939, the Curtis Cup only made a solitary appearance in 1936.

After the BBC reorganisation in the mid-1930s, the amount of golf on the regional stations increased dramatically. Short match summaries were very good programme fillers for them. The Northern Irish listeners enjoyed twenty different transmissions between 1935 and 1939, while those in the North of England received four, those in the Midlands five, those in Scotland nine and those in Wales eight.

In terms of event coverage, Bernard Darwin was the voice of golf in this period. Between 1927 and 1939 he made 50 individual broadcasts of commentaries. George C Nash, whose activities were strictly confined to Northern Ireland made twelve broadcasts between 1935 and 1939, while Graham Emery, similarly confined to Wales made eight between 1938 and 1939. Henry Longhurst made eight individual broadcasts between 1937 and 1938. Eleanor Helme, covering only ladies’ golf, presented nine summaries between 1927 and 1935.

Darwin was also the voice of golf when it came to golf talks. He made ten altogether while Eleanor Helme made four. JH Taylor contributed three, while Kolin Robertson made seven. However, all of Robertson’s were confined to the Leeds-Bradford station. Aside from Taylor, other notable players who presented talks were Cecil Leitch, Poppy Wingate, Dick Burton, CB Macfarlane, Jim Barnes, Jose Jurado, SL McKinlay and Joyce Wethered.

Although golf was not in the forefront of the BBC’s coverage of sport on radio, the eye-witness summaries and talks reached unprecedented numbers of listeners in the comfort of their homes. The pattern of these short broadcasts very much reflect the changing structure of the BBC in this period. However, as early as 1923, a new technology, which would eventually surpass the radio in the home, was on the horizon. It was called television and it would ultimately have a profound and lasting impact on the game.

Endnotes
1. Briggs, Asa. The History of Broadcasting in the United Kingdom Volume 1 – The Birth of Broadcasting (Oxford University Press 1961) 18 and Asa Briggs The History of Broadcasting in the United Kingdom Volume 2 – The Golden Age of Wireless (Oxford University Press 1965) 253. These two books are indispensable for anybody interested in the history of the BBC. The first volume covers 1922 through 1926 and the second volume covers 1927 through 1939. For a much briefer overview of the period, see John Cain The BBC’s 70 Years of Broadcasting (The British Broadcasting Corporation 1992) 1-41. Also see www.bbc.co.uk/heritage/story/index.shtml for a very good timeline of the BBC’s history. To avoid an excessive number of footnotes, the narrative history of the BBC in this article is drawn from these sources unless otherwise specified and I will not give individual page references to the two volumes of The History of Broadcasting in the United Kingdom...
2. For a good brief summary of the development of commercial radio in the USA during this period, see Michele Hilmes (ed) The Television History Book (British Film Institute 2003) 26-30.
3. All programme listings have been taken from The Times or The Scotsman and will not be cited individually.
4. See The Times 25 and 27 May 1925 for a full description of the proposed coverage and 28 May for the events on the day.
5. See The Times 29 March 1926 for a description of the coverage
6. See The Times 2 June 1926 for a description of the coverage
7. See The Times 7 July 1925 regarding Barnes’ broadcast.
8. Briggs Vol 1 359
9. See HBT Wakelam Half-Time: The Mike and Me (London 1938) 187-189 for a more detailed account of to the build-up towards the first live commentary.
10. See Bernard Darwin Life is Sweet, Brother (London 1940) 211-212 for his recollection of this broadcast.
11. See Henry Longhurst It Was Good While It Lasted (London 1941) 115 for an account of this broadcast.
12. Ibid 124 and repeated in Henry Longhurst My Life and Soft Times (London 1971) 254. Also see Golfing April 1937, 49 for a brief description of the broadcast and Golf Monthly May 1937 for a light-hearted reaction to the broadcast.
14. Longhurst It Was Good While It Lasted 125
15. Ibid 125-126
16. Ibid 126-127. Thirty years later in My Life and Soft Times (254), Longhurst changed the story to taking place in the afternoon during the semi-final between Duncan and Alex Kyle. He also changed the location to the fifth fairway and been taken off the air after a minute or two. It is more likely that the version in It Was Good While It Lasted, published less than two years after the actual event is the more accurate.

