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Book Reviews
So, The Grail is now held firmly in the Vardon grip of Bill Farmer the US team captain, and the European team members have returned from Pinehurst with lasting memories of playing the magnificent Dormie Club course where they suffered defeat against opponents both competitive and very hospitable. Discussions have already taken place regarding a European venue for the next match planned for 2013.

The Silver Jubilee plans for 2012 are taking shape, with the souvenir edition of Through the Green, and additional events at which play with both hickory or modern clubs will be welcomed. In contrast to difficulties experienced by match organisers this year to ensure full fields (the 2011 President’s Day at Hoylake and Open Championship meeting at Littlestone come to mind) the St Andrews visit was oversubscribed and a ballot had to be held. We nevertheless are determined to ensure that through 2012 every member will have the opportunity to enjoy collecting, reading about, and playing golf with fellow members.

Society member David Wright, the PGA Director of Heritage, recently invited the Committee to meet at the PGA offices at The Belfry. Whilst there we had the opportunity to inspect the outstanding collection of PGA memorabilia. We were able to read the committee meeting minute book open at the record of the meeting held on July 19th 1926 at which Mr Sam Ryder and Mr G Philpot (representing the proprietors of Golf Illustrated) were in attendance. The minute details the offer by Ryder to provide a cup for an international match, under the control of the PGA, between teams representing America and Great Britain, the match to be played alternately in America and Britain, starting with the former country. The cost of sending a team of ten players there would be approximately £3,000. Golf Illustrated had already announced their intention to raise a fund from their readers to send players to America to compete in the US Open Championship, and the magazine’s proprietors were agreeable to funds so raised being used for both purposes. The Secretary was instructed to write to the PGA of America outlining the scheme and asking if it met with their approval and support. As they say ‘the rest is history.’

After the match at Ganton in September discussion in the clubhouse turned to recollections of the international events that had been held there over the years including the Ryder, Walker and Curtis Cups. Also recalled was Sir Michael Bonallack’s success in the 1968 English Amateur Championship when he beat David Kelley 12 and 11 in the 36-hole final. I met Kelley a few weeks ago and asked about the match. He said he had gone in to lunch after the morning round 11 down, in spite of having played to scratch (which included one penalty shot). Accepting that some short putts were given, then Bonallack would have been 11 under with a round of 61 – arguably the best round he ever played. Kelley went on to say that on a recent long haul international flight he had been reading The greatest game ever played, by Michael Frost in which the author tells the story of the US Open at Brookline in 2013 when the then unknown American amateur Francis Ouimet defeated leading British professionals Harry Vardon and Ted Ray in a three-man eighteen-hole play-off for the title. The passenger in the next seat to him recognised the book, and said that he presumed that Kelley was a golfer, and commented that the greatest game at which he personally had been present was the final of the English Amateur at Ganton in 1968. Kelley replied ‘I was there too!’

Richard Atherton
Society News

The United States win the Hickory Grail

Bill Farmer (rt) Captain of the American team, holds the Hickory Grail with Bobby Hansen, co-owner of the Dormie Club, which hosted the biennial contest between European and American members of BGCS. Bobby has one of the world’s great collections of long-nosed clubs. A full report of the match appears later this issue.

Presentation of the Murdoch Medal

Philip Truett presented Bob Gowland with his 2011 Murdoch Medal at St Andrews in September. Appropriately enough, the presentation was on the Scores, one of Joe Murdoch’s favourite spots. Bob sits on the memorial bench in Joe’s name, overlooking the West Sands.
British Golf Museum Collections Recognised as of National Significance

Angela Howe, (right) Director of Heritage and Museum for the R&A, and Shona Robison, Scotland’s Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, both hold the Claret Jug at a ceremony marking recognition of the BGM having a Collection of National Significance.

Also in the picture are (l to r) Ray McFarlane, Chair of the Recognition Committee, Fiona Ballantyne, Chair, Museums Galleries Scotland and Graeme Simmers, Chairman, Museum Council of Management. A tour of the Museum is on the itinerary for BGCS members attending the Society’s Silver Jubilee celebrations at St Andrews, next June.

Subscriptions

Subs are unchanged from last year and are due to be paid by the end of January. The Committee is concerned about the high number of members who did not pay on time last year, even after taking into account the difficult postal conditions arising from the bad weather. This required an inordinate amount of effort by the Honorary Treasurer, in tracking down the defaulters.

Members are urged to send their remittance for the 2012 subscription, or even better, to use the enclosed pro-forma to set up a facility for an annual Standing Order on their bank account. As in previous years, members who have failed to pay their sub will be deemed to have resigned from the Society, and will not receive either the current issue of TTG, or the special Jubilee compendium of historic articles to be published in June.

Directories

The 2012 Members Directory will be published in March. Members are asked to check that their details are correct and to contact Hamish Ewan with any proposed changes. Critical among these is the email address, which is subject to frequent change that is not always reflected in the membership files. Hamish’s contact details are:

email: taormina@btinternet.com; and telephone: 01463 231145

New Members

We welcome new members to the Society, a number of whom we have met at events throughout Europe and North America.

| William Black | Vero Beach, FL | Books |
| Craig Blair | Mississauga, ONT | Clubs, balls, art |
| Giles Brealy | Herne Bay | Clubs |
| John Bowles | Chorley Wood | Silver, general |
| Malcolm Edin | Martock, Somerset | General |
| David Ellis | Järfälla, Sweden | Clubs |
| JG Grasso | Zanesville, OH | Gibson clubs |
| Chic Harper | Philadelphia, PA | Books |
| Jorma Karstedt | Fife | Books |
| Jussi Karttunen | Helsinki | Books |
| Kody Kirchoff | Pori, Finland | Clubs |
| Bobby Kirk | Lithuania, FL | Clubs |
| Carolyn Kirk | York | Clubs |
| Markus Kuemmerle | Constance, Germany | Clubs, balls, clubs |
| Sofia Lelakowska | Warsaw | Clubs, images |
| Sandy McNeish | Birmingham | Books |
| Roger McStravick | St Andrews | Books, art |
| Brian Matheson | Edinburgh | Books |
| Tomas Nemel | Prague | Books, clubs |
| Britta Nord | Järfälla, Sweden | Clubs |
| Bruce Orman | London | Books |
| Mark Pritchard-Jelfs | Bradford | Clubs |
| Michael Redheffer | Woldingham, Surrey | General |
| John Rostron | Southport | Royal Birkdale |
| Ken Rumens | Tylers Green, Bucks | General |
| Colin Sinclair | Gullane | Clubs |
| David Still | Loch Lloys, MO | Books, art, clubs |
| Martin Trees | Warwickshire | Books, history |
| Alastair Wells | Crawley | Clubs, history |
| Paul Walker | Blakedown, Worc | Clubs |
**East Anglian Mini-Tour**

**Brancaster.** Wednesday, 8th June. This was our second visit to Royal West Norfolk and thanks are due in no small part to local member George Eve who once again laid on a great foursomes fixture. Weather conditions were dry if a little windy and this is a very special and historic course set on a spit of sand in the North Sea.

We played five foursomes but the match itself was to be based on holes up. As it happened the holes ended all square as would have the match 2½ to 2½.

We were then entertained at BGCS member Mike Wall’s beautiful house overlooking the marshes before moving on to The Ship where we enjoyed a very pleasant dinner.

**Hunstanton** Thursday, 9th of June.

We then played our traditional match against Hunstanton for the Halliwell Trophy and were just edged out on holes up, even though the match score would have once again been tied.

Adrian Halliwell was a very good host and the match was followed by an excellent dinner.

*Nigel Notley*

**England v Scotland**

The annual match between the ‘auld enemies’ took place over the ancient championship links at Dunbar on a blustery, but mainly dry day at the beginning of September. The English team was bolstered by the presence of Tom Tew, lured from northern fastnesses, recent new member Richard Ellis from Edinburgh, and John Dixon, 'from Letha's plains.' The English got off to a flying start and were preparing for victory celebrations after being up after the first three results. Alas! the final games went the wrong way and they were left to contemplate yet another defeat – their sixth successive reverse.

*John Pearson*

**Centenary Hickory Match v Luffenham Heath**

On the 4th of September fourteen BGCS hickory players visited Luffenham Heath Golf Club for a Centenary Match. We had a warm welcome from the members who admired the stoicism of those in Edwardian dress who did not flinch at playing in quite heavy rain. Luckily the sun came out after a few holes and everyone enjoyed this gem of a course with its wonderful views over the rolling Rutland countryside. The encounter was friendly – the fact that the home club won easily is unimportant – the bar was noisy and a cheerful supper was followed by an amusing talk about the history of the rules on dropping the ball (either free or with penalty) from our President, Philip Truett. An enjoyable day.

*Liz Macdonald*

**Match v Royal Worlington**

**Royal Worlington** Friday 9th September

This fixture over the Sacred Nine is always enjoyable. The match was tied and followed by a very pleasant lunch. We were grateful to Michael Sheret for visiting us on his British tour from Australia.

In a departure from the normal, the Match against the Club next year will be held on 15th March. Look out for details on the website

*Nigel Notley*

**Newtonmore Meeting**

Fifteen members attended the North Scotland meeting on a blustery 27th September, which stayed dry apart from one early shower. The course was in good order but unfortunately most of us could not take advantage of this. Nearest the pin prizes were won by John Wood and myself. The winner once again was Willie Tanner with a runaway 35 points followed by John Wood (30) and Ian Hislop (29). The game was followed by an excellent meal and the usual banter and chatter. It was nice to see Alan and Jean Jackson so far north, and also to welcome Tom Tew back after a few years absence.

*Hamish Ewan*
The Hickory Grail

The seventh biennial match between American and European members of the BGCS took place at the Dormie Club, Pinehurst, North Carolina USA, on the 8th and 9th of November 2011.

The seventeen-strong European Team with a small band of supporters arrived at Pinehurst with the Hickory Grail trophy which had been wrested from our American friends in Falsterbo, Sweden in 2009. Home advantage was evident when we arrived at the Dormie Club in glorious autumn sunshine to find firm greens registering twelve on the stimp. Nevertheless we made a fight of it on a very good golf course designed by Crenshaw and Coore and co-owned legend Minnow Powell, who was following round with Club Secretary James Laidler. Nigel admitted that this was the first time he had ever won anything hitting just one green in ‘regulation.’ The Rye greens were fast and slippery and the pin placements a challenge.

The Tony Hawkins Scratch Trophy went to Australian Professional, Perry Somers with a gross 80. Perry was ecstatic to add this trophy to a plethora of championships around Europe. It is rumoured he plans to enter the Australian Seniors PGA championship playing with hickory.

The field had a true international flavour and there is no doubt that many Continental Europeans see Rye as an ideal venue; long may it continue. The event was enhanced as always by a visit to Tim and Ali Smartt’s lovely home in Rye to look at Tim’s art collection and enjoy some fine champagne. A wonderful few days.

English Hickory Championship at Rye on the 7th of October

After a disappointing summer we were treated to some nice dry and warm weather for the Championship. The lack of rain since the end of August saw the links running fast but there was good moisture in the turf and this provided excellent tight lies, a key ingredient for any aspiring hickory golfer.

After a very blowy match between the Rye Hickory Golfers and the Continent of Europe the day of the championship presented only a modest two-club breeze. However whilst the elements looked ideal the course presented a real challenge at 6250 yards off the medal tees. Tim Smartt, who once again was ably assisted by Rye Professional Michael Lee, set up a special card with both the par and SSS being 73 against the normal card, which has a par of 68 and a challenging SSS of 71.

The Champion for 2011 was Nigel Notley with a modest 32 points, from Michael Sheret, all the way from Australia with 30. Britta Nord from Sweden, making her first appearance, won the Ladies section prize. Nigel attributed his unexpected success, to trying to create a good impression of hickory golfers for Rye Captain and Oxford & Cambridge Golf Society legend Minnow Powell, who was following round with Club Secretary James Laidler. Nigel admitted that this was the first time he had ever won anything hitting just one green in ‘regulation.’ The Rye greens were fast and slippery and the pin placements a challenge.

The 2011 champions: Perry Somers, (Scratch) and Nigel Notley, (English Hickory)
by Bobby Hansen, one of the great golf collectors, who kindly provided courtesy of the course and facilities. Thank you Bobby on behalf of all of us in the BGCS.

Society Captain, Richard Atherton, had the honour of playing in the opening fourball with Scottish Hickory scratch winner Jorgen Isberg, going down 2&1 to top professional Fred Muller, and the Secretary to the American side, John Miller. This set the tone for the fourballs and the foursomes leaving Europe with a mountain to climb in the singles. Europe did win the singles 6½ to 5½ but USA took the trophy by 14 points to 10.

The famous Holly Inn was the venue for the Convivial Dinner. USA Captain Bill Farmer received the Grail from David Kirkwood; the Society of Hickory Golfers awarded the Ralph Livingstone Medal to Nigel Notley for services to hickory golf. Europe now look forward to London 2013 and hopefully will regain the trophy left in Pinehurst.

David Kirkwood

Results (USA names first)

Fourballs USA 4 Europe 2
Fred Muller & John Crow Miller beat Jorgen Isberg & Richard Atherton
Rick Wolfe & Michael Beckerich beat William Tanner & Martyn Price
Curt Sampson & Jeremy Moe lost to John Still & Ian Hislop
Roger Hill & Mike Stevens beat Nigel Notley & Jean-Louis Panigel
Breck Speed & Chris Deinlein lost to Erik Brandstrom & Czeslaw Crulk
Bill Farmer & Mark Wehring beat Jonas Fack & Claes Kvist

Foursomes USA 4½ Europe 1½
Wehring & Moe beat Kvist & Fack
Jay Harris & Robert Ahlschwede beat Philip Truett & Clive Mitchell
Ross Hays & Chuck McMullin beat Hislop & Antti Paatola
Farmer & Sampson halved Nigel Notley & David Kirkwood
Stevens & Speed beat Jorgen Isberg & Ron Beatt
Deinlein and Miller lost to Erik Brandstrom & William Tanner

Singles USA 5½ Europe 6½
Ahlschwede lost to Isberg
Sampson beat Fack
Muller beat Notley
McMullin lost to Tanner
Hays beat Hislop
Wolfe lost to Kirkwood
Beckerich lost to Kvist
Wehring beat Brandstrom
Moe halved Still
Speed lost to Mitchell
Hill lost to Kruk

BGCS v Clapham Common GC at Mitcham GC on the 26th of October

We were fortunate that the forecast rain did not appear and that Tony Marzoccevich (President CCGC) provided the usual sustenance on the first tee. Our six extra shots a head are still not enough and we ended up losing 4½ to 2. Sunningdale adjustments helped win at least one of the points in a late ambush after being behind.

At Mitcham the banter always entertains and the traditional supper of ham eggs and chips went down well with local brews. Richard Atherton, John Pearson, Danny Kaye, Dave Norman, and Alan Henderson all had long journeys while the locals Philip Truett, Bill Seldon, John Downs, George Scoble, Barry Davies and John Hawkins gave good support. Our thanks go to Mitcham GC for courtesy of the course.

BGCS V The PGA on 27th of October
This year the hosts were the PGA represented by David Wright, who had organised his team and the bookings with Walton Heath GC, with a lunch in the close and friendly Fowler Room. We were especially pleased to see Ken Macpherson in good health. He presided in his usual cheerful way and sent us off from the first tee with proper sand tees. Brian Meaby, Clive Mitchell, Ian Lawlor, Chris Walker, Peter Fry and Tim Smartt came in to make the side up to seven matches.

We had only won two of the previous six matches so a match result of three wins to two, with two halved was a very welcome result in favour of the Society and much enjoyed by our Captain Richard Atherton.

The PGA team included BGCS Members Geoff Morris, Geoff Pook, Eddie Bullock, Richard Wooler and Alasdair Barr. The home Professional Simon Peaford also turned out to win a point with his partner George Ritchie. David Talbot (a former PGA Matchplay Champion), Richard Harrison, Colin Clingan, Doug Edgar, Alan McGinn, Alan Hall and Bryan Patterson completed the team.

Our thanks to all of the PGA members, many having made long journeys, who showed their enjoyment of playing the old clubs and were such good company on the day. Ken Macpherson made an informative and entertaining speech after an excellent lunch followed by our President who explained the significance of the Fowler Room having been the team room for the USPGA Ryder Cup side for the 1981 match.

We look forward to 2013!

John Hawkins.
For the 25th Anniversary Celebrations in 2012

**Date** | **Event** | **Club/Course**
--- | --- | ---
**March**
Monday 12th | Centenary hickory match | Market Rasen
Thursday, 15th | Hickory match | Royal Worlington
Friday, 30th | Spring competition | Borth & Ysyslas
Saturday, 31st | Hickory match | Aberdovey
**April**
Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> | Welsh Hickory Championship | Aberdovey
Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> | North Scottish Spring Meeting | Royal Aberdeen
Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> | Biennial hickory match | Inverallochy
Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> | Match | Wallasey
Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> | President’s Day | Royal Liverpool
**May**
Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> | North of England Spring Meeting | Ganton
Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> | Central England Hickory Ch’p | Coxmoor
Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> | Scottish Hickory Championship | Gullane
**June**
Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> | Hickory match | Royal West Norfolk
Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> | Hickory match | Hunstanton
Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> | Centenary hickory match | Cooden Beach
Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> | Hickory match | Walton Heath
Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> | BGCS 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting, at St Andrews | Jubilee Course
**July**
Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> | Annual match v Mackenzie Society | Cavendish
Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> | Open Championship Meeting | Fleetwood
**August**
Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> | Centenary hickory match | Bedford & County
Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> | Hickory match v Senior Golfers’ Soc | Edgbaston
Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> | Midlands Summer Meeting | Birstall
**September**
Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> | England v Scotland hickory match | Goswick
Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> | North Scottish Autumn Meeting | Crieff
**October**
Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> | Annual match | Rye Jubilee
Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> | English Hickory Championship | Rye
Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> | Match v Clapham Common GC | Mitcham Common
Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> | Hickory match | Reigate Heath

Chris Walker, the BGCS Fixture Co-ordinator, has drawn up the list opposite, of all the fixtures in our Silver Jubilee year. A full agreed list will be published within the Membership Directory, to be distributed with the March issue of *TTG*. Organisers have made a special effort to recognise the celebratory nature of the year with some particularly attractive fixtures, appealing to as many members of the Society as possible.

The regular fixtures are there as usual, with matches against Royal Worlington, Aberdovey, Inverallochy, Royal West Norfolk, Hunstanton, Walton Heath, The Mackenzie Society, The Senior Golfers’ Society, Rye, Clapham Common and Reigate Heath. Members will note additional matches against Market Rasen, Cooden Beach, and Bedford and County, all celebrating their centenaries, and against Wallasey, prior to President’s Day. On June the 23rd, Philip Truett is planning a very special match in three-ball sixsome format, between the Society, the R&A and the hosts, Walton Heath. And for the annual England v Scotland match, we return to Goswick that great links course on the Northumbrian coast.

Whilst President’s Day and the respective Welsh, Central England, Scottish and English Hickory Championships will all be held at their usual popular venues, the attention of members is drawn particularly to the spring meetings of North Scotland and the North of England at Royal Aberdeen and Ganton respectively, courses that have both been venues for recent Walker Cup matches; and the Society’s Open Championship Meeting over the links course at Fleetwood.

These are fine courses and organisers will be planning for good demand, such as has already been evident for the very special 25th Anniversary Meeting at St Andrews. The Committee is still exploring ways of extending access to this fixture in order to accommodate those who were unfortunate to be unsuccessful in the ballot for places.

In addition to pencilling in some of the later dates for their diaries, members may wish to note that application forms are included with this issue of *TTG* for The Welsh Weekend (including a new fixture at Borth), Royal Aberdeen, Royal Liverpool and Ganton. The respective organisers are Liz Macdonald, Hamish Ewan, Peter Heath and John Pearson.

Demand will be high; please return forms to organisers to secure a place at these wonderful golf courses.
RAL (Bobby) Burnet (1920 – 2011)

Bobby Burnet, Honorary Librarian and subsequently Historian of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club for many years, died on the 18th of August at the age of 91.

Bobby was born a son of the manse in Kilmarnock, in 1920, and was educated at Glasgow Academy, before graduating post-war from Edinburgh University with a rugby blue and a degree in English Literature. His war service was spent as a submariner in the Royal Navy, where he reached the rank of lieutenant. He taught English at Strathallan School, Perthshire before retiring as deputy headmaster in 1980, after 30 years service.

Bobby and his wife Bunty moved to St Andrews, where he was appointed Honorary Librarian of the R&A in 1981 and Honorary Historian soon afterwards. A popular and respected figure in the world of golf, he became the acknowledged point of contact and authority for clubs wishing to confirm their foundation date, in advance of centenaries and other anniversaries.

His major golfing work was The St Andrews Opens, for which the USGA honoured him with their International Book Award in 1991. Perhaps not so well-known was his influential publication of a 1979 article in Notes and Queries, using textual analysis of Shakespeare’s plays to establish the playwright’s familiarity with marginal notes in the Geneva Bible.

Mr and Mrs Burnet moved to be near their family in Gloucestershire in 2005, and then to South Wales in 2008, where he continued to enjoy his golf. A two-handicap player in his youth, he had an idiosyncratic short, punchy swing that was most effective in the wind, when he had the ability to move the ball in either direction. He was good enough to be runner-up to one of WD Smith’s many victories in the Elie Links Championship. Bobby was made a Life Member of the R&A in 1992 and was past captain and an Honorary Member of the Golf House Club, Elie.

JOP

Phil Pilley had a unique position in the golf book-writing world, being the only person to have won the USGA’s prestigious International Book Award twice. In 1989 he won it with Golfing Art and again in 2003 with Walton Heath’s centenary history Heather and Heaven. With the latter he was generally felt to have set a new standard in the writing of golf club histories and for this four-year labour of love he was made an honorary member of the Club. In recognition of his authorship of Heather and Heaven, as a member of BGCS, Phil was also awarded the Murdoch Medal in 2002 for his contribution to the history and heritage of golf.

Phil was a former Fleet Street journalist and TV producer. He spent twelve years at the BBC and then set up Trans World International for Mark McCormack, before running his own production company. He won a US ‘Emmy’ award for his film The Great English Garden Party about the history of Wimbledon, featuring Peter Ustinov. He began filming golf with The Big Three featuring Palmer, Nicklaus and Player. He made eleven consecutive films of The Open Championship for the R&A and was invited by the USGA to produce for them also. His sports documentaries have been seen throughout the world.

Phil wrote books on golf, cricket, bowls and athletics. He took up golf only after a lifetime love affair with cricket. He said he was much better at cricket than golf and considered it a superior game. He was a member at Ashford Manor GC whose 1998 centenary history he wrote.

It was a privilege for me to work with Phil on Heather and Heaven. He was the most conscientious person you could ever meet. A journalist of the Old School, every fact was checked and checked again. He suggested in his Introduction that our partnership was a happy and creatively-satisfying one. It most certainly was and I shall miss him.

We send his widow, and great supporter, Pat, our most sincere condolences.

Philip Truett

We are sorry to record the passing of Dr Mike Barry, a long-standing BGCS member, who died peacefully at his home in Brent Knoll, Somerset, on the 4th of October. He was 88.

A gentle modest man, Mike was a true golfing enthusiast. He was a past captain and Life Member at Burnham and Berrow GC, which he joined in 1948. He had a pitch and putt course laid out in his garden, and a special room that he called “The Museum, to display his general collection of golfing memorabilia. Our sympathies go to Gillian and their family.

RHG

OBITUARIES | 9
Once your opponent has looked at your clubs with total incredulity and then realised that you really are going to play with them, the next question is normally, ‘what difference does it make?’ You then mutter some comment about adding three shots to your steel handicap, more out of vanity than rational thought and you are then faced with three hours on the links desperately trying to deliver a credible performance! The British Golf Collectors Society has 200 registered hickory players and 82 have turned out in the UK in one or more hickory strokeplay events in 2011. The players were from as far a field as Australia and North America together with an ever-increasing influx from mainland Europe where numbers of national hickory championships are growing.

Our data set is based on the three British championships: the English at Rye; Scottish at Gullane; and Welsh at Aberdovey. To these championships we have worked in additional results from Coxmoor, Arbroath and Newtonmore. With regard to non-BGCS members we have used data from 2010 at Royal Wimbledon.

The Society has long recognised that for competitions and matches involving play with hickory clubs, a handicap adjustment is necessary. With a limited number of members who play predominantly with hickory clubs in standard competitions, this is not an issue, for their handicap will take account of their regular scores in hickory play. However, for the majority of members whose handicaps are based on play with modern clubs, an adjustment will be necessary. The current system for adjusting steel handicaps which has served us well, is as follows:

1. Add 1 shot for scratch
2. Add 2 shots for 1-4 handicap
3. Add 3 shots for 5-8 handicap
4. Add 4 shots for 9-15 handicap
5. Add 5 shots for handicaps 16 and upwards

This system was based on general experience rather than firm statistical data from historical performance. How close therefore are these formulas to actual scores? To test them we needed to establish:

1. How close scratch scores achieved are to Par and the Standard Scratch Score (SSS)
2. How have steel handicaps fared in Hickory competitions

Scratch scores
We have good data on the three British majors, the Scottish, English and Welsh.

The English Hickory Championship at Rye
This is played off medal tees on a course of about 6272 yards. Technically the par for Rye is 68 but the SSS is 71 (Tim Smartt in 2010 wisely created a special card where ‘par’ and the Standard Scratch Score were both 73). We have used the former as we are trying to establish the link between par or SSS and the scratch winners of hickory events. It should be remembered that the winning scores used, dating back to 1998, are the best scratch scores of the day. They are not measured in the same way as the new handicap system used by CONGU.

1. Over a fourteen-year period the best score ever (by 3) was a 72 by Andrew Reynolds. The worst winning score was 81 by the same player
2. The average winning score is just over 77 ie 6 shots over the SSS
3. If the winner’s actual handicap is taken into account the average net score by the scratch winner is 5 over the SSS
4. Rye has more winners from the professional ranks than the other two British Majors (eight out of fourteen)

Welsh Hickory Championship at Aberdovey
We have data for the same period back to 2002. We generally play off yellow tees giving a par of 71 against a SSS of 70. The course is 6091 yards:

The best score in that time was 76 and the worst 86
2. The average winning scratch score was nearly 81
3. If the winners handicap is deducted the net score is 6 over the SSS
4. The Welsh has had one Professional winner since inception in 2002

The Scottish Hickory Championship at Gullane
Once again using the same data back to 2002 the following are our findings. We generally play off white medal tees giving a par of 68 against a SSS of 66. The course is 5259 yards

1. The best score in that time was 69 and the worst 77
2. The average winning scratch score was 73 being 7 over the SSS
3. If the winner’s handicap is deducted then the average net score is 5 over the SSS
4. Since 1997 there have been five professional winners out of fifteen winners

Conclusion on scratch winners
There is a consistent theme from these championships and that is that the average score net of handicap of the winner is 5 over the Standard Scratch Score.

Handicap scores
Rye analysis 2010
We carried out a detailed analysis on the 2010 English Hickory at Rye for what may have been the lowest handicap field assembled by the BGCS in the UK. More than 50% of the field were
single figure golfers based on a field well in excess of 40. In the assessment on scratch scores above, the winning scratch score averaged 5 over his handicap. The data from Rye in 2010 showed us all the scratch scores returned. The average was 86.5 which was actually 8 shots over the average steel handicap.

At Rye we also recorded stableford scores for the English Hickory Championship. (In the BGCS the Hickory Champion is decided on handicap.) Using our five handicap categories it is interesting to note that

1. The four scratch golfers averaged 28 points
2. The eleven golfers in the 5-8 category averaged 27
3. The fifteen in the 9-15 averaged only 22
4. The eight in the 16+ category averaged 20

The overall average hickory stableford score was just 25

Analysis of whole 2011 season
We have recorded stableford scores for six events in the UK in 2011

5. Welsh Hickory at Aberdovey
6. Scottish Hickory at Gullane
7. English Hickory at Rye
8. Central England at Coxmoor
9. Northern Scottish Spring meeting at Arbroath
10. Northern Scottish Autumn meeting at Newtonmore

A total of 82 players have competed in the UK on one or more occasions in 2011. The stableford points shown are based on steel handicaps not hickory. Where a player has entered with a hickory-only handicap this has been converted back to the steel equivalent. It can be seen that:

- The average steel handicap used was 12
- The average stableford score was 25, mirroring exactly the findings from Rye in 2010 detailed above
- If a hickory handicap was created based on an exact average of each players score in 2011 then it would be 23 ie 11 shots higher than a steel handicap

Other considerations
1. We have received submissions from the Society of Hickory Golfers. Unlike the UK where we only record scores in competitions, the SoHG log on to their handicap register and receive a handicap based on all play. We don't believe that the UK are mindful to follow this model as a card and pencil are used very infrequently with most golf still being matchplay.
2. If CONGU permitted us to operate a separate hickory handicap data base and we applied their rules then it is likely that based on the scores from all six events that every event would have been non-qualifying. Only one player scored in excess of 36 points (Ron Beatt’s 37 at the SHC). No one else played to their steel handicap.
3. We have also established from data at Royal Wimbledon that when BGCS members play against other teams who are not regular hickory players we should give their members three extra shots if they are playing with hickory.

Conclusion
There therefore remains the issue of adjusting handicaps for the purpose of achieving a level playing field.

- For scratch events this is not an issue. The lowest score wins.
- For handicap events there is a need to
  o apply a more realistic stroke allowance to convert steel handicaps to hickory
  o as a society to make temporary downward handicap adjustments for recurrent winners of BGCS events
  o give additional stroke allowances for non-members playing with hickory in centenary matches

A BGCS Committee Decision
The BGCS Committee has approved the following:

1. To convert a conventional handicap for hickory play
The following adjustments will apply with immediate effect:

- Add 3 shots for scratch to 3 handicap
- Add 4 shots for 4-8 handicap
- Add 5 shots for 9-14 handicap
- Add 6 shots for 15-20 handicap
- Add 7 shots for 21 handicap and upwards

These provisions apply to players in hickory competitions or matches, whose handicaps have been based on play with modern equipment. For players whose handicaps are based on hickory play, there is no need to apply an adjustment.

2. Handicap adjustment for winners of handicap events
With respect to Society events from 2012 the conventional handicap of a competition winner

- Will be reduced by one shot for the rest of the current year (year 1) through to the end of the following year (year 2)
- Plus one additional shot for each additional tournament win. So two wins equates to a two-shot reduction, three wins equals three shots etc
- The handicap will then revert to the conventional handicap in year 3
- Should a player subsequently enter a competition having had his / her CONGU handicap reduced then that handicap will apply (a one shot hickory adjustment will not reduce it further)
- The BGCS Committee will clarify application of the rules in other circumstances; their decision will be final

3. Hickory handicaps for Club & Centenary matches
In matches against the Society, members of other clubs or societies unaccustomed to hickory play, should receive three extra courtesy shots.

Nigel Notley
The Game of Golf, with more published books than all other sports combined, has benefited from many erudite writers but, perhaps arguably, Britain’s Bernard Darwin and Henry Longhurst with America’s Herbert Warren Wind can be said to fill the top three places. It is an intriguing coincidence that all three attended Cambridge University, although not contemporaneously, and that their paths crossed occasionally. With help from Robert Macdonald I was privileged to have several meetings with Mr Wind, towards the end of his life.

In 1983 Macdonald established Ailsa Press to produce modern reprints of books deemed to be ‘The Classics of Golf’ and these all featured a Foreword by Wind and an Afterword by a well-known golfing figure. The forewords by Wind were considered so relevant to the history of golf that they were themselves gathered and published in a separate book. Over lunch one day I asked Robert if he would sign my copies of his books and also ask Mr Wind to sign them. He acquiesced to the first request, but ‘No’, he wouldn’t ask Mr Wind on my behalf, saying, ‘Herb will be delighted to meet you in person and he will sign your books for you’. He provided an address, saying ‘You must write him yourself, and to make sure that you do I shall write telling him to expect your letter’. Thus it was that I came to meet the man who has been described as the Poet Laureate of golf. Through all our meetings, with respect, I called him Mr Wind, but it is as ‘Herb’ that I shall always remember him.

His early years and Yale University
Herb was born on the 11th of August, 1916, in Brockton, MA. His father, Max, was born in Austria, his mother, Dora, was born in Russia and he had a brother and four sisters. Max was the President and Treasurer of a family-owned leather business, and a member of Thorny Lea Golf Club where he would take ten-year old Herb to play. Herb attended Whitman Junior High School and Brockton High School (1930-33), during which time he contributed commentaries on sports for the Brockton Daily Enterprise. He then entered Yale University, majoring in English. Academically, he was a scholar of the second rank in his Freshman and Junior years, with his junior appointment being an oration, and rising to third rank in his Sophomore year. In his Senior year he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the honorary society founded in 1776 for American students of high scholastic rank, and he graduated BA in 1937. Athletically, he played as a Freshman for his College, Jonathon Edwards, on the soccer and basketball teams and was in the Track squad, while in his Junior year he played for the Yale University Basketball team being awarded a minor ‘Y’ for his performances. In his last two years he expanded his range of sports playing baseball for the College team. During his time at Yale he wrote copiously, for the Yale Record, being elected to the Editorial Board in 1934, and also for the Yale Daily News, writing sports articles under the byline ‘Satellite’ in the column Sidelines through 1936-37. In 1936 Variety, the national paper for stage, screen and radio, published his article on music. It was expected that following graduation, Herb would join the family business but he added a handwritten addendum to his notes for the Alumni: ‘He plans to continue his studies in English at Cambridge. Though he will probably enter the leather business, he intends to devote much time to writing.’

Cambridge University
Herb matriculated on the 2nd of November, 1937, to study for the English Tripos, as the Honours BA is known, having been admitted to Jesus College to read English Language and
Literature under Dr EMW Tillyard, the noted Shakespearean Scholar. On the strength of his Yale degree he was listed as an affiliated student, allowing him to claim some privileges, such as graduating after six terms in residence rather than the usual nine terms, although apparently Yale did not supply any details of his performance in their course; nor did Cambridge ask for any. In 1939 he took the second part of the Tripos exam, gaining a lower second class pass and graduating BA. Comments in his student file suggest that he was a popular and hardworking member of his College. As was the custom at that time, he graduated MA, by proxy, on the 19th of October, 1946.

During his time in Cambridge Herb ‘absorbed Britishness’. He liked the life style and joined in the student activities, he enjoyed learning the different pronunciations and the different use of certain words, he enriched his own vocabulary with new words and expressions, and he ‘lost’ his American twang absorbing the English ‘accentricity’ (sic), a word he thought up in the bathtub. And of course, he wrote. Each term Jesus College published the Chanticleere, a magazine in which Herb wrote spoof letters to his friends and relations back home. He used the pseudonym Fred Ralston, a student at Cambridge, who wrote to his ‘parents’, his ‘girl friend’ Joyce Frobisher and his ‘Yale buddy’ Len Wilbur, sending greetings to the gang at the Chi Phi House. We know that he played golf at Cambridge because Fred wrote that he was playing ‘so pediculously’ that he had thrown his clubs into the Cam. The letters are hilarious with anecdotes and comments about life in Britain, and Cambridge in particular. After a visit to Oxford, he writes of his ‘present love of this old place’, and his sincere affection for Cambridge ‘Where you don’t feel so abnormal for not being a genius’, clearly comes through the hilarity in the letters. In a letter to his ‘Aunt Caroline’ there is a mention of Bernard Darwin rhapsodising on the crocus. Herb left Cambridge and returned home in 1939, but in an earlier letter he intimated concern about the threat of war and was unimpressed by the activities of Mr Neville Chamberlain. Some years later Herb repeated the concept of spoof letters in his book, On the Tour with Harry Sprague.

Herb met Bernard Darwin at Cambridge when the latter was aged 63, and on several occasions thereafter, and it is Darwin who gets the credit from Herb for teaching him how to report on golf. Darwin convinced him of the importance of ‘walking the course, seeing and sensing the action, the pressures and challenges, how each player handled the tension, elation and disappointments, ecstasy and depression’. Darwin told him not to be obsessed with the numbers in the score but to find out what happened to create the numbers. Military service

On his return to the USA Herb once more worked for the Brockton Daily Enterprise while he sought a position in journalism and in 1941 he was employed by The National Broadcasting Company in New York, as Director of Publicity. As America entered the War, Herb enlisted in the Air Corps, was sent to OCS training then to China as a Special Services Officer, with the rank of First Lieutenant assigned to the Intelligence Corps of the US Army. He had further short postings to India and was in Japan when the War finished, returning to civilian life with campaign ribbons and medals to show for his efforts.

Civilian life again

On demobilisation he became a staff writer at the New Yorker in 1947, and his first piece on golf was a profile of golf course designer Robert Trent Jones. From 1954 he was a writer and editor with Sports Illustrated but returned to the New Yorker in 1962 and for the next 25 years he wrote The Sporting Scene, a Section that he created for the paper and that covered all sports, particularly tennis and golf. Having played several different sports himself he was ideally placed to take on this task. He was also one of the producers of Shell’s Wonderful World of Golf for television. When Thorney Lea Golf Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary Herb was asked to write the club history, which was published in 1950.

The US Tour in the post war years.

Herb described the hard, early years, few tournaments and little money, as the PGA attempted to revive the competitions, so most of the professionals shared their automobile transportation from course to course, shared hotel rooms and ate cheaply; and, while some wives travelled, most could not afford the extra cost involved and many had their own jobs, to supplement the family income. Herb’s reminiscing was a kaleidoscope of the players he knew. He commented on the similarities of the two best players of these years: Sam Snead, who played basketball, football, tennis, baseball, track and swam for his high school, and had the most natural golf swing of all; and Ben Hogan whose stubborn work ethic made him one of golf’s greatest players. They were born in the same year, 1912, and while throughout the war Snead served in the US Navy, Hogan served in the US Army Air Force, and both shared a dislike of travelling outside the USA. Snead, although among the shrewdest when a dollar was involved, played the role of hillbilly to the hilt, while Hogan had a much more serious approach to life. Both played in the Open Championship only once, Snead at St Andrews in 1946 and Hogan at Carnoustie in 1953, each winning and disdaining to defend their title. Herb noted that Snead’s athleticism was retained throughout his life, permitting him, at the age of 62 to take third place in the PGA Championship. Byron Nelson, rejected by the military on account of a haematological disorder, raised thousands of dollars for the war effort playing exhibitions throughout the War then winning eleven straight, and eighteen tournaments in total, during 1945. There were characters like Lloyd Mangrum, wounded at the Battle of the Bulge, who could have passed for an 1880s riverboat gambler, and Jimmy Demaret, of the outrageous attire and outsized hats, who was the first to win The Masters three times, and was a night club crooner, when he and Ben Hogan weren’t winning team competitions. In 1928 Johnny Farrell, always the well-dressed golfer at the tournaments, won the US Open in a play-off with Jones and...
thus became the last man to defeat Jones in that competition. Horton Smith, perhaps the best putter of all at the time, winner of the first and third Masters Tournaments and the last man to defeat Bobby Jones in formal competition, served in the US Army Special Services but developed Hodgkin’s Disease and did not play competitively after the war; the dentist, Dr Cary Middlecoff, who gave up one career to find considerably more success playing golf, and the urbane Scot, Tommy Armour, who conducted teaching sessions in the Florida sunshine while seated under an umbrella, always with a cooling beverage close at hand. Herb recalled the flamboyant Walter Hagen, past his best by the end of the War but with his reputation intact, who was always a welcome and conspicuous guest at the tournaments; the handsome Craig Wood who endured being runner-up in the four Major championships before he won the Masters in 1941; and Henry Picard who was rated as one of the top three players of the irons and who won the 1938 Masters and the 1939 PGA Championship, but who is hardly remembered today. While the modern amateur game tends to be obliterated today, in Herb’s time there were several amateurs who more than held their own in competition with the professionals, most famously Francis Ouimet, Bobby Jones, Lawson Little, Frank Stranahan, Harvie Ward and Ken Venturi; he knew and wrote about them all.

**Listening and enjoying the stories**

Three of the world’s greatest golfers, Sarazen, Hogan and Nicklaus asked Herb to collaborate in writing their biographies, and he was the author of *The Story of American Golf*, still held by many to be the definitive early history. It was Herb who, in 1958 christened the Augusta holes Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen as ‘Amen Corner’, and he was a very close friend of Bob Jones, and regular attendee at the Masters Tournament for years, where the Herbert Warren Wind Dinner was regarded as one of the highlights of the week. He was given the Lifetime Achievement Award from the USPGA and he is the only writer to be given the Bob Jones award by the USGA. In addition to his genius in writing about golf he could also play it very well, with a handicap of five in 1950 when he qualified for the Amateur Championship at St Andrews. Alas, he was defeated in the first round as was a certain Mr Bing Crosby. However, in print he dismissed his golfing prowess, saying of a round at Dornoch: ‘It did take Cameron some time to get used to the fact that an American could be capable of such poor golf.’ This then was the man who had agreed to meet me and to sign my books.

**Meeting Mr Wind**

I drove out to his house where he seemed genuinely pleased to see me, saying that ever since he had received Robert Macdonald’s letter he had looked forward to this visit. He immediately set about signing the books, each one inscribed...
with different comments, quotes or thoughts until he decided that we had to leave for lunch. Although completely retired Herb was smartly dressed in a suit and 'I'll drive', he said getting his cap and coat. 'It's my favourite restaurant and they know me there.' They certainly did and his chilled vodka martini was waiting for him when we arrived. After lunch we returned to the house where he completed the signings and then we sat and talked. At least, he talked: I was regaled with a flood of stories and reminiscences about golf and golfers, but first he asked about my coming to live in the USA. I explained that my brother had preceded me having completed a Masters degree at the University of Pennsylvania, to which he responded 'Oh, what a shame' and, as a Yale smile broke out he continued 'that he didn't come to a proper University.' Now that we understood each other's sense of humour no barriers remained.

In all, I visited Herb some three or four times, usually for lunch and then the rest of the afternoon, but on the last occasion, in the evening for Dinner. This utterly charming man, always neatly dressed, with a soft mellifluous voice, shorn of any 'twang', spoke beautifully, occasionally mixing English and American words and pronunciation, a characteristic that he also employed in his writing, for example using 'reacclimatization' where an American would use 'reacclimation.' We talked for many hours in all, and I would have liked to have recorded them, for these would have made a fascinating book. Instead I have to rely on notes written as soon as possible after we parted, but perhaps a few stories from Herb involving three players that he knew intimately, will encapsulate the privilege that I was afforded.

**Gene Sarazen**

Sarazen was the first professional with whom Herb collaborated, in 1950, and it was clear that the friendship between the two was long and deep. 'Oh, Gene was a wonderful golfer' said Herb, 'and a very tough competitor who overcame so many early difficulties. In my opinion, he was the best player of the fairway woods: recall the four-wood shot from the Fifteenth at Augusta, that tied Craig Wood for the lead and let Gene win the playoff? When I put this comment to Gene he shook his head and said, "no, the best player of the fairway woods was Bob". Herb agreed that it was hard to dispute this, but personally, he still thought Gene had it. It was clear that Herb had great affection for Sarazen as a golfer, and in particular as a personality. 'Do you recall Darwin's wonderful comparison' he asked me, 'of Gene and the Cheshire Cat?' 'Yes', I replied, and as I had met Sarazen briefly at his tournament in Georgia a few weeks earlier I told Herb that I had seen for myself what Darwin had described. Like the Cat, Gene's smile did remain for a while after he had gone. 'But', said Herb 'Off the course he was hopelessly disorganised. As we neared completion of his book I arranged to drive down to stay with Gene and Mary for a few days while we pulled everything together. Well, when I got to their house Mary said how nice it was to see me, was I passing through and where was I going? I explained that Gene and I planned to wrap up the book and that I was to stay for a few days while we worked. 'Oh', said Mary, 'That can't be, Herb, Gene never said anything to me and he left today for three weeks in South Africa on a golf tour, playing exhibitions' However, such minor lapses in administrative arrangements did not seem to have caused any lasting resentment and the depth of the friendship was clear.