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John Low’s Concerning Golf

I enjoyed the article about John Low’s Concerning Golf, in what we must hope will be the first of many such ‘favourite book’ articles. As the present custodian of his golf library, I have always taken a keen interest in his many golfing activities.

I have two copies of Concerning Golf. They both appear to be first editions (Donovan & Jerris refer to a ‘later printing’) and are identical in every way except their bindings. One, which I believe is the more common, is in plain dark green cloth with gilt lettering to spine and front cover. The other is in a much paler green cloth with black and red lettering to spine and red lettering to the front cover. This wording to the front cover is much bolder that the other version, with a golf club running diagonally through the capitals, C and G. An attractive variant.

I wonder if anyone knows the significance of these different bindings.

For obvious reasons, it is very seldom one discovers the arrangements made between authors and publishers, but I do have a contract, dated November 19th, 1903, between our hero and his publishers. Hodder & Stoughton, in connection with Concerning Golf. He was paid £50 on the day of publication and, interestingly, ‘to divide equally … the net profits … from the American edition, a further and final sum of £50’.

I wonder what happened to that American edition? After all, Low had led the Oxford & Cambridge Golf Society’s tour to the USA earlier in the year and must have been well known to the American golfing public.

After the cost of that first ever international golf tour, half the proceeds from the sale of an American edition would surely, have come in handy … and don’t even mention his ‘Amateur Status’!

Philip Truett
Swap Shop

Members may be interested to learn that my offer in September TTG of a large collection of scorecards has led to them going to a loving home on the basis of a swap. This was true collecting as far as I am concerned and something I would like to see more of. I would encourage other members to take advantage of your generous provision of free small ads to enable swaps or sales between the membership.

Robin Griffiths

(Anumber of members have coincidentally submitted small ads fo this current edition (Ed))

Square Greens

Can we open a discussion in TTG about Square Greens? I attach a picture of a Square Green from the Claremont Golf Club, which operated in Salford between 1906 and 1925. Other pictures I have of the course all seem to show square greens. The original course was nine holes, increasing to twelve in 1912 and eighteen in 1913. When the Club relocated to the Swinton Park area in 1925 it changed its name to Swinton Park GC.

Do any of our members know how prevalent Square Greens were, and why?

Graham Walters

Help Wanted (1)

Coleraine Golf Club Marker

I have a mystery ball marker, which is 18mm in diameter, metal with stem, and made in Britain, I believe, within the past 50 years. It carries the name Coleraine Golf Club. The town of Coleraine in Co. Antrim is surrounded by the famous courses at Portstewart, Castleock and Portrush, but I have no reference to Co. Coleraine GC. Can any of our members enlighten me? jthaight@.earthlink.net.

Jim Haight

Help Wanted (2)

British Golf Clubs Publicity Association

Can anyone help me with any information on The British Golf Clubs Publicity Association which was active in 1920? They were involved in collecting information on golf clubs, which they published in some form. Any early information on Middlesbrough Golf Club may be useful for our Centenary Book being written now. Please contact me at 01845 522289, or david@thornton-le-street.co.uk.

David Hunter
Letter from America
by Muckson

‘God sent that blessing in disguise, the Depression, to turn men from such follies as golfing, stockbroking and marathon dancing back to honest, healthy occupations like farming and road building.’