**Ben Hogan**

In 1957 the tripartite combination of Hogan, Wind and the artist Anthony Ravielli attempted to explain Hogan's methods in a book. Herb said that Hogan was the most misunderstood man he knew: 'Nobody ever gave Hogan anything' said Herb; 'All he achieved he did by employing a stubborn iron will to succeed at golf, harnessed to focussed, total concentration, on the task at hand, which many wrongly interpreted as arrogance. For example, one time in a tournament' said Herb, 'Ben asked me to go round the course with him. I said "Fine, I'll go change my shoes and meet you on the first tee." After his round was completed Ben came storming into the locker room and asked "Where were you? I thought you said you would come round with me?"' I replied, "Ben, I was with you every step of the way". My presence had simply never registered with him. Another time, in a big tournament, his wife Valerie followed him as he played. On one hole he played a slice into really thick rough among trees. The marshals cleared a space in the crowd for him and after some time considering his options, Hogan played a wonderful recovery shot to put the ball on the green. Later, at home that evening Hogan explained to Valerie just how difficult that shot had been and said he wished she had been able to see it as he did not recall, under those circumstances, ever hitting a better shot. After a short pause Valerie said, "Ben, I was the person standing closest to you when you hit the ball". His power of concentration was single-mindedly ferocious, and even in the days before the fairways were roped off for the players, once Hogan started to play he was never aware of anything else.' 'Unlike Gene', said Herb, 'Ben was all business. A nine am meeting started as the clock struck nine. The thought that he might forget an appointment was impossible, and he carried this concentration on to the practice ground where he would spend hours hitting his familiar shots, curving slightly from left to right, each ball hopping up, one bounce into the stationary caddie's hand." No wonder the other pros went out to watch him practice. But', said Herb, 'he was actually modest and had a wry sense of humour. Once, after Ben played a poor recovery shot from a treacherous position a fellow pro commiserated on his bad luck. "No", said Ben, "It wasn't bad luck. That shot simply required a little more skill than I have at the moment." Of course we talked about 1953, Hogan's wonderful year when he arrived for the Open Championship at Carnoustie already holding the Masters and US Open Championship titles. Hogan had not wanted to come and only sent in his entry form at the last minute after the concerted efforts of Sarazen, Jones, Hagen and others convinced him that he would not be regarded as the consummate champion until he won the world's oldest championship. I knew that a local caddie, Cecil Timms, approached Hogan and offered to caddy for him, but I wondered how Hogan decided. 'I wasn't there', said Herb, 'But knowing Ben the process would have been terse, along the lines of: "Do you know this course well?" "Yes, Mr Hogan, very well." "Fine. CONVERSATIONS WITH MR WIND | 15
of those wistfully spoken words were easy to comprehend.

Without Bob it really isn’t the same. ‘The poignancy and pathos they are still kind enough to invite me each year, but you know, asked Herb if he still attended The Masters and he said ‘No. Oh, even to those stories with which I was already familiar from his writings. Hearing him talk and reminisce was a revelation. I

At every meeting with Herb we talked about Jones, endlessly, his achievements on the golf course, in the creation of two magnificent golf courses, the man himself, the standards that he set, maintained to this day at his two clubs, his personality and what his friendship meant to those who knew him personally. Al Laney, a literate sports writer for the New York Herald Tribune, became a friend to Jones at the time of the latter’s first appearance in the US Amateur Championship and of course, Al and Herb knew each other well. Both writers were regular attendees at Augusta National Golf Club for the Masters Tournaments and both joined Jones for a Wednesday ritual that grew to become their private meeting. Herb recalled that in all his meetings with the Press, Jones always invited Al to sit at his side. In later years, when Jones was physically reduced to riding in a golf cart to get around the course, he would invite Laney or Wind to ride with him. Many of the stories that Herb willingly recounted to me have already been published by him and are well known, but to listen to him talk was enthralling adding a new dimension even to those stories with which I was already familiar from his writings. Hearing him talk and reminisce was a revelation. I asked Herb if he still attended The Masters and he said ‘No. Oh, they are still kind enough to invite me each year, but you know, without Bob it really isn’t the same.’

At another meeting we discussed Jones and his illness. I asked Herb if he knew that it was to Laney that Jones first confided the news, and he said, surprised, ‘No, I didn’t.’ Jones played golf for the last time on the 15th of August, 1948 at Wahconah Country Club. MA. By 1950 he was using leg braces and a cane to walk. He was admitted to the Lahey Clinic, Boston, in July 1950, for surgery on a damaged spinal disc thought to be pressing on a nerve, but instead the diagnosis of syringomyelia was made. The following April, at The Masters, Jones invited Laney to join him on his cart and said, ‘I’ve known you longer than anyone in golf, I can tell you there is no help. I can only get worse. But you are not to keep thinking of it. You know that in golf we play the ball as it lies. Now, we will not speak of this again, ever.’ Very softly, Herb said that he had not heard that story before, adding ‘Poor Bob.’ And he made no attempt to hide the tears in his eyes.

I had no more books to be signed, but any time I was again in the Boston area I arranged to see Herb and we went for lunch. I didn’t need the extra calories but I could not pass up an afternoon of listening to Herb. One such visit was in the evening, so we went out for dinner. I went, as usual, to his house where thoughtfully the outside lights were on. Herb asked me drive as his eyes did not allow him to see particularly well at night. He was, as usual, neatly dressed, wearing a suit, ready and waiting...
for me. I still wanted to hear the stories about the people that he knew in golf, and he obliged again with random comments, but this time the details did not seem quite as clear as in previous meetings. After a lengthy dinner I returned Herb to his home and he asked me to accompany him into the house as he didn't like going in alone after dark. Of course we talked for a while but he was getting tired, and, as I made an excuse to leave I wondered if I would ever have another meeting with Herb. He had aged considerably since we had last met and a few weeks later Robert called me to say that Herb had moved to an assisted living facility and that our meetings were at an end. A life-long bachelor, Herb died on the 30th of May, 2005.

I feel fortunate to have known Mr Wind briefly and to have enjoyed the pleasure of his company and hearing him reminisce. Without saying so we had both avoided comments on those who are still alive and playing, but he had a wonderful facility for bringing to life his contemporaries, making me feel that I also knew them. As I re-read his books and writings, which I do frequently, I hear again that mellow voice, that sense of humour and see those laughing eyes as he told his stories. How privileged to get to know him, even so late in life. Some years ago as we sat around after our game, one of my American colleagues posed a question: if your foursome is playing with a following wind, what do you do? The answer, of course, is immediately invite Herb to play through. It is supremely corny, but how many other golf or sports writers merit such an affectionately respectful pun?

Acknowledgements.
Both Miss Jaqueline Cox and Mr Peter Glazebrook of Cambridge University, were extremely helpful supplying information and copies of documents, including the Chanticlere. Mr Michael Frost and his colleagues in the Manuscripts and Archives Department of Yale University were similarly helpful in supplying copies of relevant documents. I express my thanks and appreciation to them all.

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In 1893, a seemingly innocuous question was submitted to the weekly magazine *Notes and Queries*. The question concerned the correct pronunciation of the word *golf* and, somewhat surprisingly, this resulted in a correspondence that stretched over 55 issues of the magazine, from July 1893 until August 1894.

Responses to the question were, at times, both amusing and strongly opinionated. Variations in pronunciation were attributed to differences between the ‘educated’ and the ‘un-educated’, between golfers and non-golfers, as much as between the Scots and the English. Correspondents on this contentious topic supported their arguments by reference to Acts of Parliament, to poetry and to the ‘prince of professionals’, Tom Morris. There were accusations of facetiousness, ‘sheer affectation’ and even ‘phonetic nakedness’. There was mention of ‘delightful dogmatism’, ‘bookish uniformity’ and of ‘the charming peculiarities of fair American intruders’.

Correspondence concerning the correct way to pronounce *golf* (with or without the *l* being sounded) was initiated in July 1893. In total, 28 separate contributions from 23 different correspondents were published on this topic over a period of more than a year. Opinions were given by a Member of Parliament, a Benedictine monk and a Professor of Anglo-Saxon. Towards the end of this year-long debate, an opinion was provided by no less a figure than J Ogilvy Fairlie, the incumbent Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

*Notes and Queries* was first published in 1849 and was originally subtitled *A medium of inter-communication for literary men, artists, antiquaries, genealogists, etc*. Even seemingly trivial topics were often discussed at considerable length and with great seriousness. Rather than the instantaneous discussions now possible on internet websites, *Notes and Queries* provided an opportunity for a slower-paced discourse, as necessitated by the publishing schedule of a weekly magazine.

In this article, the extended correspondence from *Notes and Queries* has been collated. The author of each contribution and the publication date has been listed. The original punctuation, italics and spellings have been retained. A *dramatis personae* has been included, as a means of introducing those who participated in this correspondence and brief biographical notes have been included for those whose identity could be established.

*Notes and Queries* (1893–1894)

Those who contributed to the correspondence in *Notes and Queries* are listed below and are grouped on the basis of the views they expressed but, otherwise, are listed ‘in order of appearance’.
**DRAMATIS PERSONÆ**

Posing the question:

**Professor Henry Attwell** [of Barnes, London, England. A frequent contributor to *Notes and Queries*]

In favour of pronouncing 'golf' phonetically:

**Charles James Fèret** [an English historian and novelist. A frequent contributor to *Notes and Queries*]

**Rev AW Cornelius Hallen** [an Englishman living in Scotland (Alloa) and author of *The Scottish Antiquary*]

**JTF** [of Durham, England]

In favour of pronouncing 'golf' without the 'l':

**George Angus** [of St Andrews, Scotland]

**John Murray** [fourth generation of the John Murray publishing dynasty based in Albemarle Street, London]

**The Rt Hon Sir Herbert Maxwell of Monreith** [a Scottish Baronet, a novelist and Conservative Member of Parliament for Wigtownshire (1880-1906)]

**W Lyon** [of East Neuk of Fife, Scotland]

**AFB**

**Oswald, OSB** [a Benedictine monk (and, later, Abbot), of Fort Augustus Abbey, Scotland]

**Holcombe Ingleby** [an English solicitor. Subsequently elected Conservative Member of Parliament for King's Lynn (1910-1918). Designer (in 1892) of the golf course at Brancaster (Royal West Norfolk Golf Club)]

**GSM**

**GAR**

**FJF**

**A Montgomery Handy** [of New Brighton, USA]

**CCB**

**J Ogilvy Fairlie** [Incumbent Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (1894) and a founder member (in 1897) of the Rules of Golf Committee]

Seemingly, without a firm view on the subject:

**CA Ward**

**JP Owen** [of West Kensington, London, England]

**W Murray** [of Givran, South Ayrshire, Scotland]

**Gualterulus**

**James Hooper** [of Norwich, England]

**Professor Walter W Skeat** [An English philologist and Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge. Author of *Etymological English Dictionary* and one of the most frequent contributors to *Notes and Queries*]

The Query

29 July 1893

GOLF—Goff seems to be establishing itself as the pronunciation of golf, although until, a few years ago, the game became popular south of the Tweed, the English retained the sound of the l. Bailey gives the spelling goff (and not golf) in his ‘Dictionary’; but Johnson omits the word altogether. Modern dictionaries, so far as I have ascertained, give golf not only as the form, but as the pronunciation of the word. May I convert this communication into a query by asking whether golf was introduced into North America by the early Dutch settlers, and how the word is pronounced in the United States?

HENRY ATTWELL. Barnes

Responses to the Query (in chronological order)

26 August 1893

GOLF—A Scotch newspaper says that Strutt, in his ‘Sports and Pastimes of the English People’, refers to “Goff, a play not unlike to paile-maile.” I have all my life called it goff, but occasionally hear the l sounded. The uneducated sometimes pronounce it gowff, sounding the ow as in “how.”

GEORGE ANGUS. St. Andrews, NB

30 September 1893

GOLF—I have myself never heard an educated person pronounce this word otherwise than as it is spelt. Would MR. ANGUS kindly tell us whether he would call one who plays the game a golfer or a goffer? Possibly the dropping of the l in this word is peculiar to that portion of our island which lies north of the Tweed. There is, I am aware, a growing tendency to ignore the sound of the l before f, but it seems to me a bad one. I prefer Ralph to the affected “stage” sound Raif.

CHAS. JAS. FÈRET

7 October 1893

GOLF—I have read the statement of MR. CHAS. JAS. FÈRET with some surprise. After twenty-two years intimate acquaintance with golf and golfers, I can confidently say that I have never “heard an educated person pronounce this word as it is spelt.” I mean by educated person, any one who has mastered the rudiments of the game. Perhaps MR. FÈRET would “prefer” to pronounce “call” and “hall” with full sound...
of the \( l \). In the pronunciation of the words connected with games, sports, or any pursuits, industrial or otherwise, I think the universal practice of those who engage in them should be regarded by the outside public. Would MR. FÈRET, for example, prefer to pronounce "rowlock" or "gunwale" as they are written, or as they are pronounced by all boating men?

JOHN MURRAY. Albemarle Street

21 October 1893

GOLF—Scotsmen may surely be allowed a word in the discussion of how this word should be pronounced. The \( l \) is never sounded in Scotland; in the national dialect it is pronounced gowff. In the 'Historie of the Kennedyis,' written by an anonymous author, c. 1590-1607, and edited by Robert Pitcairn for the Bannatyne Club, in 1830, it is stated of the Laird of Bargany (p. 17) that "his neise wes laich [his nose was flat] be ane straik of ane goiff-ball, on the hills of Air, in reklesnes." This laird died in 1596. On the other hand, when the Acts of the Scots Parliament were reprinted in the seventeenth century, it is repeated in sundry enactments that "in na place of the realme there be usit futeball, golfe, or uther sik unprofitabill sportis."

HERBERT MAXWELL

Your correspondent MR. FÈRET can have few golfing friends, else he would know that the almost universal mode of pronouncing the word is goff and a golfer as certainly goffer.

As for Raif versus Ralph, the former is the popular mode of pronouncing it in the prosaic and far from "stagey"


If MR. MURRAY had carefully read my previous note on this subject he would hardly write as he does. The position which I take up is simple. I regard it as the duty of every educated Englishmen to protest, wherever possible, against abuses of pronunciation: Your correspondent suggests that I may prefer to pronounce "calf" and "half" with the full sound of the \( l \), and "rowlock" and "gunwale" as they are written. MR. MURRAY must be facetious, for he cannot seriously intend to suggest anything of the kind. Where custom has permanently settled the sound of a word, it would be sheer affectation to run tilt against it. I take it that all well-read persons (boating men or otherwise) say "ro'lok" and "gun'nel." As to "calf" and "half," there can be no two questions as to what is the universal usage.

With golf, however, the case is wholly different. Its pronunciation is still unsettled, though I confess that I never heard the word sounded goff by those whose opinion on questions of orthoepy I deemed worthy of value. In the 'Imperial Dictionary,' by Dr. Ogilvie, edited by Charles Annandale, only the sound golf is given, yet MR. MURRAY tells us that he never heard an educated person pronounce the word as it is spelt. He tells us, however, that he means by "educated" anyone who has mastered the rudiments of the game. Of course, I used the term in its broader and more general sense. I have yet to learn that a person in order to be "educated" must needs master the rudiments of golf, and I am far from admitting the sweeping principle that we mast leave the care of our words "connected with games, sports, or any pursuits" solely to the tender mercies of those who engage in them. For instance, would MR. MURRAY leave the pronunciation of the names of the towns on our railway
lines to those whose daily duty it is to shout them out as we travel, and who generally do so in shibboleths which no one can understand? It is, in fact, those who habitually use certain words in their trades and occupations who are the most likely, in the end, to slur and corrupt the sound. A living language is ever undergoing change in the pronunciation of its words. Let us, therefore, as the present custodians of our speech, preserve it in its purity to the fullest possible extent, and where the pronunciation of a word is still in the balance, let us strive to retain its natural sound. I hope we are at last beginning to leave behind us the days when men thought it conferred a certain distinction upon them if they could but sound their names in a way which the letters composing them would never suggest.

CHAS. JAS. FÈRET

I know nothing about the game, nor whether those who play it, educated or otherwise, call it goff, nor whether only players are privileged to dictate how the name shall be pronounced. But I knew an old Scotch gentleman who, long years since, used to play the game enthusiastically at the club at the Green Man, Blackheath. Was it not the earliest in England? He used to pronounce the l, I think. As for "call" and "half," let us take Ralph and Adolphus, to show that the sound presents no difficulty. If golf comes from the Dutch kolf, it should be so pronounced, and the o long. I merely suggest these points to keep the ball moving; I decide nothing.

CA WARD

4 November 1893

GOLF—MR. FÈRET admits that "where custom has permanently settled the sound of a word it would be sheer affectation to run tilt against it," and this is, in truth, all I contend for. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL has shown that the spelling "gowff" is found in the sixteenth century. "Gowff" and "goff" occur constantly in the early part of the seventeenth century (vide, e.g., passages quoted in Mr. Clark's well-known book), and from that time to the present I believe that no other pronunciation has been recognized in the practice or traditions of the game. Can "ro'lock" or "gun'nel" claim such ancient origin? I doubt it. I have, however, no hesitation in saying that, among golfers, any man who pronounced the l would at once be set down as knowing nothing about the game, or at least as never having frequented any recognized "green." Among "those whose opinions on questions of orthoepy" MR. FÈRET "deems worthy of value" has he ever consulted any golfer of, say, twenty-five years' standing? As for MR. FÈRET'S comparison of the pronunciation of the names of railway stations by "those whose daily duty it is to shout them," it is inapplicable. If I had based my argument on the pronunciation prevalent among "caddies," the analogy of the railway porter would have had some force. I did not refer to "caddies," but to their masters.

JOHN MURRAY. Albermarle Street

Sir John Foulis of Ravelston, whose account books (1671-1707) I am now editing for the Scottish History Society, spelt, as was the custom in his day, in what would now be esteemed a very loose manner; he gives, however, the sound of the words he uses, and, as he was an educated man, his testimony may be worth having. He always spells "golf," "gofe;" "coach," "coatch;" "tea," "tee;" "sugar," "shuger;" "veal," "veill." I have heard the game spoken of by many during my thirty years' residence in Scotland as "golf" with the l sounded. I cannot now call to mind any case in which I heard the l dropped, except by those who are not very particular about their pronunciation, and whose example I should certainly not wish to follow.

AW CORNELIUS HALLEN. Alloa

I am amused at the discussion as to the pronunciation of "golf;" Among the old players of the game it is called "golf." "Caddies" at St. Andrews and such places call it "gowff;" I have heard respectable individuals call it "goaf" (like "loaf"). "Golf" (the l being sounded) is unknown in Scotland. What boots it that one old gentleman of Blackheath renown should say "golf" (sounding the l)? He is simply wrong. I remember a venerable and esteemed professor in an ancient university who used to excite the admiration of the students by pronouncing "answer" as if the last syllable were like the word "swerve." He was asked the reason, and, like a true Scotchman, replied by a question: "What is Latin for a goose?"

AFB

Surely, in speaking of "abuses of pronunciation" and "pronunciation still unsettled," MR. FÈRET is begging the question at issue. Unsettled it may be, and probably is, in Kensington, but not so in Scotland, and SIR H. MAXWELL is too modest in claiming for his countrymen only a word in the discussion, considering that to the vast majority of Englishmen of a generation ago (save those dwelling in such favoured spots as Blackheath or Westward Ho) both the game and the name of golf were practically unknown. Let MR. FÈRET extend his inquiries to Fife, Ayrshire, and Midlothian, to such classic centres of the ancient game as St. Andrews, Prestwick, and Musselburgh, and he will find (pace MR. WARD'S venerable friend) old and young, gentle and simple, peer and peasant, talk, as their fathers talked, of "golf," and nothing else than "golf."

OSWALD, OSB Fort Augustus, NB

Oswald OSB (of Fort Augustus Abbey)
I have heard a good many people, mostly educated, talk about "golf," but "goff" is quite new to me.

JTF Bishop Hatfield's Hall, Durham

18 November 1893

GOLF—I happen to have married into a family called Rolfe. They pronounce it Rôle. Most strangers call it Rölf, until they hear it pronounced by those who know better. When I began golf, I pronounced the word phonetically; but after association with those who have played the game from their youth up I mended my ways. My first coach called it "goaf," which sounded strange; my second "gowf," which sounded stranger. Then I heard the educated scratch player call it "golf," but the pronunciation was so subtle as to make it difficult to say whether or no the /l/ was slightly sounded. In fact, none of these spellings conveys the exact pronunciation as it issues from a Scotchman's mouth. One thing is certain,—no player of reputation, more particularly if he hailed from England, would dare to talk of "golf" in all its phonetic nakedness. I don't think we can let the gentleman who sits at home at ease, or the novice, who is little better than a bad agriculturist, have his way in this matter. We need not adopt foreign pronunciations; but when a particular trade has a particular name for the article it manufactures, it hardly lies with the outside public to say that its real name is something different.

HOLCOMBE INGLEBY

I do not know if MR. CORNELIUS HALLEN is a Scotsman, but I do know that he is the editor of the Scottish Antiquary, and I am fairly bewildered by a gentleman trained to accurate observation, as the conductor of a scientific periodical and the editor of historical MSS. ought to be, penning such a paragraph as stands above his name on this subject. It is a strange light upon the value of evidence that he should gravely assert that during a residence of thirty years in Scotland he has never heard the /l/ dropped (the expression is his own) except by people whose example he would not wish to follow. I will venture to assert that he will not find a single educated Scotsman, resident in Scotland and practically acquainted with the game of golf, to support his assertion. The etymology of the name is unknown, but I strongly suspect that the /l/ is not organic, but found its way into the word in the same way the fruit, but the Almond river, in Linlithgowshire, have no connexion with "almond" as in "golf." Needless to say that Glenalmond, in Perthshire, and the "Almond" river, in South Lanarkshire, have no connexion with the Almond river, in Linlithgowshire, have no connexion with the fruit, but the /l/ is used in these names in exactly the same way to represent the broad /a/ in the original Gaelic armuin, a river. It would be just as rational and according to custom to sound the /l/ in "almond" as in "golf!"

HERBERT MAXWELL

The interesting discussion of pronunciation in 'N. & Q.' is not to be decided, fortunately, in the manner suggested by MR. FÉRET. I happened the other day to be lunching at a young Guardsman's, and the clever speech of my former pupil, Mr. Coningsby Disraeli, cropped up in conversation. A country gentleman present called Mr. Ralph Disraeli "Rafe." I do not know how the name is pronounced in Mr. Disraeli's own family. As to "golf," a young Scotsman, who is reading with me for an Oxford examination, has just come up from St. Andrews, where he had been "golfing." I drew his attention to a picture in the second number of 'Pictures from Punch,' entitled 'The Golf-Stream' and his comment was that Scotsmen ought surely to know best how to pronounce the name of what was, without doubt, a Scotch game. I, for one, would be loth to dogmatize on such matter, but I venture to submit that a natural variety is preferable to a bookish uniformity in pronunciation, at any rate for the student of language. I have always understood that the usage of the best English society is the standard of English pronunciation. I am not a member of that society, but I have also been under the impression that the best imitation of its speech is to be found on the boards of the leading West-End theatres. When the "lower orders" are thoroughly well educated, a maid's or a footman's place in family of the real vieille roche would be about a good a school as one could go to for the best English pronunciation. A few stray rays of light from the charmed circle reach us outer barbarians occasionally; e.g. we know that "Burkeley," "Dubry," "Burkshire," "clark," "contents," &c., are unknown therein, except as some of the charming peculiarities of fair American intruders Which reminds me: I happened to be in a railway carriage on the Crystal Palace line during the Shah's visit, and in the same compartmnet there was a young American couple. The gentleman said something about the Shah's "viz-ier," whereupon his companion said, "Oh, that's not how it is pronounced. The proper way is vizier" (the i long, as in fight). The delightful dogmatism of the lovely New Yorker so impressed me that I felt convinced she would have been fully capable of setting his Leomine Majesty himself right.

JP OWEN 48, Comeragh Road, West Kensington

23 December 1893

GOLF—I am an Englishman, and was educated in England, but for the last thirty-three years—more than half of my life—I have resided in Scotland. The general drift of the replies leads me to the conclusion that the English ear, even after long acquaintance with Scottish pronunciation, retains an appreciation of the sound of /l/ in other words than golf. To me the word golf, as I hear gentlemen pronounce it, suggests a "suspicion" of the /l/; not so strong, indeed, as in gulp, but much stronger than in calf or half. Golf pronounced goaf (as loaf) or goof (as howf) need not be discussed; but the impression made on my ear by the word when uttered by educated and refined Scotsmen is certainly not goff, which an Englishman would pronounce as in cough or scoff. I find the pronunciation is given golf by Chambers, Nuttall, Ogilvie, and others. Scotsmen need not suppose that all Englishmen exaggerate the sound in this word, though some provincials may do so; on the other hand, I do not think that all of those who have ridiculed the idea of a sounded /l/ in the word recognize that the power of the sound has a distinct influence on an English ear. A learned and thoroughly Scottish friend, while lately assuring me that the /l/ was not sounded, when he gave me the "correct pronunciation," forget to leave it out; or, at least, his Scottish tongue may not have uttered a Scottish /l/, but my English ears heard an English /l/. If Scotsmen succeed (in print) in persuading Englishmen that the /l/ in the word may as well not be there at all, they must not grumble if they find it pronounced quite unlike anything they have been used to.

AW CORNELIUS HALLEN. Alba

May I crave space for a word or two in reply to my critics, and I have done? The discussion over this word has very clearly proved the truth of my assertion (ante, p. 338) that its pronunciation is unsettled, and that, even north of the Tweed, there is by no means complete uniformity. In England, among
educated men—non-players would naturally form the vast majority—the sound of this word is most certainly *golf*; in "all its phonetic nakedness," as MR. INGLEBY puts it. With all due respect to your Scotch readers, I see no reason why Englishmen should give way in the case of a word which is now as common to the south of the Border as to the north. MR. J. P. OWEN'S note is far too discursive to admit of reply within reasonable space. After a pretty careful study of phonetics, I must say that I fail to see why "variety" is preferable to "uniformity" in the matter of the sound of English words.

The discussion has led us wide of the question originally asked by PROF. ATTWELL at p. 87. I should much like to see an answer to it by some of your American correspondents.

CHAS. JAS. FÉRET

SIR HERBERT MAXWELL may well be surprised at Mr. HALLEN'S extraordinary statement. No educated golfer in Scotland ever pronounces the word except as *goff*. I have in my possession a volume entitled 'Carminum Rariorum Macaronicorum Delectus in usum Ludorum Apollinarium,' published as a second edition in Edinburgh in 1813. In the preface the Ludi Apollinare are described as "Goffing, Bowling, Swimming." On p. 138 there is a 'Song in Praise of Goffing,' composed for the Blackheath Club, of which Mr. WARD'S "old Scotch gentleman" was probably at the time a member. If time has justified the author's prediction, it has surely also amply justified his orthoepy. Here is the first verse of the song—

Of rural diversions, too long has the chace
All the honours usurp'd, and assum'd the chief place;
But Truth bids the Muse henceforward proclaim,
That Goff, first of sports, shall stand foremost in fame.

I have played the game for more than twenty years, and often with "educated persons," and have invariably found that the man who "foozles" the word by obtruding the *l* likewise "foozles" the game, and makes even the most patient partner wish be would go off.

GSM

I would, with more than thirty-five years' experience, make the assertion that no one who knows anything of the game pronounces it otherwise than *goff*, with the exception of caddies and nine-tenths of the professionals, who pronounce the word *gowf* (hard). I have heard old Tom Morris, the prince of professionals, then at Prestwich, pronounce it *gouf* many a time.

GAR

No real player of the game doubts that its name is pronounced *goff*. The word is so spelt in Sir Simonds D'Ewes's 'Autobiography,' under the year 1612. When recording the death of Prince Henry, son of James I., on Nov. 6, 1611, D'Ewes says of him:—

"He was a prince rather addicted to martial studies and exercises, than to *goff*, tennis, or other boys' play." —I. 48 (1845).

The definition of the game by Halliwell, who edits the work, will match some of his other amusing ones. *Goff* is "a game played with a ball."

FJF

Extracts from Scots Acts of Parliament:—

"That na man play at the Fute Ball under the paine of Fiftie schillings."—King James I., May 1424.

"That the Fute-Ball and Golfe be utterly cryed down and not to be used."—King James II., March, 1457.

"That the Fute Ball and Golfe be abused in time coming."—King James III., May, 1474.

"That in na place of the Realme there be used Fute Ball, Golfe or either sik unprofitable sporetes."—King James IV., May, 1491.

W. MURRAY. Girvan

Some of the correspondents who have written on this subject might peruse with advantage the volume devoted to the theory and practice of golf in the "Badminton Library" series. Much curious information is therein contained relating to the history, etymology, and literature of the game.

GUALTERULUS

31 March 1894

GOLF—At Newport, which is the present home of golf in the United States, the word is pronounced *goff*, although I fancy that this pronunciation was introduced from England. I have heard many educated persons in this country—not educated in the game, however—pronounce the word as it is spelt—that is, give the *l* its full sound.

I can find no record of the game having been played in America by the Dutch, and I assume that it is of quite recent introduction into the country, as I noticed, not long ago, in the obituary notice of a middle-aged man that he was the promoter and president of the first golf in the United States; so the game could not have obtained any great degree of popularity here previous to the sixties.

Since writing the above I have seen the statement made in one of the leading New York dailies that the word should be pronounced *gowf*, and that it is so pronounced in England. I have never heard this pronunciation, however, and fully agree that *goff* is the correct pronunciation.

A MONTGOMERY HANDY. New Brighton, NY, US

I could end this discussion, as Sam Weller did his "valentine," with a "verse," May 1st. It is one of Mr. Andrew Lang's, and is therefore authoritative:—

No more the old sweet words we call,
These kindly words of yore,—
"Over!" "Hard in!" "Leg-bye!" "No ball!"
Ah, now we say "Two more";
And if the "Like" and "Odd" we shout,
Till swains and maidens scoff;
"The fact is, Cricket's been bowed out
By that eternal Golf!"
'The Old Love and the New,' from
'Grass of Parnassus,' p. 144.

CCB

21 April 1894

GOLF—If not too late in the day, I should like most emphatically to say that, having been golfer for nearly forty years, and at present captain of the premier golf club, no other pronunciation of *golf*, among golfers, is known but *goff*, except in the dialect of this country, when it is *gowf*.

J O'GILVY FAIRLIE
Captains Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. Myres Castle, Fife.

11 August 1894

GOLF—May I send a belated note on this? In Act III. of Shadwell's "Royal Shepherdess" a "shepherd's song" begins:—
Thus all our Life long we are frolick and gay,
And, instead of Court-Revels, we merrily play
At Trap, and at Keels, and at Baril-breakerun,
At Golf, and at Stool-ball, and when ire hare done
Chorus—These Innocent Sports, we laugh, and lie down,
And to each pretty Lass we give a green gown.

Bailey also has "Goff, a sort of play at ball." The date of the 'Royal Shepherdess' is 1669, and the edition of Bailey which I quote is dated 1728. From this it would seem that the form golf is comparatively modern. Wright, in his 'Provincial Dictionary' (Bohn, 1857), says that golf is an old game with a ball and club, very fashionable at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Webster gives the pronunciation gol, and says the word is derived from the Danish kolf, a club or bat. Is this etymology correct?

JAMES HOOPER, Norwich

25 August 1894

GOLF—At the last reference, Webster's 'Dictionary' is misquoted. Webster refers us, not to "the Danish kolf," but to the "D. kolf"; and "D." means "Dutch." He is, of course, quite right; the Danish form is kolf, the proper sense of which is "shaft" or "arrow," originally, a cross-bow bolt. In my 'Dictionary' I refer to the account in Jamieson's 'Dictionary,' and I quote the Dutch kolf, "a club to strike little balls or balls with," from Sewel's 'Dutch Dictionary,' 1754. I ought to have cited Hexham's 'Dutch Dictionary,' 1658 (ninety-six years earlier). He gives " Een kolve, a Banding-staff to strike a ball." Koolman and Kluge show that kolf is related to E. club and clump, and even to Lat. globus.

WALTER W SKEAT

Nine months later ...

Some nine months after the conclusion of this prolonged debate in Notes and Queries, correspondence on the same topic resurfaced in the weekly magazine Golf. In June and July of 1895, several letters were written to the Editor under the heading The Pronunciation of "Golf." The correspondence in Golf was triggered by an article in the 'Green Shots' section of the magazine on 24 May 1895. It reported:

A Scottish golfer of twenty years' standing writes:— "I am greatly pained to hear the name of the Royal and Ancient Game habitually mispronounced by novices in England, who persist in sounding the letter 'I' in the word, although on every green, 'from John o'Groats to Airlie,' it remains silent in the mouth of player and caddie alike.

Those who wrote to the Editor in response to this covered much of the same ground that had been discussed in Notes and Queries. However, in one rather tongue-in-cheek letter, a writer using the pseudonym A Goffer (or Gowfer, or Gofer) of 120 Years' Stance commented upon:

The growing tendency among Southerns to pronounce golfing words in the English fashion. If they do not adopt the Doric accent they will soon forget that they have borrowed the game from us. Then they will treat us with scorn. Old Scottish players like myself know that correct pronunciation is confined to the Scottish peasants, and we glory in imitating them. I took thirteen years to pronounce "Golf" correctly. And even now only our Davie and myself in all Scotland can do it.

Going somewhat 'off topic,' he continues with the observation:

The effete Saxons display their poor spirit in other ways. If they lose a ball in a pond, they do not give up the hole. This is mean! They drop another ball. Infamy!! They would do the same when in the Stationmaster's Garden, if they were allowed. Sarcilege!!! And as for their so-called ability, who of them all can play with that grand old club, the baffy? None of them. They are all compelled to use the iron; or, worse still, the mashie.

Finally, the debate drew to a close with a long and rather serious contribution from John Kerr who, a year later, published the authoritative The Golf-Book of East Lothian. Kerr was firmly of the opinion that 'if to-day, in certain quarters some affect to sound the "I," they are going counter to ancient custom.' He continued:

I do not for a moment wish it to be understood that Golf was always the word of the aristocrat, and Goff or Gowff, that of the plebeian. The latter form, as in general use among the caddies and the common people, was adopted very often by the gentlemen-players, just as a good many still prefer it because they like to talk of the game in genuine Braid Scots tongue.

Kerr relies extensively on poetical rhyming to 'add proof' to his argument. Amongst the numerous rhyming couplets that are cited by Kerr is one from George Fullerton Carnegie's Golfiana, a series of poems that was first published in 1833:

Let none judge us rashly, or blame us as scoffers,
When we say that, instead, there are Links full of golfers

Kerr also quotes from a poem by Allan Ramsay that pays tribute to a hostelry frequented by golfers after 'a turn o'er Bruntsfield Links'. Ramsay's poem Elegy on Maggy Johnston who died Anno 1711 was published in his Elegies (1717) and in his Poems (1721). Although Kerr made some errors in his quotation of Ramsay, this does not alter the point that he was attempting to make. The versions from Elegies and Poems are as follows:

When we were weary'd at the Gouff,
Then MAGGY JOHNSTON's was our Houff [1717]

When we were weary'd at the gowff,
Then Maggy Johnston's was our howff [1721]

John Kerr attempts to bring the debate to a conclusion with the assertion that:

These and a thousand other proofs which we could adduce, will surely suffice to eliminate the "I" from the pronunciation of Golf.

In conclusion

Over the years, there have been numerous spellings of 'golf'. Interestingly, however, the earliest known spelling of the word (in the original, hand-written, version of the 1457 Act of Parliament) is golf, the spelling that is now used universally.

As was mentioned by the contributors to Notes and Queries,
the word has been spelt, at various times, as goff, goiff, golf, golfe, gowf and gowff. Other early spellings include gauff, golf, gofe, goiff, golfe, goiff, golfe, golve, gofe, goufe, gouffe, goulf and gowffe. However, as has been pointed out by David Hamilton in Golf: Scotland's Game:

Nothing can be made of this linguistic abundance, and two forms of the word could be used in the same document, such was the low regard for standardised spelling, though it does suggest that the 'l' was not used in speech, and that instead the spoken name of the game might well be 'gouwf'.

This conclusion is supported by a dictionary definition of 'golf', published in 1901, which states that the Scottish pronunciation is gouf whereas the pronunciation gof, 'somewhat fashionable in England, is an attempt to imitate this?'

On the basis of the correspondence from 1893-1894 in Notes and Queries, there is little doubt that a pronunciation closer to goff than to golf was widespread in the late nineteenth century, at least in areas 'north of the Tweed'. However, as a consequence of golf establishing itself as the dominant spelling, it was, perhaps, inevitable that a phonetic pronunciation of the word would eventually become dominant.

Acknowledgement
I would like to thank David Hamilton for his helpful comments and suggestions during the preparation of this article.

Notes
1. John Murray IV took over the London publishing firm 'John Murray' on the death of his father (John Murray III) in 1892. He is described by Humphrey Carpenter in The Seven Lives of John Murray: the Story of a Publishing Dynasty 1768-2002 as keeping extensive diaries in which he recorded 'a fanatically detailed record of a stupendously ordinary life'. Golf is reported to have been 'his favourite occupation for a Sunday afternoon'.

2. Oswald OSB (aka The Right Rev Sir David Hunter-Blair), in his three volumes of autobiography A Medley of Memories (1919), A New Medley of Memories (1922) and A Last Medley of Memories (1936) tells of his friendship with JO Fairlie (who, as Captain of the R&A, also contributed to this correspondence in Notes and Queries). In one passage in his autobiography, Oswald describes a visit to the R&A clubhouse during 'Medal Day' where he encountered a Lord of the Court of Session 'anathematizing his luck and his partner'. Oswald goes on to retell an anecdote that hints of the Lord of Session's use of profanities on the golf course.

3. Reproduced from Medal Day at St Andrews by Alexander H Wardlow. Painted in 1894, the year of Fairlie's captaincy.

4. John Kerr comments in the 12 July 1895 edition of Golf that 'even with the "l" in the word, the proper thing, according to Carnegie, was to pass it by'. He goes on to point out that he has 'found no golfing poet so far at sea as to make "Golf" rhyme with "wolf," or some other word of that kind'.

5. The often quoted 1457 Act of Parliament, aimed at encouraging archery practice in Scotland, rather than football or golf ('futbawe and the golf'), is the earliest known written reference to the game of golf. When the Act was printed (in 1566) the spelling used was 'golfe'.

6. Several of these additional spellings are described by David Hamilton in Golf: Scotland’s Game and by Olive Geddes in A Swing Through Time: Golf in Scotland 1457-1744. Other spellings are those mentioned in the entry for the word 'golf' in various editions of The Oxford English Dictionary.

7. A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles, published in eleven volumes between 1888 and 1928, subsequent editions of which were published as The Oxford English Dictionary.
In 1926 the UK golf equipment industry was in turmoil; stocks of quality hickory were quickly running out. Steel shafts were gaining popularity in the USA after being legalised in 1924; because these were mass-produced it was easier to make matched sets. These had the advantage over hickory shafted sets that the torque, flex and weight of the shafts were almost identical giving a set in which all the clubs had a similar feel.

A matched set as a competitive advantage
The savvy businessmen at the George Nicoll Company of Leven, would have seen this phenomenon as a serious threat to their traditional hickory club business. The possible arrival of steel-shafted clubs in the UK would have made their product uncompetitive in both price and performance. Their response was to design a revolutionary set of hickory shafted golf clubs, The Nicoll Indicators, which came to market in 1926 and continued in production as a hickory model until 1929. Other companies were also thinking about producing full sets of clubs: Spalding had been selling their Kro-Flites sets since 1920 but their first matched versions arrived only in 1927; MacGregor brought their Go-Sum sets to market in the late 1920s. In the UK the Spalding Argyle 7 club sets (with distance guides) were available but not fully matched.

Production challenges
It is probable that Nicoll felt they had to challenge the steel shaft matched sets concept, with one of their own, the trouble was that matching a natural product like hickory was extremely time consuming and expensive. Although little is known about the

Fig 1. Matched set of George Nicoll Indicator irons, with stainless steel heads
process they used it is likely that every single shaft that Nicoll bought would have to have been weighed when they entered the factory. Shafts would have been put in storage bins according to their weight, the raw weight would have varied from 140 through to 200 grams, I estimate that Nicoll would have tried to keep the shafts of a particular set within ten grams of each other. Once the shafts had been sorted for weight, they would have to have been re-sorted for flex and for torque; this must have been a hugely labour-intensive process and have added significantly to the cost of making the clubs. A further complication was that although the first logarithmic swingweight scale was invented by Kenneth Smith in the same year (1926) in America, it wouldn't be commercially available for a further ten years. I feel sure that although the means to test clubs numerical swingweights were not available to Nicoll, that the principles of swingweight were well understood, and it would have been possible for the craftsmen to produce a set with similar swingweights.

Another prerequisite for producing a matched set would have been the ability to manufacture a set of iron heads to exact tolerances. The weight of the heads would decrease slightly as the club heads became less lofted; the lofts, lie and bounce angle would also have to be perfect. I would imagine the iron head production would have not been much of a challenge to Nicoll's master smiths, but the process would have demanded more effort than had previously been necessary.

The idea of making a matched set of irons was not the only innovation for the Nicoll firm, because for the first time since their establishment in 1881, they took the step of producing woods. Until that time Nicoll had only produced irons.

**Metrics**

I dismantled a late model stainless set of irons numbering 1-9 to check the specifications (figures 1, 2). The danger of using the specifications of one set to categorise a large production model is obvious and subject to statistical insignificance. But I felt it was worthwhile just to get an idea of how exact the production tolerances were. My test set appeared to be completely original and in perfect condition. I couldn't be sure how the clubs had been stored and how temperature and humidity might have affected the different shafts over the 80 years since their production, but I assumed all of the shafts would have aged in a similar way. Stainless steel heads should not have bent much over time, (the clubs hadn't seen much use) so I was confident that the lofts and lies would be close to factory values.

The process I followed was to first weigh and measure the total weight, the length, swingweight, loft and the lie of the clubs. I then removed the hosel pins and weighed the individual components of the irons, and the heads, shafts and grips (figure 2). I then reassembled the clubs and using state of the art equipment checked the shaft frequency and flex of every iron. Finally, I checked shaft torque using a crude self-made system. I was unable to measure the amount of torque – just check if the individual shafts had similar torque levels. This proved to be the case with the exception of the 3 and 5 irons.