American Mercury (August, 1934)

DESPITE BEST EFFORTS, it seemed impossible to send a letter from America without acknowledging the economic times that are at the forefront of most of our thoughts daily. Not surprisingly, the business downturn is already impacting the golf world. This was sadly confirmed by my recent visit to the 56th annual PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, Florida. Despite a very strong presence by some of the largest equipment manufacturers, including Titleist, Callaway, and Ping (which also exhibited an interesting history display to celebrate its 50th anniversary) the number of companies in attendance was off sharply. Walking the floors revealed a number of open sections where businesses had committed to come but at show time they were a ‘no show’ – except for a couple of easels apologizing for their absence. Similarly, the number of professionals and other buyers appeared to be out in much smaller forces than in previous years.

It takes little effort to be reminded regularly that the economic challenges are historic – Americans have not been faced with such a severe loss of financial wealth and such an increase in unemployment since the Great Depression of the 1930s. With an enormous bailout promised by the new American President, the parallels to the Depression are nearly inescapable. As if on cue last month, George Kirsch, a professor of history at Manhattan College, introduced a new social history of the game of golf in the United States. Carrying the same title as James Lee’s 1895 classic, Golf in America, Kirsch’s book offers observations that may be useful today. (The quotation restated above from American Mercury magazine is taken from Kirsch’s book.)

In response to the economic crisis of the 1930s, Roosevelt’s ‘New Deal’ introduced the United States to a federal alphabet soup – NRA, WPA, AAA, FSA, TVA, REA and many others. Perhaps most similar to the present administration’s infrastructure spending plans was the Works Progress Administration. Kirsch reports in this new history that these new federal agencies, especially the WPA, ‘financed the building or improving of six hundred courses throughout the nation, beginning in 1934.’

Perhaps most notable is the WPA-financed golf complex at Bethpage on Long Island, which will host the United States Open this year. Unfortunately for the state of the game on this side of the pond, there does not appear to be a hue and cry to bail our country clubs, destination resorts, or even our upscale, daily fees courses. Kirsch did find that ‘during the Depression municipal golf courses contributed greatly to the preservation and even expansion of the sport in the US during trying times’. It may be that this country should look to its modest daily fee and local, city-owned courses to do much more to stabilize and fortify the game at this time of concern.

To that point, Kirsch reports that during the Depression one-third of the US’s country clubs had to shut down. The initial signs here are quite distressing. For the second year in a row more courses closed than were opened. As 2008 came to a close and the first quarter of 2009, the number of courses, clubs, and resorts in foreclosure, filing bankruptcy, or just closing was significant and rising. One of the most noted new courses of 2008 – the Promontory in Park City, Utah filed for bankruptcy protection as did numerous other facilities from high-end, private destination clubs like the Yellowstone Club, to modest, daily fee and municipal courses. PGA Tour veteran Tom Wargo, who owns a daily fee course outside of Chicago that dropped its green fee to $12 from $23, has been widely-quoted that ‘nobody is making a living’ in the golf course business. In my own state late last year, a high-end, private club focused on corporate membership closed the same month it opened. Another iconic up-market club has been rumored to be close to foreclosure for many months. Last month in commenting on these mounting problems, the writer of the Wall Street Journal Wealth Blog quipped that ‘golf clubs in the South are shutting down or going in foreclosure faster than a Hummer dealership’.

The problems extend to every segment of the US golf industry. In the ranks of the professionals, corporate sponsorship is getting harder to find than a drive shot hooked off the first at Machrihanish.
Both the PGA Tour and the LPGA have lost important event sponsors. Where’s golf’s biggest draw – Tiger Woods – when he’s most needed? And will it make a material difference when he finally returns? Recall that after completing the Grand Slam in 1930, Bobby Jones retired from competitive golf. What is to come of golf in America from all of this? Perhaps the past had some clues. Looking back to those Depression years, maybe there is reason for hope. Here are some of the things that arose in the golf world after the crash and before World War II included the following:

- Titleist was formed in a dentist’s office in 1932
- Bobby Jones’s golf course project in Augusta, Georgia averted foreclosure and started an invitational tournament in 1934, soon to be renamed, ‘The Masters’
- Gene Sarazen and others had developed, and golf’s ruling bodies authorized play with, the modern sand wedge in 1931
- The first Curtis Cup matches are played in 1932
- Hershey Chocolate Company became the first corporation to sponsor an event on the professional golfers tour in 1933
- Bing Crosby ushered in the pro-am with his ‘clambake’ (which today is the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am) in 1937
- Bethpage State Park and its ‘Black’ course are constructed in 1936
- The first gift to charity from a professional golfer’s tour was from the Palm Beach Invitational in 1939

For me, I remain optimistic. If nothing else, Americans are both resilient and resourceful. At a time when things were more challenging than at any other time in modern history, we found a way to not only preserve Scotland’s game, but we launched new equipment companies, built great new golf courses, created new, ‘major’ competitions, and, by introducing corporate sponsorship, pro-am events, and an emphasis on charitable work, we set a course for professional golf that helped to spark the incredible growth of that game. For me then, the current ‘crisis’ is merely an opportunity to catch our breath before charting a new course for the next era. Perhaps in these times we should turn our backs on stock-broking, but not on golf. For me then, I see it as did one of your most heroic figures, Winston Churchill, who once said: ‘A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.’

Muckson

Display of golfing artifacts at Cirencester

Cirencester Golf Club is holding an exhibition of golfing memorabilia in the Corinium (Cirencester) Museum in May/June 2010, to commemorate the centenary of our Club on its existing site. James Braid designed the existing course and played an exhibition match against Vardon in 1910. We have interesting photographs, a detailed account and the original score card of that occasion. We are close to Stowell Park, the home of Lady Margaret Scott and undoubtedly she would have played golf on the original ‘Sapperton Park’ venue where the Club was founded in 1893. Also John Low was Captain of the Club at one time whilst studying at the Royal Agricultural College. We will have photographs and details of those famous persons included in the display along with our own trophies and memorabilia of local interest.

We need some expert advice and loan of other golfing memorabilia for display in the Museum, which is internationally known for its Roman artefacts. Would any members prepared to loan memorabilia in a secure, insured environment, or otherwise help in the project, contact me at agatrell@tiscali.co.uk or on 01242 890320.

Tony Gatrell

Help Wanted (3)
LAST YEAR marked the 400th anniversary of the founding of the French Canadian city of Quebec, giving rise to a year of celebrations commemorating the occasion.

Popular mythology in Quebec holds that the first golf played on the North American landmass was by officers of General Wolfe’s forces on the Plaines D’Abraham during their occupation after the defeat of Montcalm in 1760. Only speculation supports this, but it is quite possible. The backbone of Wolfe’s two principal battalions were Scots from the fallout of the ‘45 Rebellion, who took the place to their hearts. They and their families subsequently formed the first wave of settlers.

The first recorded play in Quebec was by a merchant seaman by the name of William Doleman in 1854, who practised his golf on the Plaines d’Abraham. Doleman was from Musselburgh and coincidentally, his fellow resident of ‘The Honest Toun’, Willie Park, designed the ‘Quebec’ course on the RQGC at its present location at Boischatel. Remember also that Robert Lockhart, supplier of clubs, balls and motivating spirit to the ‘Apple Tree Gang’, Hastings-on-Hudson, USA, learned his golf in Musselburgh.

Formal golf took foothold on the North American land mass in Canada before becoming established in the United States. Royal Montreal GC was first out of the blocks in 1873, just a few months before Royal Quebec over the Plaines D’Abraham in 1874.

In 2003 at the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Quebec Golf Club a Past Captain and professional golfer called Michel Robert laid out his dream of a golf tournament to be played on the site of the Club’s original course, using the equipment of the day, as the RQGC contribution to the 400th anniversary celebrations. Despite some initial scepticism, he was encouraged to form a committee to investigate the feasibility.