A major problem came to light after removing the shafts. I quickly realised that the shaft of the 5 iron was a replacement. It had been glued in place while the originals shafts had been fitted using the usual drive fit method. This meant that that all the readings for this shaft were irrelevant.
Nicoll Indicator specification table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length (in)</th>
<th>Loft Deg. from vert</th>
<th>Lie Deg. from hor</th>
<th>Weight g</th>
<th>Shaft/grip wt g</th>
<th>Head wt g</th>
<th>Swing wt frequency</th>
<th>Dial distance yds</th>
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<td>56</td>
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<td>236</td>
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<td>248</td>
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<td>470</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>D2</td>
<td>361</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes
1. The lengths of the clubs are to be expected, with the possible exception of the 6 and 7 irons (which are the same length).
2. The lofts and lie show a logical progression.
3. The weights show an expected progression (getting heavier as the club becomes shorter) with the exception of the rogue 3 and 5 irons, the shaft weights are very similar with the exception of the 3 and 5 and the swingweights show a similar trend.
4. The shaft frequency (a technology that was not available 80 years ago) shows that, with exception of the two rogue clubs, the clubs are surprisingly well matched and quite stiff. (It would be expected for the frequency to increase by four points as the shaft length decreases by half an inch).
5. The maximum distance of each club that was a stamped on the head was a popular fad in the late 1920s. For most companies it was purely a marketing ploy, but for Nicoll the graduated distances were a reasonable guide to what could be expected. The ten-yard distance gap between clubs is similar to what we still see today. Interestingly the 5 and 6 irons (mashie iron and mashie) have the same maximum of 120 yards. The short irons were obviously not expected to be used for full shots but for pitching.
6. The 9 iron (niblick), which was seen as a recovery club, is the only club in the set where the sole has a negative bounce angle; this is typical for the period. The irons numbered 1-8 have no bounce angle, (0 degrees) which meant that the sole of the club sat flush to the turf. The niblick (9) with a negative bounce angle (with the leading edge of the sole flush to the turf but the back edge raised from the ground) would tend to dig into the ground at impact, not a great characteristic for a pitching club, but useful for digging the ball from difficult lies in thick grass and unraked bunkers.

Analysis of the data
The data show that, in general, Nicoll did a good job in producing a matched set. With exception of the 3 and 5 irons, the set has consistent characteristics and the shafts are well-matched.

The 3 iron has a head that is a little on the light side and a shaft that is heavier than the others resulting in a club that is stiffer and with a lower swingweight than the others in the set. The 5 iron with the replacement shaft (making the shaft measurements irrelevant) is considerably lighter than the others, but the club also has a head that is too light; this would have certainly resulted in a low swingweight (even with the original shaft). It would appear that the Nicoll factory may have had some quality control issues.

Indicator set variations
The Indicator set came in many guises. Initial iron sets were made in soft Waverley steel. Some chromed clubs have been seen, but it is not certain if they were chromed in the factory or at some time post-production. The first sets were usually numbered 1-8 with each iron having and indicator dial on the back of the head with details of maximum distance (see table). Sets numbered 1-9 were also common with the putter being sometimes being stamped as a 10 (see figure 3). Stainless steel sets (as the test set) were made towards the end of the hickory production run.

As shown in figure 4 the mashie niblick can be found with different numbers 7 and 8, niblicks with 8 and 9 and sometimes without a number at all. Occasionally clubs can be found with the number stamped on the sole rather than the back of the head. In early sets the second mashie was a deep-face model, in later sets the name, spade mashie had been adopted. Swedish Indicator collector, Michael Edin has even found Indicator clubs with Butchart Nicholl split cane shafts (figure 5), although it is not known if they were fitted in the factory or after the clubs had been exported to America.

As with many innovations throughout the history of golf, (eg Spalding’s promotion of the Vardon Flyer gutty ball just as the Haskell was invented), Nicoll’s timing was unfortunate. They were not able to stem the tide of legalisation of steel shafts in the UK (1929), and their innovation was ultimately doomed to failure. It must be remembered that in the period that Indicators were made the supply of good quality hickory was drying up, and this must have made the process of matching shafts very difficult. We also shouldn’t forget that Nicoll started production...
of the Indicators in the economic boom time of 1926. Only three years later the world had to deal with the economic crisis and stock market crash. These problems must have made it difficult for Nicoll to continue with their labour-intensive and expensive methods, and this may explain why a few rogue clubs made through the quality control process in the late 1920s.

Ewan Glen, the current owner of the George Nicoll brand, recently interviewed the 84-year-old husband of George Nicoll’s granddaughter, John Ovenstone, himself a former managing director of the firm. John indicated that the production run of hickory-shafted indicators stopped in 1929; the model continued as a steel-shafted version thereafter. John also explained that with the exception of special commissions Nicoll stopped producing hickory-shafted irons in 1932. I think it is reasonable to assume that the double whammy in 1929 of steel shaft legalisation in the UK and the worldwide economic crisis meant that it was simply not feasible for the company to continue with this labour-intensive hickory model and that is the reason that the three-year production run came to an abrupt end.

As the letter George Nicoll sent to Alex Morrison in 1946 (published in the excellent book, George Nicoll of Leven, written by Roger Hill and Peter Georgiady) shows, it was only Nicoll’s transition to becoming a small volume, high quality producer after the 1929 crash that allowed the Nicoll Company to remain successful.6

It is possible that the lessons they learned from producing matched hickory sets stood them in good stead, when they were forced to make the transition to a steel shaft club manufacture. Nicoll was one of the few companies that successfully made this transition, surviving in Leven until the early 1980s and continuing today under the umbrella of the St Andrews Golf company.

Acknowledgements
I would like to thank the following people whose input made this article possible.

Michael Edin, Nicoll Indicator collector, for his information and images.

Peter Georgiady, historian and author, for his information and perspective from America.

Ewan Glen, Chief executive officer of the St Andrews Golf Company and owner of George Nicoll Ltd, for access to the Nicoll company records and archives.

John Ovenstone managing director of George Nicoll of Scotland until 1981, for his unique memories of this period.

Notes
1. Ewan Glen’s Interview with John Ovenstone
2. Correspondence with Pete Georgiady
3. Correspondence with Doug Marshall (see letters page)
5. Ibid
6. Ibid

Fig 3. The Indicator putter, marked No 10
Fig 4. Short irons with varying numbers
Fig 5. Indicator iron with split cane shaft by Butchart Nicoll
The Scottish-born writer Tobias Smollett published his last novel, *The Expedition of Humphry Clinker* in 1771. It is epistolary in form and tells the story of the travels and travails of Matthew Bramble, his family and their servants around Britain. It contains an often quoted passage about golf in Edinburgh and is based on Smollett’s visits to the city in 1753 and more especially 1766. It comes within a letter written by Bramble’s nephew, Jery Melford to his Oxford friend Sir Watkin Philips, in which he describes the Edinburgh social scene. Having gone to Leith Races, he describes the activities on the Links. Young Melford writes to Philips that:

Among others I was shewn was one particular set of golfers, the youngest of whom was turned of fourscore. They were all gentlemen of independent fortunes, who had amused themselves with this pastime for the best part of a century, without having ever felt the least alarm from sickness or disgust; and they never went to bed, without having each the best part of a gallon of claret in his belly.

This description would appear to be somewhat over the top until one realises that it had a basis in fact. The London-based newspaper, the *General Advertiser* carried a story about golf on the 7th of July 1752. The source of the report was Edinburgh on the 30th of June:

On Friday last a remarkable match at golf was played on Bruntsfield Links. Two gentlemen whose age betwixt them made 170 years played against two whose age came only to 140. The match was won by the former and one of the victors

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*Paul Sandby’s A View of Bruntsfield Links Looking Towards Edinburgh Castle was painted in the mid-eighteenth century. © The Trustees of The British Museum*
deftly imputed the victory to the superior weight of years which appeared on their side. We hear that the conquerors are willing to play against any two golfers in the kingdom whose age shall not exceed 200. And the vanquished live in hopes that 20 or 30 years hence, no man will be able to play with them.

This is quite a remarkable report. There is much that it does not tell us such as the names of the players, the format of the match or even the score. However, it brings alive a small incident in a period when details of golf matches are almost totally lacking. From the post-match comments, one may surmise that a certain amount of claret or punch may have already been consumed. The comments also show much good humour between the four players.

It is important to remember that Smollett had been in Edinburgh a year after the match had been played and the game at Bruntsfield may have been the basis for his story. Jery Melford's letter described the youngest golfer within the set at Leith as being 80 whereas one pairing at Bruntsfield had an average age of 85 and the other of 70.

The first records of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers in 1744 refer to the ‘ancient and healthful exercise of golf’ as do those for The Royal and Ancient Golf Club in 1754. In the minute of the 4th of May 1766 at St Andrews, the game was described as the ‘very healthfull exercise of the golf’, thus giving it even more medicinal qualities than it had had in 1754. Smollett, who was a doctor, gave further insight into the advantages of golf when he finished the passage on golf in Melford’s letter with the observation that ‘such uninterrupted exercise, co-operating with the keen air from the sea, must, without all doubt, keep the appetite always on edge, and steel the constitution against all common attacks of distemper’. The 1752 match certainly showed that some of these beneficial qualities.

In September 1747, the young artist Paul Sandby was appointed as a draughtsman to the Military Survey in Scotland. He was around seventeen years old at the time. Based in Edinburgh, he travelled around Scotland producing detailed maps for the army and painting picturesque and topographical views; he remained in Scotland until 1752. During this five-year period, he produced at least two views that showed Bruntsfield Links. One, dated 1750 shows a horse fair in progress on the Links and is in the National Galleries of Scotland collection. The second shows a golf match in progress between four players, two wearing red coats and two wearing blue coats. This is in the British Museum collection and is dated c1746-47. The picture is therefore almost contemporary with the golf match between the four venerable players in 1752 and shows us what part of Bruntsfield Links would have looked like at the time.

The fictional account in Smollett’s *The Expedition of Humphry Clinker* adds another dimension to the 1752 match report as does the visual image of Bruntsfield by Sandby. In turn the references to healthful exercise in the records of the Honourable Company and The Royal and Ancient Golf Club are given extra meaning by the knowledge of the 1752 match.

This match certainly showed one of the very healthful benefits of playing golf.

**Notes and references**

3. The General Advertiser was published between 1744 and 1752 and then became *The Public Advertiser*
5. Smollett was awarded his MD by Marischal College in Aberdeen in June 1750
6. During his time in Scotland, Sandby often went on drawing trips with Robert Adam, the architect, and John Clerk of Eldin. They were all young men with Adam and Clerk being only two years older than Sandby. Clerk has a rather interesting connection with St Andrews and this will be the subject of a future article.

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*Tobias Smollett (1721-1771)*

© National Portrait Gallery, London
Pictures from Rye

by

David Stott

Perry Somers, scratch winner

Nigel Notley, English Hickory Champion 2011

Cliff Weight

Liz Macdonald

Britta Nord

Tim Smartt

Recent new BGCS member Boris Lietzow from Germany

Defending champion Ian Hislop, right, with Chris Walker
HAVING BEEN FASCINATED for some years with the Troon Clubs I read with great interest the recent views and theories of Bob Gowland, Jeff Ellis and Ian Crowe on their provenance. In his recent book, *The Oldest Clubs*, Bob concludes that they approximately date to the 1740s evidenced by their similarity to the silver prize clubs of the golfing societies of Leith, St Andrews and Blackheath. Ian concluded in the June 2010 edition of *Through The Green* that the symbols stamped on them indicate the clubs belonged to James I of England (VI of Scotland) and were made for him around 1603 by William Mayne. In the September 2011 edition of *Through The Green* Jeff openly backs Ian’s theory and adds weight to it by suggesting that the silver prize club of the R&A was purposely made in 1754 to resemble clubs made for a Stuart king around 150 years earlier, because the society wished to ‘openly celebrate their antiquity of the game and rekindle its connection to royalty’. I wish to offer my own thoughts and conclusions regarding their age and the significance of their very distinct markings.

Their similarity to the silver prize clubs

It is accepted that the Troon Clubs are extremely similar in shape and form to that of the silver prize clubs made in 1744, 1754 and 1766. Jeff’s theory that in 1754 the Society of St Andrews Golfers purposely commissioned a copy of an already antique club made for a Stuart king might hold more credence if this was an isolated example. However, I think it highly improbable that all three golfing societies would think the same, and follow suit in this notion, particularly considering what I shall explain below. The fact that the new captains of each society attached a silver ball to these silver clubs, and that it is reported that these balls are actual featheries covered in silver in the case of the Blackheath club, reinforces Bob’s conclusions that that the prize clubs were copies of contemporary equipment in use at the time. The documents extant that refer to the commissioning and competition for the silver clubs do not refer at all to them being of an antique form, and certainly not connected in any way to the Royal House of Stuart.

The rediscovery of the Troon Clubs

The report of their discovery in the August 15th 1898 edition of *The Times* newspaper, as reprinted in the book by Hutchinson, makes a number of ‘factual’ statements which can now be proved wrong, cannot be substantiated, and, I believe, are potentially misleading. ‘The report states that Maister House in Hull, in which they were found, ‘burned down in the year 1700’.

This is incorrect. The house fire, in which four lives were lost, took place on the night of the 12th and 13th of April 1743. There are conflicting reports as to the severity of damage caused by the fire, but as the Business Day Book survives to this day it is...
logical to assume that not all of the contents of the house were totally destroyed.

What is clear, however, is that the house was totally rebuilt after the fire by local architect and builder Joseph Page in the New Palladium style, with Lord Burlington advising on the plans. Re-building began in 1743 and was ‘well underway’ by the winter of 1744. The *Times* report states that a quantity of old documents, including a Yorkshire newspaper dating 1741, was found with the clubs. I believe all this can ever indicate is the general timeframe in which that particular cupboard was in use before it was sealed up, presumably done so on purpose to keep the contents secure. The newspaper may have contained some information the Maister Family wished to retain, or keep secret, or indeed it might just have been any old three year-old newspaper used to line the cupboard in the newly constructed house. Another possibility is that *The Times* wrongly reported the date of the early newspaper. Anybody who has had dealings with newspapers at any time in their lives will know that they very often get the details wrong (evidenced by the date given for the house fire).

The *Times* report states that the leading politician, Arthur Balfour, a very keen golfer, had given his opinion that the clubs belonged to the period of the Stuart kings. Furthermore, that the symbols on the clubs, a thistle, a crown, and the letters I (likely to be a J) and C, ‘do represent the name of the maker’ or ‘denote a special permission on the part of one or other of the kings of Scotland’ (boldings are my own). I believe that these statements, whilst on the right track, have channelled thinking towards an early seventeenth century date of manufacture ever since. This is demonstrated by the 1993 reappraisal of the clubs by the Johnstons, who rightly pointed out that whilst ‘no monarch since James II (of England) was deposed in 1688 has shown any propensity for golf’, they incorrectly tied the use of the crown with the thistle to suggest that the Troon clubs could even date to before 1603 because that’s when the Scottish crown ceased to be an independent preserve. In his recent article Ian Crowe states ‘the Crown represents royalty and would only have been used by royalty or with their consent’. When he combines this with the use of a Stuart Thistle on an early James I coin this leads him to conclude an early seventeenth century date of manufacture. In fact, many coins up to 1706 carried this symbol (and still do today). What is much more important, however, is that crowns, thistles and stars were used on many different types of objects to show support for the Kings of England and Scotland well into the mid-1700s; it’s just that the kings in mind weren’t actually occupying these thrones at the time.

The Significance of the Stamped Symbols
I believe that to fully understand the significance of the markings on the clubs we must consider the drastic changes in the monarchy of England and Scotland in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In brief, the Scottish House of Stuart (or Stewart as it is sometimes written) united the two thrones in 1603. A key event occurred when King James II of England (VII of Scotland) was deposed by parliament in 1688. Thereafter, his descendants, referred to as Jacobites, led a series of uprisings, rebellions and mini-wars, in an attempt to regain the throne. The major Jacobite rebellions took place in 1715 and 1745, being led by the Old Pretender, James Francis Edward Stuart, and the Young Pretender, Prince Charles Edward Louis John Casimir Sylvester Severino Maria Stuart, respectively. Charles is better known as Bonnie Prince Charlie. In the early decades of the eighteenth century, and even after their final bloody defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, Jacobites were keen to display their true allegiances through the use of certain symbols. They had to be very secretive as being a Jacobite, or even associating with them, was a treasonable offence likely to incur the death penalty. In one of his books, David Stirk, explains at length this is why the early golfing societies, whose members were also connected through freemasonry, destroyed their records and why no golf society records, particularly any lists of members, exist from before 1744. A trawl of the internet reveals how Jacobites incorporated their loyalty symbols, sometimes overtly sometimes covertly, into the design of all manner of things including jewellery, paintings, weaponry and household items. Ornate crowns, thistles and stars were beautifully engraved on fine wine glasses. The star is cited as signifying the rise of a new hope in Bonnie Prince Charlie. These fragile glasses could obviously be destroyed at a moment’s notice should the authorities come calling, and only a few have survived.

A Queen Anne pre-Union five shillings piece dated 1706 with a Stuart Thistle. Reproduced by Permission.

Rare Jacobite wine glasses c1745/1750. The far left one has a thistle below a star. The centre and centre-right ones have crowns above thistles. Reproduced by Permission.
A New Jacobite Theory

My conclusions are these: the Troon Clubs were made sometime in the early to mid-1700s, perhaps even as early as 1720 when Bonnie Prince Charlie was born. This is evidenced by them being of near identical form to the three silver prize clubs known to have been made between 1744 and 1766 from three separate golfing societies. They are stamped with Jacobite symbols. The I/J stands for James (Jacobus/Jacobus in Latin) referring to either King James I of England (VI of Scotland), the deposed King James II of England (VII of Scotland), or the Old Pretender who took the liberty of crowning himself King James III of England (VIII of Scotland) whilst in exile. The C stands for Charles (Carolus in Latin), the Young Pretender a.k.a. Bonnie Prince Charlie. The crown and thistle demonstrate the Jacobite (House of Stuart) claim to the throne. Considering the hysteria, persecution and retribution occurring in Scotland and England against anyone remotely showing support for the Jacobite cause in the eighteenth century it would have been suicidal for anyone to even consider styling their new silver prize clubs in 1744, 1754 and 1766 after real clubs made for previous Jacobite monarchs, and then furthermore parading them through the streets.

How the Troon Clubs came to be in Maister House in Hull requires more investigation, however, it is interesting to note certain things about the Maister family and their business associates. The Maister families were very successful international trading merchants, soldiers and politicians and traded regularly and lived at various times on the continent. Henry Maister (1699 – 1744), the occupant of the old house at the time of the fire in 1743 was a Whig MP, a political party known to be very anti-Jacobite. After Henry died in 1744, his younger brother, Nathaniel Maister (1703 – 1772), oversaw the completion of the new house but reputedly never lived in it. Henry Maister, (1730 – 1812), lived in the new house from 1760 and was ‘devoted to the militia and became Colonel of the Regiment (the East Yorkshire Regiment) in 1778’. Letters between Henry Maister and a Christopher Sykes (1749 – 1801), another Hull merchant, still exist which confirms they knew and trusted each other. Interestingly, Richard Sykes (1706 – 1761), who appears to be Christopher’s father, was ‘Captain of the Hull Volunteers, about the Jacobite rebellion of 1745’. Furthermore, and perhaps of no small coincidence, it was a Mr JC Sykes who owned Maister House in 1898 and who found the clubs in the concealed cupboard. It does not appear likely that any of the Maister or Sykes family were secret Jacobites; their activities seem distinctly anti-Jacobite. However, they were certainly men who would have come into contact with Jacobites, either amicably through international trade, or as a direct result of armed conflict.

I believe that the clubs were once the possession of a wealthy golfing Jacobite and may have been ‘liberated’ as battle booty around the time of the second rebellion of 1745 and came into the possession of either a Maister or a Sykes, those being military commanding officers. It is well documented that John Rattray, who drew up the first rules of golf in 1744, was a confirmed Jacobite and was the personal physician to Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745. He only escaped execution after being captured at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 thanks to the intervention of his well-connected golfing chum Lord Duncan Forbes. There are several stories of the Bonnie Prince being a golfer and playing in the gardens of the Villa Borghese in Rome as a child and as an older man during his final exile; perhaps he even left his favourite set behind when he fled after Culloden? The Troon Clubs are in remarkably good condition, and I believe, they were placed in the cupboard in Maister House in the late 1740s or early 1750s after seeing comparatively little use. Given the Jacobite symbols the clubs would have been kept well out of view of any prying eyes, and maybe their new owner even viewed them as a sort of insurance policy should the Jacobites have risen in armed rebellion again and came calling. Fear of this possibility only subsided in the late 1760s; Stirk highlights ‘it was not until 1770, 25 years after the second Jacobite uprising, that the Gentlemen who golfed at St Andrews finally allowed themselves to be referred to in a Minute as ‘The Society of Golfers at St Andrews’, as in the aftermath of Culloden any organised club, particularly of Scotsmen, would have been viewed with suspicion. Indeed, it was not until 1763 when the second edition of the poem The Goff was printed, that the author, Thomas Mathison (1721 – 1760) was posthumously identified and the players’ names inserted. The first edition of 1743 just had lots of blank spaces in the text. In his 1955 book, Robert Browning states, ‘presumably the “points” of the local cracks were so well known that Mathison could leave golfing readers to fill in the familiar surnames for themselves.’ I think Browning missed the reason completely; the author published anonymously in 1743 and left out the names of Rattray, Forbes, Biggar, Alston, Brown, Dalrymple et al, because he perhaps knew that some of them had Jacobite sympathies, and there was fear they might all be implicated and accused of high treason.

In summary, there is strong evidence to conclude that the Troon Clubs date from the early to mid-eighteenth century and are linked to the Jacobite cause. A large amount of Maister and Sykes family records and correspondence still exists, and now bearing in mind the Jacobite symbolism, it is possible that more clues will emerge as to the true provenance of these magnificent clubs.

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**Jack Burns of St Andrews**

*With his success in the Open Championship at the home of golf in 2010, Louis Oosthuizen, the South African golfer, won the remarkable sum of £850,000. How very different things were when Jack Burns – a native of St. Andrews and the professional at Warwick – won the coveted claret jug and eight pounds on the same course in 1888. It was the equivalent of two month's earnings. The event was played over two rounds, it was concluded in a day and there was certainly none of the glamour and publicity surrounding the championship then.*

**Early club golf in the Midlands**

In March 1887 the *Leamington Courier* had reported that for the forthcoming season the newly-formed Warwickshire Golf Club – the first in the county – had recruited the new professional, Davie Ayton, well-known on the St. Andrews Links [who] had managed to get the putting greens into first-rate order, and on his arrival has already given a great impetus to the welfare of the club.

With so many recent and zealous converts to the game, Davie was fully occupied at Warwick giving lessons. Moreover, he was a popular and likeable man. A good judge of a golfer, HSC Everard considered him ‘a fine player with a graceful, easy and very full swing [and] a frequent prizewinner.’ Ayton had been a favourite to win the 1885 Open Championship at St Andrews, but sadly in the first round drove into the road bunker at the seventeenth hole, then the road, and back into the bunker. However, the long-held tradition that he eventually holed out in eleven has apparently been disproved.

Following a most successful initial season in 1886 at the Warwickshire, a year later the Club proudly announced that for the next season 'the return of the veteran professional David Ayton this month, will have an undoubtedly salubrious effect upon the membership's play'. Imagine then their acute disappointment only a fortnight later when members read in the *Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser* – a rival newspaper – that sadly the club have this year been unable to secure the services of D Ayton as their professional but they have employed in his place John Burns from St. Andrews, well known as an excellent exponent of the game. The new professional has already entered upon his duties.

That might well have been so but little was known of him in Warwickshire except that he was a resident of St Andrews and a common plasterer by trade. The golf profession was not regarded as reputable and even in England clubs that employed full-time professionals were still few.

**Colonel Boothby’s protégé**

In Scotland there were not nearly enough professional jobs to go round and like those other Open Champions, Willie Fernie and Sandy Herd, Burns had worked in Andrew Scott’s plasterer’s yard from the age of thirteen. Scott, a master plasterer, was also a member of St Andrews Golf Club. Jack was unknown as a player outside St Andrews but now, with the recent golf boom in England, the opportunities for Scottish players certainly improved. A stocky figure, with a large moustache and prominent sideburns, he was a competent player and had first appeared in the championship in 1882, finishing in 23rd place and three years later seventh, four shots behind the winner, Bob Martin, and two behind Ayton. However, moving to England entailed certain risks, not least that the Warwickshire were offering only a six-month’s engagement. As David Hamilton points out: ‘Many clubs wished to have this flexibility and hence obtain a variety of help and opinion in the early years.’ It was clearly the accepted practice at the time but made a professional’s life the more hazardous. Against this – if he accepted the post – Burns would be working for...
someone that he knew and respected, a member of the golfing establishment.

Colonel Robert Boothby was from St Andrews himself and an active member of the R&A. Now that his military career had taken Boothby to the Midlands, he was president of the Warwickshire Golf Club. He undoubtedly played a role in Burns’ recruitment. Jack would almost certainly have accepted the advice of a close friend, the redoubtable Douglas Rolland who had taken the professional’s job on a six months engagement at the Worcestershire Golf Club at Malvern only a month before. From all accounts it was an instant success and after three months he was offered a permanent job with living accommodation, ‘free of rent, rates, coal and water; provided that he attended to members, kept the place clean, aired and dried all clothing and boots and generally did what a good scout was expected to do in those days!’ If a former stonemason could make the grade in England, why not a plasterer?

In the circumstances Jack Burns decided to accept the vacant position at Warwick. Born at St Andrews in 1859, he received his first golf lesson at the age of ten from Young Tom Morris and is said to have had a dashing style, particularly from the tee. It was said of Burns that he was ‘steady in his conduct, respectful in his demeanour and honest in all his transactions. A worthy recipient of the highest honours which the golfing world can bestow.’ At a place like Warwick, where the golf course was on common land, there were inevitably occasions when the general public had to be conciliated and someone of Burns’ disposition must have been invaluable. Colonel Boothby brought Burns to Warwick to carry on the work of Davie Ayton; to demonstrate how the game should be played and to teach Boothby’s friends how to play it. After all, at Warwick the game was taken up by many who had no connection with Scotland and who had hitherto never seen it played.

**First champion to represent an English club**

Jack was practically unknown outside the place of his birth and was scarcely a professional in the ordinary sense. However, although he was only the Warwickshire Golf Club’s second choice, within six months of his arrival – and much to everyone’s surprise – he won the Open Championship on his home links. Robert Boothby and the Warwickshire’s aristocratic membership almost certainly congratulated themselves on their wise choice.

What is more, Burns had already exceeded the achievement of Douggie Rolland – by common consent a far better golfer – of winning the championship. So Burns – a native Scot – had the signal honour of being the first champion to represent an English club. In 1888 he had become the fourteenth Open Champion with a score of 171 over 36 holes (the Championship was not extended to four rounds until 1892) on a day when a gale-force northerly wind caused scores to soar. That year the Championship attracted an entry of 52 competitors. In the first round the reigning champion the great Willie Park had a 90, Tom Morris 94 and Ben Sayers 85. Burns’ two scores were 86 and 85 and he won by a stroke from David Anderson junior, but not before some uncertainty. It involved an unfortunate scorecard incident. At first he thought he had tied with Anderson and Ben Sayers and a play-off seemed in the offing. However, as the *St Andrews Citizen* reported:

> it so happened that as a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club was looking over the cards in the clubhouse he found that the figures of Jack Burns’ card had through some mistake or other, been added up wrong and instead of having 87 as his first round, it was in reality 86. He was accordingly the lowest scorer and was declared the champion.9

According to *The Field* ‘the mistake, however unfortunate it was for his two rivals, was one that could not be disputed and it was ultimately decided that Jack Burns was the champion golfer for the year.’ Under the rules no blame could be attributed to Burns, as the competitors were allocated official markers who were responsible for checking the total. According to *Champions & Guardians*, the second volume of the Royal and Ancient history: ‘whether or not their player signed for the individual score at each hole, they were not expected to check the total, a rule that stands today:\"In the view of the St. Andrews newspaper the result was somewhat of a surprise but it was a remarkable performance, considering the awful weather.

As David Hamilton reminds us ‘for many players, even the expanding game had uncertainties. Success in golf did not automatically reward the winners. Bob Ferguson, though Open Champion [in] 1880/81/82, never made a living from golf and reverted to caddying.10 Burns’ prize for winning the Championship was eight pounds and a medal, a far cry from the astronomical sums available today. And like Ferguson, his caddying days were far from over and he claimed that all he ever wanted was a steady job.

**The Celebrations in Old Tom’s shop**

Meanwhile, the report about the unexpected championship win went on to say that Burns, who is a strapping young fellow, is at present employed as green keeper and professional to the Warwickshire Golf Club [although] he belongs to St. Andrews. … the intimation of the final result was first made in Tom Morris’s shop and was hailed with loud cheers. Jack Burns has not until now come prominently to the front as a golfer, though as an observer of his play during the last summer, we would have no hesitation in putting him in the first rank as a powerful and straight hitter. Our impression, however, was that his short game was deficient and could with practice be improved; but in the testing competition last Saturday there was little wrong with it.12

His victory was said to have resulted from ‘driving long and sure, handling his iron well and putting deadly.’13 As he was not well known, the newspapers paid Burns little or no attention. After all, according to that shrewd golfing observer, HSC Everard: ‘Jack Burns could hardly be regarded as a regular professional before he won the championship.’14

One of his opponents that momentous day was another young player and plasterer from St Andrews, Alexander – commonly known as Sandy – Herd, who was still competing in the...
An old happy-go-lucky professional

Having a Scottish professional in charge of the green was a prerequisite for an ambitious English club and Jack’s impressive success had put the newly-founded Warwickshire club on the golfing map. He had first played in the championship only three years before, finishing a creditable fourth and four shots behind the winner. Moreover, although a Scot, Burns was now the first champion to represent an English club. Warwick proudly flaunted the Scottish origins of their new professional and always referred to him as ‘Jack Burns of St Andrews’.

However, as Open Champion Jack Burns’ star faded rather rapidly. Sadly he never caught the popular Victorian imagination and his name soon became a footnote. In fact, he played in the championship only four times after 1888, finishing fourteenth in 1889, 45th in 1894 and missing the half-way cut in 1891 and 1905. In Bernard Darwin’s view Burns was an ‘old happy-go-lucky kind of professional’ and unfortunately time would show that he lacked ambition. He was certainly a very different character to his contemporary and fellow Scot, Willie Park Junior. Willie was one of the game’s leading figures, first as a player and then as a pioneer of golfing architecture. However, referring to Burns, Horace Hutchinson said:

He has not played in any important matches away from his native green; but whilst at Warwick, which he has now quitted, he earned golden opinions as green keeper and instructor, no less by his civil demeanour than by the trouble he took to point out the way to the numerous beginners who constantly required his services.15

In June 1889, three years after the Club’s foundation, the Warwickshire played a match with the Worcestershire Golf Club at Malvern. It may have been the first match between clubs of different counties. For various reasons the visitors could not get their best team together but proudly took with them their professional, the reigning champion. According to the Leamington Courier ‘after the competition a match was played between John Burns and Douglas Rolland, the Malvern professional and was won by Rolland by eight and seven to play. The bye was, however, won by two holes by Burns, who was placed at a great disadvantage owing to his opponent’s superior knowledge of the green’.16 It seemed remarkable that a man who had won the championship only months before had been slaughtered, but the victor – a cousin of James Braid – was no ordinary golfer. In fact there was something heroic about the man and Darwin said of Douggie ‘he was in my belief the greatest of all the professionals of this period [and] in point of combined length and accuracy he was the finest driver that ever hit a gutty ball. He was a magnificent figure of a man, strikingly handsome as his pictures show, with a glorious swing.’17 No wonder he beat his old friend so convincingly but sadly it did little to enhance Burn’s reputation as a player.

A wandering star

Defending his crown at Musselburgh later that year unfortunately Jack, a fallen star, finished at the back of the field, fifteen shots behind the winner, Willie Park junior.18 Burns’ winning ways seem to have left him. Down the years some reports gave the impression that after a year he abandoned professional golf for a steadier occupation, as a plate-layer on the railway. Both Henry Longhurst and Tom Morris’ biographers, David Malcolm and Peter Crabtree, agree on that point.

However, there is evidence to indicate that this was not the case and his obituary in 1927 would show that he soon embarked on an extensive tour of the Midlands, Wales and Ireland. In this he was merely emulating his flamboyant friend, that enigmatic character, Douglas Rolland. Douggie served at the Worcestershire, Limpfield Chart, Rye, Eastbourne, Bexhill and then became a stoker on the Atlantic run. He subsequently worked in America before ending up at Farnborough as professional to the Aldershot Command Golf Club.

Jack stayed at Warwick for only two seasons. He had already fulfilled his greatest ambition and like his old friend now seemed to acquire the wanderlust. Darwin said of Rolland ‘wherever he went he was loved, admired and forgiven – an irrefutably dashing dog that nobody could withstand’. That couldn’t be said of Burns, who was certainly not flamboyant although he was popular and well liked. He was succeeded at the Warwickshire by Gerald Farrar, formerly professional at Hoylake.

Burns was at Kenilworth Golf Club in 1890, helping Hugh Kirkaldy to construct their new course. The next year he accepted a summer engagement at Portrush in Northern Ireland – later Royal Portrush – only three years after its foundation. In those days many of the new clubs offered only a six month’s contract, feeling that they could not afford a full-time professional. It could make the professional’s career an uncertain enterprise.

The fallen idol

We lose sight of Jack Burns in 1892 after he left Ulster. He was possibly in Wales but the next year he served for a season at King’s Norton in Worcestershire – their first professional – before moving on to Wolverhampton in March 1894. After a few months at the South Staffordshire Golf Club – formed in 1892 – Burns’ wandering streak continued. Yet not before playing in the championship at Royal St George’s, Sandwich. How the star had fallen, for he finished 49 shots off the lead. His only claim to fame that year was being drawn with the fast rising James Braid on the first day. Braid scored 91 and 84 and Burns 93 and 97.19 Jack Burns’ next post was at the North Warwickshire Golf Club in 1895. The Birmingham Gazette reported that he was congratulated at the opening ceremony on getting the new course at Meriden Heath in good order.20 According to the article ‘there are some rough and heavy places to be found, where good lies are not easily obtainable, but these will disappear by and by, as the turf becomes firmer and more consolidated’.
In those days golf professionals often led a precarious existence, changing jobs regularly. It was not that he was unpopular. No one seems to have a bad word for him wherever he went. He was highly respected and according to HSC Everard

He has not played in any important matches away from his native green; but whilst at Warwick he has earned golden opinions as green keeper and instructor, no less by his civil demeanour than by the trouble he took to point the way to the numerous beginners who constantly required his services. … on his day he is a fine slashing driver and though his [championship] victory savoured somewhat of the unexpected, it could not be said to be a fluke, inasmuch as he had been well in the front rank in other competitions. … his performance in 1888 was one of sterling merit, as there was a very strong breeze blowing from the north, a wind which appears to render it particularly difficult to perform the outward half of the journey in creditable figures. It is true that he had perhaps less of this adverse element to contend with than the earlier starters, but look at it as we may, his score, even on a calm day would be difficult to beat and hence is all the more meritorious.

Six balls out of bounds

One of the few accounts we have of Jack Burns playing in a professional tournament during his time in Warwickshire is in the magazine The Midland Golfer. The event took place in September 1896 at Ward End, a suburb of Birmingham. It marked the appointment there of Jack Bloxham, a former Warwick caddie who would later become one of the leading professionals in the Midlands, and was held under the auspices of another contemporary magazine called City Chimes. It reads:

'Jack Burns, playing to the fifth hole, a very narrow fairway with out-of-bounds on each side, drove six balls out of bounds, each shot of course incurring a penalty shot!' He finished with a score of 90, so there was not much wrong with the rest of his game. The prize of five pounds he was seeking was not an inconsiderable sum, as Burns received no more than eight pounds for his championship win. The next year he served for a short while at Stratford-Upon-Avon before becoming the first professional of the Warwickshire and was held under the auspices of another contemporary magazine called City Chimes. It reads:

In fact it was not until 1898 that Burns returned to St Andrews, finding work on the railway. According to Henry Longhurst this gave rise to Burns’ often repeated observation ‘I am never off line now!’ Happily, however, according to Golf Illustrated he was still playing the game in 1905 although not as a regular professional.24 Five years later the magazine issued a well-known commemorative print, Champions Past and Present, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the championship. It included a portrait of Burns wearing his championship medal, along with the other winners. Seeing it, one can appreciate Bernard Darwin’s remark that Jack was ‘not far removed from the caddie’. Nevertheless, he was highly respected as a greenkeeper and under his tutelage many of the budding members of the Warwickshire had become competent golfers.

Tom Morris’s pallbearer

In 1908 Burns’ old friend and mentor, Tom Morris, died at the ripe age of 87 and every national newspaper carried the sad news. This was at a time when life expectancy was not much over 50 years. According to his latest biographers, Tom had a funeral that would have graced a head of state, almost the entire population of St Andrews lining the streets.25 Jack Burns was one of six professionals chosen to act as pallbearers as the coffin was carried through the long nave of the Cathedral ruins to its final resting place by the Morris family grave. It was a huge honour for the former professional of the Warwickshire. On his own death in 1927, Burns’ obituary in the St Andrews Citizen claimed that ‘after winning the Open Championship, Jack went on a tour and visited many well-known courses in England, Wales and Ireland. He was possessed of a quaint humour and had interesting stories to tell of his extensive tour’.24 Unfortunately for us they seem to have gone largely unrecorded.

Endnotes

2. Leamington Courier. 12 March, 1887
3. Everard, HSC. Golf. Macmillan. 1892. 382
5. Leamington Courier. 3 March, 1888
8. St Andrews Citizen. 13 October, 1888
10. Op cit. 43
15. Hutchinson, H. Golf. The Badminton Library. Macmillan. 1892. 382
16. Leamington Courier. 8 June. 1889
19. Op cit. 24
20. Birmingham Gazette. 2 May 1895
22. Golf Illustrated. 17 February, 1905
Irish Musings
by John Hanna

When Fred Daly won the Open Championship he was keen to let it be known that he had learnt a lot about the game while working as a caddie at Royal Portrush Golf Club. The Irish Times of the 5th July 1947 said ‘Fred Daly, who was born in Portrush, said that he learnt his golf by watching a lot of the better players on the course’ and mentioned a number of the golfers by name. These included Charles Hezlet, GNC Martin, Ernest Carter, the McConnell brothers and Arthur Allison. These were all young men, particularly the first three, at the time he was caddying, and they all had great subsequent golfing records. In some way it is not so much their golfing successes that are the most interesting, but more the kind of lives they led and the comparison with the lives of the top amateur golfers of recent decades. All three players, Hezlet, Martin and Carter were army officers who saw action in the First World War. Golf in the inter-war years was still played mostly by the more affluent in society and army officers would have been part of this group. Hezlet, in particular, came from a wealthy background.

Charles Owen Hezlet
Charles was born in May 1891 in Sheerness in Kent, the son of Lt-Col Richard Jackson Hezlet JP of Bovagh, Aghadowey, County Londonderry. His father, Richard Hezlet, was Captain of Royal Portrush in 1900, and his mother was Captain of the Ladies’ Branch from 1898-99. It was his older sisters, May, Florence, Violet and Emmie, who became better known for their golfing prowess. He was appointed Second Lieutenant in the Antrim Royal Garrison Artillery on the 8th of February 1912. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order following action at Cambrai and was mentioned in despatches three times when he was Acting Major.

Charles obtained most of his local successes before the outbreak of the First World War. At Portrush he won The Alexander Cup in 1906, 1910 and 1912; The President’s Cup in 1908 and 1911; The Adair Shield in 1908, 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1913, and after the War in 1919, 1926, 1927, 1935 and 1936; The Richardson Cup in 1937 and 1949. He represented Royal Portrush in Inter-Club Tournaments, winning the All-Ireland Barton Shield in 1922 and the Senior Cup in 1923.

In the set of cigarette cards by Wills Famous Golfers 1930 Hezlet is described as ‘a heavily built fellow, with the cheeriest of dispositions. Owing to his great size he finds it suits his golf to adopt a very wide stance and, moreover, he stands rather far away from the ball. On the backswing he is fast and exceedingly flat, he is however able to get into the correct position at the moment of impact. He drives a very long ball.’

In 1924, Charles Hezlet became the first Irish golfer to play in the Walker Cup matches, at The Garden City Golf Club in New York. Two Irish players had been nominated, the other being Dr John D MacCormack, the Irish Champion in 1923 and 1924, who was unable to travel because of work commitments. In the first day foursomes Hezlet and Cyril Tolley lost to Jesse
Irish musings

Guilford and Francis Ouimet by 2/1. In the singles Charles had the experience of playing against the great Bobby Jones, losing by 4/3. The overall result was USA 9 matches and Great Britain and Ireland 3 matches. Before proceeding to St Andrews for the 1926 match the members of both teams played in the St George's Challenge Cup at Royal St George's. The conditions were very cold and even Bobby Jones scored an 86 in the second round. Perhaps more accustomed to the cold Charles Hezlet won the competition. At St Andrews Hezlet was partnered by the Scot, Robert Harris, who was also the Captain of the team, in the foursomes. They were soundly defeated by Von Elm and Jess Swetzer by 8/7. In the singles, Hezlet halved with George Von Elm. He had a makeable putt on the last green but left it short. Had he holed it there would only have been a half point in the overall result. When the team made the long trip to the Chicago Golf Club in 1928, Hezlet was joined in the team by another Ulsterman, and fellow club-member, Noel Martin. For the foursomes matches Hezlet was partnered by another Scot, William Hope. They played Bobby Jones and Chick Evans and lost by 5/3. Hezlet suffered another heavy defeat in the singles losing to Francis Ouimet by 8/7. The GB and I team only won one match overall.

In August 1927 the first Open Championship of Ireland took place at Portmarnock. It was played in very wet and stormy conditions. A headline in one of the local newspapers was ‘Golf in a Gale’. George Duncan, who had first suggested the Championship, had a magnificent score of 74 in the afternoon to win the Championship by one shot from Henry Cotton. He had an 82 in the morning when only one player broke 80. There being no such thing as waterproof rain gear at the time Duncan had wrapped himself in layers of brown paper under his golfing clothes to shut out the weather. Duncan said that it was the finest round of his life. He was also quick to give credit to his amateur playing partner, Charles Hezlet, who incidentally finished as the leading amateur, saying ‘It was largely due to Major Hezlet that I stuck in. He told me that others were not going well, and I began to feel like making a good round.’

Probably as a result of his army training Charles Hezlet was also very capable administrator. He was Captain of the Irish team no less than sixteen times between 1923 and 1953, and a selector from 1947 until 1954. He was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and was on the Championship Committee from 1948 until 1952, being Deputy Chairman in 1951, and Chairman in 1952. There is no doubt that it was as a result of his influence that the 80th Open Championship was played at his home club of Royal Portrush in 1951, the only time it has been played outside England or Scotland. In 1968 his daughter Rosemary presented one of his Irish Amateur Championship trophies to the Ulster Branch of the Golfing Union of Ireland to be known as the ‘Hezlet Cup’. This is competed for annually as the Ulster Youth’s Amateur Championship trophy. Previous winners include John O’Leary and Ronan Rafferty.

Hezlet married Nan, the daughter of Mr and Mrs James Stuart, of Somerset; she died 10 March 1931 in Cannes in France, aged just 30 years. Charles Owen Hezlet, Lt Col, DSO, RA, died on the 22nd of November 1965, aged 74.