Michel Robert’s committee got to work exploring the internet, amongst other resources, and found Past Masters Old Links Golf, my business established in 1996 to provide a hickory club rental resource outside the confines of specialist groups. Though initial estimates of uptake on the planned activities were fairly accurate in terms of total numbers, we had not anticipated the high proportion of left-handers, commonly as high as 25% in Canada. A shortfall in supply of left-handed clubs was made up by Chris McIntyre of San Diego, who also provided an inexhaustible supply of authentic-looking hickory club balls.

Considerable work was needed to re-create the original course on the Plaines D’Abraham, which today are used as a public park by the Quebecois. Michel was well prepared. About twenty volunteers turned up before the event to help erect the safety fencing around the course. Then we mowed fairways, greens and tees, cut holes and by evening a nine-hole course had been created, very similar in layout and style to that reported on by Horace Hutchinson in 1902. Play on the following nine days incorporated two or three nine-hole events on each day for a total of 25 separate events. The highlights for me were:

* Charity Texas Scramble, nine-hole event x 3, at a cost of $Ca 2000 per team tee time!!
* The Pro Am, including four of the older tournament pros: Andre Malais, Jack Bissegger, Henri Chatelain, and Andre Gilgras. A private dinner with them afterwards was a privilege.
* A historic match between the Royal Montreal and Quebec Golf Clubs in full regalia, followed by a superb dinner at RQGC,

Golf ended at about 4 pm each day which allowed me time to sort out the bags and clubs for the ensuing day, load everything back into the truck and then help the rest of the volunteers stow away the RQGC memorabilia on display. There were two particularly spectacular trophies I recall; the Challenge Trophy, presented to the winner of the annual match between The Royal Quebec and the Royal Montreal Golf Clubs since 1876 is by far the oldest golfing silverware in North America.

So, I apologise to those who missed me at the England v Scotland match.

Chris Homer

Footnote: Over 1300 nine-hole rounds were played in Quebec; only twenty clubs were terminally broken; the ‘walking wounded’ were repaired within a week of their return to the UK.
ONE OF THE BEST STORIES IN GOLF is about the crack St Andrews player Hope Grant who refused to bet. It is told by James Balfour in his *Reminiscences of Golf on St Andrews Links*, which was published in 1887. This is one of my favourite books.

Balfour’s reminiscences cover over 40 years of golf in St Andrews from early 1840s. This was a time when the game grew and changed. The links, the balls, the clubs and the players changed and James Balfour takes the reader through it all.

When he started playing, the links was a narrow strip between heather and bents. Balfour and his friends played to the Ninth and then came back the same way putting into the same holes. When the book was published the Old Course was like today with wider fairways and double greens. That is why the winning medal scores had come down, says Balfour. The players had not improved, but they were given more room for mistakes and fewer hazards to overcome.

Also, James Balfour was there to experience the change from feather balls to guttas and the change in clubs that went with the change in balls. He regrets the passing of the baffy spoon: ‘there are few prettier strokes in the game.’ And he criticises Allan Robertson for playing these shots with an iron: ‘It destroys the green, as some even intentionally cut the turf with it.’

Finally golf had become so popular that a starter had to handle 50 or 60 matches in the morning. Balfour fondly remembers the days when players assembled in the Union Parlour around noon, played two rounds plus a putting match over the Himalayas and then sat down to dinner at five.

James Balfour writes in a brisk style that my Swedish teacher in school would have called pregnant. This refers to a match in Leith where Woods and Grant played for 100 pounds plus five pounds a hole. It seems Grant lost the wager.

So when Hope Grant came back to St Andrews in 1851 from wars in India and China, the players expected some exciting betting like in the old days. Hugh Playfair offered a bet, but Grant answered that he had given up betting: ‘I now play for nothing.’ Playfair lowered the bet and finally offered Grant to play for a ‘fiddle-string’. Grant still refused, supported by Balfour. ‘The game in itself [is] sufficiently interesting without adding to it the gambler’s excitement’, says Balfour in his *Reminiscences*. The two became friends and constant opponents. That’s golf.