Championships

British Amateur: runner-up in 1914 losing to JLC Jenkins at Sandwich by 3/2
Irish Amateur Open: winner in 1926 and 1929; runner-up in 1923 and 1925
Irish Amateur Close: winner in 1920
Welsh Amateur Open: runner-up 1923
Open Championship of Ireland: leading amateur in 1927 and 1929

International Matches

Walker Cup: 1924, 1926, and 1928
Welsh International 1922
Home Internationals Ireland: 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931

Inter-Club Tournaments

Representing Royal Portrush: All-Ireland Barton Shield 1922; Senior Cup 1923

Other

The St George’s Challenge Cup 1924
Worplesdon Scratch Foursomes with Molly Gourlay in 1929 and 1930
Surrey Amateur Open 1928

The Charles O Hezlet Memorial Trophy is presented to the winner of the Ulster Youths Open Amateur Championship
George Noel Chadwick Martin

Noel was the son of Dr JC (Mant) Martin, MD, JP of Mark Street in Portrush, and was born in 1891. Dr J C Mant Martin was a good golfer himself and played for Royal Portrush in the team which won the All-Ireland Barton Shield 1922 and the All-Ireland Senior Challenge Cup in 1923. He was Captain of Portrush in 1936. His son Noel returned to Portrush around 1909 having attended Uppingham School in England, which he later represented in the Halford Hewitt tournament. He attended the Royal Military Academy and in July 1912 was promoted from a gentleman cadet to a Second Lieutenant. He was awarded the Military Cross when serving as a Captain-Acting Major in September 1918. His citation read:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while in command of his battery, when his able dispositions greatly minimised casualties at a time of persistent heavy shelling. On one occasion a direct hit was obtained on a dug-out, killing and wounding its occupants and setting fire to the camouflage and ammunition in the gun-pit. His prompt efforts were most successful in getting away the wounded and putting out the fire. Throughout the operations he set a fine example of cheerfulness and determination under very trying conditions.

The following year he was awarded the DSO. The citation read:

For conspicuous gallantry and brilliant leadership at Les Mottes on the 8th November 1918. He led a gun at a gallop through the foremost infantry coming into action at 700 yards, silencing several machine guns, which were holding up the advance. He remained in action in the open for several hours, keeping down hostile fire and denying the ridge 600 yards distant to the enemy. He also silenced two 77mm guns, which were firing on troops at about 1,500 yards range. His intrepid behaviour set a fine example.

After such a terrible time throughout the Great War coming home to Portrush with the opportunity to play golf must have been a totally different world. Noel won the Irish Amateur Open Championship in 1920 and shortly after this he must have been posted to India for he won the North Indian Championship in 1922. He returned home on leave in 1923 and won the Irish Amateur Open Championship again at Newcastle, where he met his old Portrush rival Charles Hezlet in the final. James Henderson wrote:

There was nothing quite so melodramatic about this final but it was a tense match. They had both been golfing rivals since their boyhood and both had been awarded the DSO in the Great War. Both were at the peak of their golfing form. Hezlet had reached the final of the Welsh Championship a few weeks before, and Martin was a previous winner (1920) of the Irish Open Amateur Championship. They gave the most perfect display of golf I have ever seen at an amateur championship, and Martin won by a hole at the 36th. They started with four 3's two by Martin, one by Hezlet and they both had 3 at the fourth. The round finished with Martin two up. His score was approximately 70 while Hezlet was round in 75, and the round was accomplished in 2 hours and 17 minutes to the

Hezlet (Capt) and Martin sit next to each other at the front centre of this Irish team at Portrush, 1929
mingled delight and dismay of Fred Hoey who, no longer a young man, tramped all the way, perspiring freely for it was a hot day, and exclaiming at intervals ‘making a ***** toy of the course!’ The second round was not quite as brilliant as the first but Hezlet’s approximate score was 74 and Martin’s 75.

On return to India he won the North Indian Championship again in 1924. In 1926 he graduated with the rank of Captain from the Staff College in Quetta in India. (This part of India was later to become Pakistan.) In 1928 he became the Army Golf Champion winning at Prince’s at Sandwich with a score of 160. Two years later he became Staff Officer of the Royal Artillery, Northern Command.

Noel Martin was selected for the team to represent Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup in 1928. The match was played at the Chicago Golf Club in August. After the first day foursomes the Americans led by four matches to nil. In his history of the Walker Cup, Gordon Simmons poses the question

Noel Martin of Royal Portrush, a long-standing top class Irish amateur player, and Ronald Hardman had both attended Uppingham and were members of the same Uppingham team, which played annually in the Halford Hewitt. Yet they did not play on the first day. Simmonds states:

… as always, we can ponder the ‘what if’s’, but given the friendship of Hardman and Martin, would they not have made a competent foursomes pairing? Martin was described by his peers as someone always dressed immaculately in plus fours, blazer and cap, whose every gesture and movement displayed his inexhaustible supply of confidence. Such stature usually helps in foursomes matchplay. But it was not to be utilised in Chicago.

Unfortunately Noel playing in the final singles match lost to Roland Mackenzie by 2/1, GB and I winning only one match.

It is not surprising given the amount of time that Noel was absent from his home club at Portrush that he did not have much time to compete in club events. In fact he appears to have had only two successes: The Town Cup in 1907, when he was aged just sixteen and the Victory Cup in 1923. It was fitting that he should have won this trophy at least once.

By 1933 Noel was abroad again, this time at the Royal Military Academy in Canada where he met and married Barbara Anne, the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs WA Home of Quebec. His next tour of duty appears to have been to Gibraltar where he was GSO2 in 1935 and 1936. Noel was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1938. During the Second World War he served as an acting Brigadier with the Royal Artillery 6th Infantry Division, in Egypt in 1941. He was awarded the CBE in September 1942. After seeing service in both World Wars Noel retired in December 1945 as Colonel with the honorary rank of Brigadier. Noel was Captain of Royal Portrush in 1949-50; however as the AGM was not held until September he had the pleasure of presenting the Claret Jug to the colourful Max Faulkner who won the Open Championship there in 1951. Shortly after, Noel moved to live in Greystones and joined Portmarnock Golf Club. He eventually retired to the Channel Islands where he died in 1985.

Championships
Irish Amateur Open Winner 1920 and 1923
North Indian Championship 1922 and 1924
Army Championship 1929

International Matches
Walker Cup 1928
Home Internationals 1923, 25, 28, 29, and 1930

Inter-Club tournaments
Representing Royal Portrush. All-Ireland Senior Cup 1923

Administrative
Irish International Team Captain 1930
Club Captain RPGC 1949-50

As outgoing captain of RPGC, Brigadier Martin presents the Claret Jug to Max Faulkner after the 1951 Open Championship
Ernest F Carter

Ernest F Carter was born in Blackrock, County Dublin in May 1894. He enrolled as a student in Trinity College Dublin in 1912, spending just two years at University before joining up with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at the age of twenty in September 1914. Shortly afterwards he found himself at the battlefront in France and was badly wounded by machine gun fire in a deadly nighttime battle. He was eventually shipped home to Ireland where he underwent several operations and a long period of recuperation. He did not return to University, but after regaining full health he resumed his golf. He won the first Irish Close Amateur Championship after the War at Portmarnock in 1919, defeating a Portmarnock member, WG McConnell by 9/7 in the final. He was now playing out of Portrush, and won the Championship again at Portmarnock in 1921. His opposition was once again a Portmarnock member, G Moore, whom he defeated by 9/8. At this time there was an Open Stroke competition before the Irish Amateur Open Championship and Carter won this on two occasions. He won first at Portmarnock in 1920, then at Portrush in 1922, when his 69 was four shots better than any preceding winner of this event. It was not equalled until the great Joe Carr won with a 68 at Portrush, 32 years later in 1952. He must have moved south at the end of 1920 as he was playing out of Royal Dublin in the 1921 and 1922 Championships. He was also a member of the Milltown Senior Cup team that won the All-Ireland Senior Cup in 1920, along with other golfing notables of the time, AB Babington, WG McConnell and Donald Soulby.

Ernest Carter must have been at the peak of his golfing career at this time and he won the Welsh Open Amateur Championship in 1922. He was Irish Close Champion in 1919 and 1921, as well as being a defeated semi-finalist in 1920. Ernest

Carter was a semi-finalist the following year losing (unluckily some say) to CL Crawford (Portstewart) when the Irish Close Championship was played at Castlerock. If there was ever a case for stymie abolitionists, this match would stand out like a sore thumb. The players were a class apart yet some freakish putting by Crawford together with three stymies resulted in the match going the distance. To add insult to injury a bad bounce from the fairway into a rabbit scrape and a near unplayable lie on the final hole sealed the hole and match for Crawford. When luck runs its course the gap between good and great meant a one-sided final that finished on the eighth hole of the second round with Major Charles Owen Hezlet winning by a margin of 12/10. In the 1920 Irish Open Amateur Championship Carter suffered a crushing 6/5 defeat to Ector Munn from the North-West club as his game, especially in his iron play, and he is also a good putter, but he lacks finish and that is the reason he was beaten.

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When the Irish Close Championship returned to Portmarnock in 1921 he succeeded in taking the trophy on the 12th of May, again by a substantial margin. Despite 1919-1921 being the struggle for Irish Independence, the Championship continued regardless. The Saturday following the 1921 Championship there was a curfew in place in Dublin between 10.30pm and 4.00am. Ireland was still a further two months from a truce and the IRA had stepped up its campaign of guerrilla warfare in the spring. In the 1920 South of Ireland Championship, which Carter won, the legendary Irish golfer John Burke, adjutant of the local IRA Battalion based in Ennistymon, recalled an incident during the
final. Burke, his brother Tom and Pakey Lehane took down the Union flag and set it on fire, replacing it with the Irish tricolour. As the match approached the second hole the officials noticed the change and British military personnel were quickly on the scene to replace the Union flag. When the events were repeated the whiff of trouble in the air ensured a vastly reduced gallery to watch Carter, now attached to Milltown, beat Derry O’Brien, the Douglas player, by 10/9.

Carter played in the British Amateur Championship in 1920 at Muirfield, the first post-war championship but despite winning his first round match by 10/8 he was knocked out in the second round. In 1921, at which stage he was playing out of Royal Dublin, he lost his first round match to P Hunter from the US by 4/3. In 1922 when it was played at Prestwick he reached the quarter-finals in a match against William Irvine Hunter, in what many considered a travesty as he was seen as the finer golfer. The defining moment in the match came when Carter’s drive at the Sixteenth was too well struck and trickled into the Cardinal Bunker. He failed to find the green after three attempts eventually picking up and losing the match by one hole on the Eighteenth in front of a crowd of 6000. Bernard Darwin in his report for The Times put the story of the match in his own eloquent style:

But for the sheer goodness of golf, I must give the palm to the match between Mr Hunter and Captain Carter. Other people, perhaps, may have done lower scores this week, but this was so far the best golf I have seen. Thrust came in answer to thrust; time after time, the golf approached to the heroic.

It was afterwards reported that so impressed were the powers that be with his golf that he was picked as part of the international team to go to America. However, when the team was finally announced on the 22nd of June neither Carter or William Irvine Hunter (the 1921 Amateur Champion and 1922 semi-finalist), his vanquisher, were included even though they were, according to the papers, generally acknowledged as the best amateur golfers in Great Britain and Ireland, at the time. The international team event referred to above was the inaugural playing of the Walker Cup at the National Golf Links of America in Southhampton, Long Island. Their absence from the team couldn’t easily be explained, but the New York Times felt that although there was no official explanation there may have been a question mark over their amateur status as they had some connection with golfing firms. Despite this, they were allowed to play in the British Amateur and never lost their amateur status. The defeat of the GB&I team by 8 games to 4 made their non-selection even more controversial. Perhaps the same question may be asked as to why a golfer of such class was never selected to play for Ireland. In 1922 Captain Carter won the short-lived Welsh Open Amateur Championship at Royal St David’s Golf Club by beating Bernard Drew from Stoke Poges in a classic and, it has to be said, uncharacteristic fight-back during the final stages of a championship. Drew was the favourite going into this match to the heroic.

The R&A gave a three-month notice of a proposed ban on players making monetary gain from their skill on the golf course. Carter resigned his association with a golf ball firm before sailing on the SS Baltic in 1923 to America, where he eventually spent much of his time playing on Long Island and its environs. Was this an early example of the selector’s decision changing the plans of a successful golfer? He was the Golf Secretary at the Boca Raton course just south of Palm Beach in Florida where in March 1927 he is reported as being responsible for the building of the course, which was designed by Toomey and Flynn. At this time he must have been friendly with HB Martin, author of Pictorial Golf 1928, because a copy of this book came to auction in 2006 and was inscribed and signed by the author: “To my good friend Capt. Ernest Carter with best wishes for unlimited success, HB Martin. “Dickie”. In 1936 he was Manager at Sands Point Golf Course in Long Island where he remained for many years before becoming the General Manager of Upper Montclair Golf Club in New Jersey. He held the course record at Sands Point and was made an Honorary Member in 1942. He qualified on a number of occasions for the US Amateur Championship. He died in June 1958 at the age of 64 – not bad for one whose life nearly came to an abrupt end in France in 1915.

Championships
Irish Close Amateur Championship 1919 and 1921
Strokeplay tournament at Irish Open Amateur Championship, 1920 and 1922
Welsh Amateur Championship 1922
South of Ireland Championship 1920
Semi-finalist Irish Open Amateur Championship 1921, 1922

Inter-Club tournaments
Representing Milltown GC – All-Ireland Senior Cup 1920

Conclusion
In this day and age it is hard to imagine men going through the whole traumatic experience of two World Wars and yet being able to return home to play on the golf links with just the sound of the waves on the shore and the sound of the larks singing above. Yet here were three men who not only did it, but were very successful both in their playing careers and afterwards.

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Golf has long been touted as a social game and the golf course has a reputation as a setting where deals are made. In the midst of intense political wrangling this past summer, President Obama and Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner, political opponents, staged a highly publicized weekend golf match where civil discourse was more likely to prevail in an environment outside the halls of government. The pair of opposites partnered against two other high-ranking politicos. However after riding together in a golf cart for eighteen holes no real deals were struck and it was back to politics as usual the following Monday. Perhaps if they had played with hickories their level of humiliation would have shamed them into a good-natured sense of compromise.

With the Hickory Grail being played in the Village of Pinehurst this autumn, it might be worth noting some trivial bits of history from that locale which is now virtually synonymous with golf. The No 2 course, site of the 1999, 2005 and 2014 US Opens, is famous for its 'turtle back' greens. The course wasn't always that intimidating. In fact, from its opening in 1907 until 1920 players putted on flat sand greens.

A wing at the rear of the village's Given Memorial Library contains the Tufts Archives, the repository for artifacts related to the Tufts family of Boston, founders of the resort and village. The archives are also full of items pertaining to Donald J Ross, the Tin Whistles (the original golfing society in the village), the golf courses, professionals, caddies, famous golfing visitors and competitions. One of my favorite items is the handsome silver cup won by Flossie Mitchell who cared naught about golf. She was a champion milk cow, owned by the resort whose dairy produced edibles and potables for the hotel guests. Flossie gave over 12,000 pounds of milk in 1925, more than earning that trophy.

The real treasure within the Tufts Archives is its collection of original golf course design plans and drawings by Donald Ross. A golf architect's paradise, there are thousands of individual pieces from most of Ross's designs that are available to researchers. My personal favorite item is the photo album of Pinehurst caddies circa 1910, identified only by name and an occasional comment like 'good', or 'lazy'. One photo of interest was of a caddie named Carson Coggins with the margin note, 'shot and killed Oscar Byrd'. Hopefully Oscar was not a golfer who tipped parsimoniously.

Getting back to the sand putting greens: outside the entrance to the Tufts wing is an historical display including a small sand green where visitors can practice putting on a replica of one of the original putting surfaces. One can also learn how to make a sand tee and to groom the sand green in the old manner. Perhaps the most interesting part of the display is the 8˝ diameter putting cup, which was once proposed for use on the less than smooth surfaced sand greens. I for one could certainly use a cup of that size.

The June 'Letter from America' highlighted the involvement of junior golfers from the North Carolina Triad area in some of the hickory golf events held here. This year the National Hickory Championship awarded three scholarships to junior golfers and paid their expenses to play in the event. Tom Johnson's Foxburg Hickory Championship did likewise with youngsters from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Next year the NHC is rewriting its junior involvement to include giving the younger players responsibilities in the running of the Championship. Not only will they be taught golf history before playing authentic nineteenth century golf on the course but they will intern and gain hands-on experience in tournament operations.

Earlier I alluded to the four hickory events in North America that are contested with nineteenth century equipment. In 2011 they banded together to offer a prize, the Allan Robertson Putter, to the golfer that accrued the best strokes against par.
record over the four events. Actually, the winner had to compete in a minimum of three of the four and the inaugural winner, Jim Wilhelm of Paris (Ontario, that is) showed up at all four. He placed seventh at the NHC but won the second leg – the All American Hickory Open – and leg three, the Foxburg Hickory Championship, finishing strong in the CB Macdonald Matches at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Another Canadian, Bobby Sly (Kingston, Ontario) won the NHC in June and the Macdonald Championship in September to finish second in the Hickory Slam. The traveling trophy is an elegant long head putter made from sterling silver which Jim proudly displaying in his office for the next twelve months.

The Society of Hickory Golfers Championship Series wound up in Southern Pines, North Carolina November 6-7. Fred Muller, Crystal Downs, Michigan professional won his first Mid Pines championship after participating for a number of years. The Mid Pines Hickory Open was the fourth leg of the new Championship series, which also included the Southern Four Ball Hickory Championship, the US Hickory Open, and the Heart of America Championship. The series champion was crowned based on a point system of finishing places in all four events. Rick Woeckner, Fredricksburg, Virginia is the champion outdistancing Ben Hollerbach and Josh Fischer. Woeckner also finished second in the Autumn Match Play Championship at Oakhurst Links using nineteenth century equipment. Yes, stymes were in force.

Our peripatetic golf vagabonds Nigel and Fiona report that while playing at Pelican Point GC on the banks of the muddy Mississippi in Gonzales, Louisiana they were able to partake in the annual Jambalaya Festival last May. They thought it was pretty good stuff until they tried the twenty gallon kettle of the Cajun treat that Steve Spring and Billy Picard conjured up at the National Hickory Championship in June. It might have been West Virginia but Fiona says of the golf and gumbo, ‘Laissez les bon temps rouler’.

Bill Reed, of Des Moines, Iowa is the newest Golf Collectors Society President. BGCS members who may have met Bill at one of our meetings or trade shows know that there are few guys in America that are more affable and golf crazy than he.

The USGA Museum and Arnold Palmer Golf History Center recently announced that they had obtained a large number of important artifacts from the personal collection of former champion Mickey Wright. They will be put on permanent display in a room named for her in the Museum in Far Hills, New Jersey. Wright is the first female to be honored in this way by any of the golf museums. The exhibit opens in June, 2012.

‘Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated’, wrote America’s great nineteenth century humorist Mark Twain. This past June I wrote of the demise of the January GCS Dayton Golf Show which Bob Kuntz had initiated and Andrew Crewe had inherited, the two hosts presiding over 30 years of Dayton gatherings. We were all a bit surprised when our invitations to the 2012 edition of the Dayton ‘cabin fever’ meeting arrived. Andrew had difficulty making a spring date work and will once again host the meeting January 13-15. It’s a great social event with a little golf thrown in. Come on over, there will be plenty of golf fellowship and a great steak dinner at the Paragon awaiting guests.

Happy holidays, all! See you in the New Year.

Brown Ale
The Moles golfing society visited Aldeburgh in July as part of their centenary celebrations. The exhaustively researched new history of the Society by Bobby Furber and others shows that the first Moles were Victor Longstaffe, Guy Howard, Eric Collins, Eric Hunter, Charles Hunter and Hugh Scrimgeour. All were Aldeburgh members. Of these six, the acknowledged main founders were Vic Longstaffe and Guy Howard who had probably known each other since childhood as the Aldeburgh records show that their families lived almost next door at 105 and 109 Gloucester Terrace in Bayswater. Importantly, both families also went to Aldeburgh for holidays, particularly golf, and both fathers were Captains of Aldeburgh (1900 and 1916 respectively). Since then a number of other Aldeburgh members have become Moles, notably, among the better golfers, Charles Hooman, George Adams and Guy Thompson. More recently, Peter Good was a Mole and the current members include Andy Edmond and Christo Lloyd.

Victor Longstaffe was the leading light of the Moles for many years and was the non-playing Captain when the Moles famously beat the USA Walker Cup team (including Bobby Jones, Francis Ouimet and Jess Sweetser) in a friendly at Woking in 1926. But the Moles centenary gives the opportunity for Aldeburgh to remember that Longstaffe was also the most important and influential member of the Aldeburgh Golf Club in the twentieth century. In 1911 Vic Longstaffe was already famous in a way that would not be possible for a young amateur golfer today. He was ferociously keen as a boy and the Committee approved special financial arrangements for his tutor to play over the course with him; young Victor no doubt being keener on golf than his lessons. He was the second of the new young members to get his handicap down to scratch, the first being Eric Collins’s brother Bernard. His golfing breakthrough came in 1907 when he played for Cambridge against Oxford and broke the Aldeburgh course record with a 72; the following academic year he captained Cambridge.

**A developing reputation**
At the end of 1910 he defeated the great early woman golfer, Cecil
Leitch, at Aldeburgh, when the morning foursomes round also saw the first important appearance of Joy Winn, Aldeburgh's most famous female player. Longstaffe's victory ensured many references in the newspapers as this was shortly after Leitch had herself beaten the mighty Harold Hilton, the last British amateur to win the Open, in a 72-hole match before huge and noisy crowds at Walton Heath and Sunningdale. However, Longstaffe only gave her five shots a round at Aldeburgh compared with Hilton's nine. As a result of this publicity he was granted one of the ultimate prizes at the time for an aspiring golfer, a Charles Ambrose cartoon in Country Life. The accompanying piece, almost certainly written by Bernard Darwin, commented that Victor Longstaffe 'has an extremely neat and attractive style, and is especially to be feared in the neighbourhood of the green.' Darwin also noted he was a prop of the London Solicitors' Golfing Society, where he was already on the committee.

But good as Longstaffe's golf was, it was perhaps not as splendid as his charm and social grace and what we would now call his networking and publicity skills. It was surely Vic Longstaffe who recognised that, in a snow bound England, Golf Illustrated would be looking for material to fill its editions in early 1911; several photographs of Aldeburgh were published, including Longstaffe swinging in the snow by the first tee with the same hat he was wearing in the Ambrose cartoon.