The original edition of *Reminiscences of Golf on St Andrews Links* was published by David Douglas in 1887 and is one of the rarest of collectable golf books. It appears occasionally in auctions, but will require a four-figure sum in sterling, dollars or euros for a successful bid.

Re-issues by the North East Fife Library Service and by Bud Dufner in 1975 and 1982 are attractive cheaper alternatives, as is my own 1987 edition from the Classics of Golf series. It has a foreword by Herbert Warren Wind and afterword by Jack Nicklaus, and is still available as a double volume set with Hutchinson’s *Hints on Golf*, for a modest $39.

*Reminiscences* is a pocket size book of 56 pages plus appendices that give names of medal winners. The back there is an advertisement for WG Simpson’s *The Art of Golf*, which was also published by David Douglas in 1887.
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Book Reviews

Golf in America
by George B Kirsch

Perhaps it goes without saying, but writing a history of the game is a most ambitious undertaking; almost certain to disappoint some. Most histories of the game in the United States have focused on the exploits of key personalities or the progress of great, national events. After recalling the adventures of noted players from Ouimet and Jones to Palmer and Nicklaus or in recapping the many years of major golf championships in America, little room remains to consider experiences of the average American. Golf in America, aims to fill this gap by providing ‘a concise narrative and social history of the sport in America from the 1880s to the present’.

So how well does the book deliver? First impressions can be deceiving. Not only does it carry an unremarkable title, but it begins with the overused ‘Washington’s Birthday’ photograph of the ‘father of American golf’. One immediately anticipates a reworking of familiar history, including John Reid’s singlehanded creation of US interest in the game. Fortunately, the title page of Kirsch’s book does not reflect the substance within.

For example, in covering America’s First Golden Age the author covers both the importance of key personalities like Hagen, Sarazen and Jones and the growth of municipal courses. Kirsch notes that the 1920s ‘witnessed the growth of modest semi-private and daily-fee courses’ and that ‘during these years Chicago became a centre for semi-public “pay as you play” courses’. This chapter also provides more discussion on the rise of Jewish clubs and the efforts of African Americans to play golf than on the development of architecturally exceptional courses or Bobby Jones’s competitive exploits.

Similarly, while his chapter From Palmer to Woods focuses primarily on the modern professional game in the United States, Kirsch commits more space to the struggles and successes of African American golfers like Lee Elder, Charlie Sifford and Calvin Peete than to many more successful players.

One observation that may be revealing is the manner in which Kirsch uses photographs in this 241-page work. Of the nineteen photographs, five feature African-Americans, five feature women, two feature US presidents, and only one features white, male professional golfers (Palmer and Nicklaus together).

The historian will be both pleased and disappointed by Kirsch’s use of primary materials. While his bibliography is a treasure trove of difficult-to-find articles in obscure periodicals, Kirsch has not provided explicit endnotes that would permit the researcher to verify or utilise the numerous facts that he presents. For example, when he states that ‘in 1917 the courses at Marquette Park and Jackson Park attracted 364,491 golfers’ the reader is not given his source. In the end, however, Golf in America delivers on its objective – the work is a useful narrative of the game as well as an important look at the broad ranks of American golfers and their interest in Scotland’s Game.

The book is published by the University of Illinois Press as part of their series on Sport and Society. It is available at £21.59 from amazon.co.uk, and a tempting $20 from its American parent amazon.com. ISBN is 978-0-252-03292-9 if you want to order it from your local bookshop.

Review by Bruce H Matson

Rushcliffe Golf Club
by Paul Dennis

As a writer and collector of golf club histories one looks for new ideas and new formats to break away from the stereotypical efforts of which we are often guilty. The Rushcliffe history is a most attractively-presented book in a landscape format enabling the designer flexible use of illustrations.

Founded in 1909 and up and running by 1910, the Club has had the usual fluctuations of fortune with wars, landlords etc which are related to outside events, with time lines for each decade. Another feature is Tee Talk, which relates to incidents in the Club’s story, which, although not relevant to its development, cast light on the membership and its concerns.

Tom Williamson, the designer of the original course, has pride of place at the beginning and
No Better Place
A Celebration of Parkstone Golf Club
edited by
Peter Hickling.

This beautifully-produced A4 card-backed book is, as the subtitle suggests, a celebration rather than a detailed history. Nevertheless, the main facts of the Club’s history are recorded: the series of owners; the architects employed on the design of the course; and the principal players, including professionals Reg Whitcombe and Peter Alliss. The latter provides a pleasant foreword; there are contributions from Donald Steel and a survey of the Braid course by Martin Ebert, the golf course architect. EP Leigh Bennett’s chapter on Parkstone from Golf in the South is included as is Percy Huggins’s profile of Open Champion Whitcombe. Lady champions Maureen Garrett and Jeanne Bisgood receive full attention. The original designer, Willie Park is profiled and so is James Braid, who remodelled the course in the 1930s at the instigation of Jack Stutt, Braid’s constructor.

There are copious black and white, and colour illustrations, including plans of the course development. The book can be obtained for £10+£2 p&p from Parkstone Golf Club, Links Road, Poole, Dorset, BH14 9QS.

Review by John Moreton

The Anstruther & St Andrews Railway
by
Andrew Hajducki, Michael Jodeluk and Alan Simpson.

Railway enthusiasts who enjoyed the authors’ previous book on the St Andrews Railway will find their latest offering equally satisfying. The line was built in the 1880s as a link between the Fife Railway terminus at Anstruther, and St Andrews. An opening chapter sets the scene in the East Neuk of Fife, taking the reader to the auld grey toun via Crail and Kingsbarns.

The North British Railway Co took the line over and it eventually closed in the 1960s. Once again the research is thorough and the 248 A5 pages are thoroughly illustrated with more than 200 photographs and maps. There is less about golf in this volume than its predecessor but there may be members who have memories of travelling on what must have been a picturesque line. A useful addition to the library and reminder of the social context in which we play our game, the book is available from The Oakwood Press, PO Box 13, Usk, Monmouth NP15 1YS. email sales@oakwoodpress.co.uk telephone 01291 650484. Price is £15.95 post free.

Review by John Moreton

Stoneham: 100 Years of Golf
by
Pam Paull

Whenever you mention Stoneham Golf Club, located in the north of Southampton, knowing looks are returned. This truly is a golfer’s course and although it never appears in any of the ‘Best of’ lists, it is highly regarded by those in the know.

The course was laid out 100 years ago by Willie Park Jnr, the designer of Sunningdale Old Course, and measured 6033 yards. James Braid and JH Taylor opened the course with an exhibition match in 1909 and there has been a steady stream of worthies ever since. The first Dunlop Masters was played here in 1946 and again in 1950. The Swallow-Penfold tournament, the biggest professional tournament outside the Open Championship was at Stoneham in 1961 and two ‘Brabazons’ and the English Ladies Amateur Strokeplay have also been hosted by the Club. The BGCS also played here in 1999! The Club is also well known in golf administration circles and can claim two EGU Presidents and a captain of the R&A amongst its members in recent times.

The author states in her introduction that she is neither writer nor historian. If this is an apology, none is needed for she has compiled a very readable account of her Club. Twenty chapters cover every aspect with super photos from all eras. She is to be commended for including Stoneham Memories throughout the book. These interesting oral histories will not be around forever and I would urge all of those contemplating a club history to learn from her example. She has also avoided the Honours Board section, an excellent move in my opinion.

The book is hardbound, and has 152 pages. Copies may be obtained from: The Manager, Stoneham Golf Club, Monks Wood Close, Bassett, Southampton, SO16 3TT, tel. 023 8076 9272, for a very reasonable £12.50 incl p&p or £10.00 if purchased at the Club.

Review by Robin Griffiths