In 1911 as now, the Easter Meeting at Aldeburgh was the most important and the Easter Foursomes the leading competition. That year was special as the new clubhouse was open, after the fire the previous year, causing substantial work for the unfortunate captain, Thomas Fenwick, who was a partner in the Longstaffe family firm where Victor was doing his articles. Also the Easter Meeting gave the members the opportunity to gauge the effect of the great grass banked bunkers put in that winter to the design of JH Taylor to complete the revisions to the course made by Willie Park Jnr in 1907. JH Taylor's bunkers, coupled with the gorse, remain perhaps the most distinctive features of the course.

Vic Longstaffe and his partner Eric Collins, the future Mole, did not do well in the knockout but on Easter Monday he won the scratch gold medal and his other co-founder, Guy Howard, won the handicap Flintham Cup. At the AGM later in the day he topped the ballot for election to the Committee of the Club with 93 votes. From then until his death in 1968 he was always close to the heart of the Club and its most influential member.

A few days after Easter Vic Longstaffe with Guy Howard and Eric Hunter, are again in Golf Illustrated sitting on perhaps the very car that was to take them on the first Moles's tour. There is another photograph in June 1911 with Harold Hilton at Stoke Poges where Vic was also a prominent member. Later in the year Longstaffe played in a strong Gentlemen's team against a team of Ladies and also played for the Amateurs against the Professionals. He won both his matches against the Professionals in partnership with Hugh Alison, another future Mole, who was then secretary of Stoke Poges.

An established presence at Aldeburgh
His friendship with Alison may have resulted in Victor Longstaffe's greatest contribution to Aldeburgh occurring before his two terms as captain and his twenty years as President. Alison later went into partnership with Harry Colt as a golf course architect and Longstaffe was probably instrumental, with the support of Eric Collins who was then Captain, in the engagement of Alison in 1920/21 to come up with proposals to redesign the course. Alison moved the fifth green from a site south of the Saxmundham Road to its current position, turning the sixth hole into a sharp dogleg. Alison and Colt also created the strong finish from the fourteenth to eighteenth, with the fourteenth and sixteenth being two of the best holes in England.

In the autumn of 1911 Vic Longstaffe was named as one of the most prominent golfing guests at the grand dinner for Harold Hilton on his return from winning the US Amateur, having earlier in the year won the Amateur and been very close in the Open at Sandwich. All of these golfing exploits in 1911, including of course the founding of the Moles and their first tours, were achieved by a young man of 24 who was supposed to be quietly and diligently attending to his legal work as an articled clerk in Berners Street, London W1. No wonder he later decided that the constraints of the law were not for him.

Many years later Vic Longstaffe, an accomplished raconteur, would tell these and many other stories of golfing gallantry by the open fire in the Aldeburgh clubhouse. Always generous and convivial, Longstaffe ensured that the contestans in the Victor Longstaffe Challenge Cup, traditionally played on Boxing Day, were always given champagne. He gave the Club a legacy for this to continue after his death but alas inflation has now turned champagne into mulled wine.

Vic Longstaffe was vital for the Moles and vital for Aldeburgh Golf Club: a man with a great gift for friendship and a great generator of laughter.

Hilton and Longstaffe cross the bridge at Stoke Poges in 1911
The enquiry was about Teddy Browne, Old Boy of St Bees School, Cumbria, and post-war captain of the St Beghian team for the Halford Hewitt Tournament. He had played well enough to represent England school-boys against a Scotland team that had a young WSJ Whitelaw as reserve. And he had won his blue alongside Whitelaw for Cambridge against Oxford at Sandwich in 1938.

The search of more details had taken me to Browne’s home club at Seascale on the western coast of Cumbria, where I was to meet John Moore, past captain and trustee of the Club. He was also Teddy Browne’s brother-in-law. John filled in a few more details from memory: a good performance in the 1939 Open Championship, but then a promising golfing career interrupted by service in World War II and never quite resurrected afterwards. He pointed out a hickory-shafted club displayed on the wall as a trophy: ‘That’s Teddy’s putter,’ Then off he disappeared in search of a screwdriver. Loosening the screws securing the plaque to the wall, he brought it down for closer inspection, revealing a rebated cavity in which many years previously, he had left some mementoes: some newspaper cuttings confirming performance of the bespectacled, brilliantined Teddy in various junior tournaments and that international match. And some treasure.

The 1939 Open Championship
First a folded programme from the first day of the 1939 Open Championship at St Andrews, with names of all 130 qualifiers out of the 254 entrants. The young Irish amateur, Jimmy Bruen, with 138, led by four strokes from Lawson Little and Henry Cotton. Dick Burton, who was to go on to win the last pre-war championship, qualified indifferently on 154, just two inside the limit. And sure enough, there was ‘ES Browne, Seascale’, qualified on the limit of 156 and scheduled to go out with Aurelio Castanon of Argentina.

The last of the eight pages refers interestingly to spectator etiquette in the days before chestnut fencing, when control was in the hands of volunteer stewards with flags and ropes. Spectators were banned from the first and eighteenth, and eighth to eleventh holes, but elsewhere, were advised how best to navigate the course.

The 1945 India Amateur Championship
The other document was no less intriguing – another eight-page programme, this time for the 1945 Amateur Championship of India, played over the ‘Old’ course of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club, between the 23rd and 27th of December, including full play on Christmas Day. It included a potted history of the Championship, which was first won over the Dum Dum and Maidan courses of Royal Calcutta, by Jock MacNair, in 1892. The programme gives the record four wins of GD Forrester, all in the 1920s, and regrets that the defending champion from 1938, TE Prosser, is unable to defend his title, having only recently been liberated as a prisoner of war. The list of competitors contains some familiar names, many with military titles: the two brothers, David and Chandos Blair, both entered from Nairn, both Majors and each with an MC; Warrant Officer David Low from Carnoustie; Allan MacBeth from the Royal Gurkha Rifles and Royal Lytham and St Annes, who featured in Liz Pook’s article in September 2010 TTG as the husband of Muriel Dodd; IS Malik, a fine native Indian player who appears in one of Henry Cotton’s books; Captain WD Smith, RA, entered from the Balmore Club; and Captain ES Browne, entered not from Seascale, but Cambridge University. Teddy won his first round match but went out in the second to DHP Henderson of the home club. Winner of the tournament was Dickson Smith, later to become a Scottish Champion and member of the 1959 Walker Cup team. Teddy’s inked note in the programme suggested that Malik was the winner, but in fact he was the runner-up. Malik was beaten final list on two further occasions, before his first win in 1950 and three further triumphs in the late 50s.

This programme was in a more fragile state than the 1939 one, but was rarer and more exotic, containing unusual historical material, including a plan of the 6731-yard, SSS 76 Old Course of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club.

Endnote
Both items were consigned to one of the December specialist auctions, making good prices. Appropriately enough, the Indian Amateur programme was bought for the archives of one of the late Dick Smith’s former clubs.
The Open Golf Championship

PROGRAMME

for

THURSDAY, 6th JULY

The Championship Committee of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club reserves the right to fix another after it.

These Programme is for the benefit of all the members.

ROYAL CALCUTTA GOLF CLUB

THE AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP OF INDIA

1945

(INSTITUTED 1892)

PROGRAMME
Almost exactly a year ago as I was putting pen to
paper for last years epistle the England cricket team
were just starting a series of matches attempting the
impossible task of beating Australia in Australia.
I was the lucky recipient of a ticket for the Boxing Day Test
sitting one row from the Barmy Army watching enthralling
play and learning some new words to old songs. This year I am
about to have my first experience as a Course Marshall, for The
Presidents Cup no less, where the Americans are attempting to
beat the International team over Royal Melbourne's composite
course, where three of the Aussie golfers cut their matchplay
teeth. Today as we walked across the tenth hole (the Eighteenth
on the West course) we narrowly missed being hit by a Bubba
Watson drive which landed in a greenside bunker. The hole is a
435 yard dog leg right. Driving a hole that long? Is golf becoming
an extreme sport?

If you played your golf at the Calbrook course in Brisbane
you might think so, as there are now between six and eight,
ten-foot long bull sharks swimming in the water hazards. They
were carried along as babies by Logan River floodwaters about
ten years ago and stranded in the billabongs that remained after
wards. I'm not sure what they survive on and I don't know that
anyone is keen to try and find out. Of course, you are aware
that Australia is home to nine of the top ten deadliest snakes
in the world. In the 1960s I spent three years working in the
bush north of the 26th parallel and lived in daily fear of treading
on one. Never saw one. I have been a member of a suburban
Melbourne golf course for six years now and have personally
come across three, and not because I can't drive straight! Then
a couple of weeks ago Paula and I journeyed north towards the
River Murray to enjoy three days golf at Numurkah Golf Club
(a prize Paula had won at the Ladies AGM), and there on a
blackboard informing us of local rules was the advice 'Snakes
on the green are movable obstructions'. I don't think so.

British golf fans are no doubt disappointed that the Amateur
Championship has once again been won by a foreigner. Brydon
McPherson a Victorian, known as BMac down here, has fol-
lowed in the footsteps of Australia's most revered amateur golfer
Doug Bachli who won it 57 years ago. By way of tribute The Golf
Society of Australia plays for the Doug Bachli Trophy at the
AGM held at Victoria Golf Club every November. Coming up
slowly on the rails is three year-old Brodie Silver, who has been
'playing' golf since he was one and can now hit his drive about
70 yards. He also has a coach.

Fifty years earlier The Amateur Championship was won for the
first time by a foreigner, in this case Walter Travis in 1904, at
the age of 42. He is probably better-known for using a putter, the
Schenectady, which the R&A banned in 1910, but he was also the
first to win a 'major', the 1902 US Amateur, with the Haskell ball.
Most people think that Travis was an American; well he was a
naturalised American having been born in Maldon, Victoria
about 90 minutes drive north-west of Melbourne. Sadly Walter
Travis is hardly recognised by Australian golfers while the USA
has a well-supported Walter Travis Society; an attempt is being
made to have a golf course constructed in the Maldon area as
recognition of his achievements but progress is slow. Hardly
surprising as Australia's sports Hall of Fame credits Doug Bachli
with being the first Australian to win The Amateur.

Now for an apology. In my first newsletter I wrote about the
longest golf course in the world being opened from Ceduna,
across the Nullabor Plain to Kalgoorlie. Well, it is finally open
for play now, each hole being separated from the next by about
50 miles of road, and round about now a bloke called Andy
Bowen is to play the course; on foot? I wonder if he'll have a
caddy? He plans to walk the equivalent of 33 marathons in
sixteen days and raise $50,000 for various charities. On that
tiring note I will wish any of my readers still awake, a Merry
Christmas, a safe New Year hitting them long and straight, and
I will head for the barbie, several prawns, and a few glasses of
Sav Blanc. Cheers!

The Mad Pom
The Jeff Ellis article In the Interests of Accuracy

I refer to Jeff Ellis’ recent article concerning some points in my book The Oldest Clubs 1650-1850. Of the wealth of research Jeff has provided in this article, many of his conclusions are conjectural as he gives no evidence to back up his hypotheses. However several points he has brought up clearly need some elucidation. Some differences are simply a matter of opinion and readers will have to make their own judgement on the evidence and/or conjectures provided.

The 1682 Clubhead

On this point we will agree to disagree, as I chose to illustrate a clubhead that was, in my opinion, from the era the illustration of the coin suggests. My point was that square toe irons can be dated as far back as the late seventeenth century.

It would certainly appear that the line drawing was an artist’s impression of the clubhead (perhaps from memory) rather than an accurate life drawing. The top and bottom of the square toe are well-rounded, such as in Fig I:78, not to be seen in clubs for another century and the hosel is short and squat, such as in Fig I:71, a form also not to be seen for a century (hosels in the late seventeenth century were six inches long if the Adam Wood irons are of that date). Both these points are not present in the image Jeff chose. However the curvature of the face is indeed like Jeff’s preferred example.

Silver clubs

We will agree to disagree on this point as well. My case is fully set out in the book. In particular note 7 of Chapter XII on Dating, which explains why the decorative art world generally did not copy older styles until the mid-nineteenth century, exemplified by the Victorian vogue for all things Gothic/Medieval. This is common knowledge to furniture and decorative art historians. Why therefore would a silver club be made to an old design? Copying an old design was just not to happen in any of the decorative arts for another century or so, until the Victorian era.

The four peg spoon in Fig W:17 was, among other old clubs, apparently being used by Sir Ralph Anstruther in the 1870s, as it and other clubs are labelled as his, not as ‘presented by’ Sir Ralph. The red keel long spoon Fig R:35 was logically in use with the T. Morris marked woods in the later nineteenth century. Sir David Baird in The Golfers picture of 1848 holds what is almost certainly an eighteenth century square toe iron, so it was still in play perhaps half a century after it may have been made.

Wish and hope do not constitute evidence. I too would like the Adam Wood clubs to be from the seventeenth century. They may one day, using a future scientific test, prove to be of that age. Ian Crowe’s fascinating hypothesis may one day also prove to be well-founded. However, in the absence of any other evidence the almost identical shape of the Adam Wood clubs as compared with the dated silver clubs is there to be seen. There is no evidence that an old club was used as a model for any of the silver clubs.

The R&A documents referring to the subscription to provide the 1754 silver club have no mention of copying an old club. The City of Edinburgh when providing the 1744 silver club logically used a contemporary club as their model, probably by an early Leith maker. Glasgow clearly used a contemporary club as the model for their silver spoon. Why would the R&A have used an old club as a model?
Blackheath clubs and in particular the outsize spoon

Again we will agree to disagree. Being a spoon it is statistically unlikely to be very old if Callender was using it. It could however be as old as perhaps the last quarter of the eighteenth century. This spoon I believe to be the one in the portrait. It has a 41˝ stout shaft, 7/8˝ dia. below the grip (as compared with the usual ¾˝) and 3/8˝ dia. above the scare whipping (1/2˝ usual). Thus is of unique outsie.

I had always been very curious why the head of the spoon in the portrait looked like a stubby bent sausage. Viewed from only one angle, from the back, (obviously one and the same view Abbot had) the spoon head shows this extraordinary sausage shape. I have had this fact confirmed independently by other collectors. Lemuel Abbot was a fine artist as his portrait of Nelson, amongst others, testifies. He simply painted what he saw, albeit he painted the club head from a unique angle of view.

Jeff’s information concerning the collection presented by Tom Dunn may well account for the massive long shafted square toe iron also in the Royal Blackheath collection, so heavy as to be unwieldy by men with an ordinary physique.

Rut irons

Serious and knowledgeable collectors already know and accept the difference between a rut iron, a rut niblick, and a niblick. The fact that these names were not used at the time is irrelevant. That is how we now know them. Jeff no doubt, like most other collectors, uses the term spoon for a lofted wood, when in early times they were known as scrapers. We recognise what a spoon is.

Jeff also uses the American term blond when referring to a pale gold-coloured head. There is no evidence I have encountered of the word blond being used to describe a pale gold-coloured head until recently. However modern American golf collectors presumably know and understand this modern term, even when referring to a fine old club.

McEwan.

Jeff is perfectly correct. To my great disappointment and dismay this duplication was not noticed in any of the proof readings. Of some 650 images, I incorrectly inserted one adjacent image from my file. I should have inserted the image of the spoon Fig Mc: 47. I have mailed an Erratum slip to buyers of the book, informing them of this error.

Jeff states the dating of Figs Mc: 8, 9,10 and 10a is inconsistent due to the hook to the top left of the ‘N’. This actually validates my suggested schedule as all these struck marks – Mc: 8, 9, 10 and 10a upon close examination all bear the same hook to the top left of the ‘N’, but with the reducing hook to the left of the ‘M’ and the reducing serif below the ‘C’ as time passed.

When looking closely at Fig. Mc:3 it can be seen that it has a straight and modest serif to the top left of the N and the M has no hook either but a similar straight serif. It may be that the punch used for the earlier thistle-marked McEwans was different from the later one used for Mc: 8, 9, 10 and 10a.

AD-marked clubs

We will agree to disagree. Jeff after all sold his AD putter in his Sotheby’s auction of September 2007 attributed to Andrew Dickson. Jeff’s exhaustive and welcome researches have confirmed perhaps that more than one A Dickson made clubs in the early/mid-eighteenth century. However he provides no evidence of any eighteenth century Dickson who marked his clubs with an incuse stamp. Wish and conjecture are not evidence. Incuse struck marks did not appear on any wooden artefact – furniture, clock cases, chairs, cricket bats, recreational long bows or even golf clubs until around the 1780s. The reason for the introduction around this date is fully described in the book.

Two of the leading club collectors of the recent quarter century, Bobby Hansen and Peter Crabtree, both of whom still own or have owned several red keel clubs, both agree with my evidence regarding the likely dating of the AD clubs, clearly set out in the book, as being from the later eighteenth/early nineteenth century.

In conclusion, collectors will have to decide which case is the more compelling. I remain confident in the evidence as set out in my book, whilst at the same time accepting Jeff’s conjectures as being interesting, even fascinating, and not wholly implausible.

Bob Gowland

Hickory Handicaps and Clubs

It is with great interest I read in the June 2011 issue of Through The Green, John Roth’s note concerning Hickory Handicaps. Over ten years ago at the start of the Society of Hickory Golfers it became apparent that we would need to come up with a method to handicap those playing in hickory events. As one of my main objectives as President I wanted to help those people that wanted to start a hickory event with the proper rules and guidelines for their tournament. Various multipliers were used and finally I asked John Roth to develop one that was based on scores from the events we could gather good data from. John did a great amount of study and came up with the multiplier of 1.4. The Society of Hickory Golfers used and suggested this to those people holding events. However after further study we found the multiplier was flawed. I then asked Frank Bournphrey to develop the handicap system we now offer to all hickory players on our web site, www.hickorygolfers.com. Since all of our hickory events played here have both Gross and Net prizes it is important that the Net prize be awarded based on a valid hickory handicap. This can only be arrived at by a true handicap system. I am happy to say that we have many people using the handicap system and the events run much smoother with few complaints regarding handicaps. I feel that this is one of the greatest things we accomplished in the years I was President.

The other major project undertaken during the time I
was President was the work done regarding the equipment standard guidelines for play in SoHG approved events. Mike Brown, before passing, worked long thankless hours and put up with many bitter arguments over the equipment rules. I feel that Mike and his committee members did a wonderful job and got it right. The SoHG approves for play classic reproductions made in a fashion that is consistent with period hickory golf. These are made by Tad Moore (www.tommorrisclubs.com), Louisvile Golf (www.louisvillegolf.com), St Andrews Golf (standrewsgolfco.com) and other hickory shafted clubs made that have been submitted and approved by the SoHG Equipment Committee. The SoHG allows retrofitted wood clubs. These are wooden clubs that the heads were made with either a wood shaft or steel shaft in the hickory period. You can have the steel shaft removed and a hickory shaft installed. The SoHG suggests that if people are playing with period or old clubs they properly refit the shafts and make the clubs playable as to try and insure the member does not break a shaft because it is loose or may have a small crack. The Web Site offers vendors that have New grips and shafts. I see a variety of set make ups in events. All reproductions, all old clubs and a mixture. I feel that the Society of Hickory Golfers is promoting the growth here and around the world in a way that will insure the best hickory golf competitions. Many BGCS Members play and have played in SoHG sponsored events and also use the rules and guidelines for their hickory golf events. I support them and want to thank them for their confidence in our efforts.

Tad Moore, Past President SoHG

(BGCS membership will be aware that the our committee has considered at length, the question of permitting reproduction clubs in BGCS hickory events, but decided against the policy. On handicapping, we continue to use hickory handicaps based on scores in conventional club competitions. For those members not using hickory clubs on a regular basis, we have evolved a notional handicap for hickory play based on empirical consideration of historical hickory scores, the latest version of which is detailed in the Society News section of this issue. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this arrangement, in the light of match and competition scores - Ed)

Remoulds
In Luke Harris’ Interesting article he mentions Lothianburn’s arrangement re sending used balls to Dunlop and later to North British to be recovered and repainted. He says that the club history records that the scheme was not a success and died a death. I seem to remember in the post war years ‘remoulds’ being available and, with new balls being scarce, being popular. Presumably old balls were sent to Dunlop or someone else to be ‘remoulded’. Have I dreamt this or can others confirm it?

Anthony Shone

Help Wanted

Sandwell Park
Allan Pope writes from Sandwell Park GC in the Midlands, where a cherished copy of a club handbook has mysteriously disappeared from a memorabilia cabinet. It dates from 1927 and is in good condition with no creases, stains or other signs of ageing. Members who may have been offered a similar copy are asked to contact Allan at allanpope@totalise.co.uk

Auction News

The highlight of the Mullocks sale on the 28th of September was a pair of Doulton Burslem Vases which realised £7500 (est £8000 – 10,000) and went to a private collector in USA. A Partridge watercolour of Royal West Norfolk Golf Club beat estimate at £3800 (£2500 – 3000), while a rare Silver King Man from around 1910 made £3600 (£3000 – 4000). Eight out of nine long-noses sold, the highest price being £800 (£750 – 800) for the McEwan short spoon of £1880. Within patent clubs the Philpot scare head putter of c.1903 realised a spectacular £2000 (£200 – 300), reflecting a general trend that saw demand for good clubs exceeding supply. A signed copy of Hutchinson’s The Book of Golf and Golfers (the new impression of 1900) doubled estimate at £480 (200 – 250) and a 1946 Open Championship Programme sold for £800 (£750 – 1000).

Although the golf section of Bonhams Sale of the 5th of October 2011 was smaller than usual (98 lots), a healthy 80% of them sold with an average lot value of £250. The manuscript eighteenth century poem from Blackheath was the star lot, with a price of £2000 (including commission) compared with the £400-600 estimate. A large premium over estimate was also obtained by the McEwan short spoon of £2000 (£200 – 300). Within named clubs, JB Fulford’s Pambo putter made £1250 (£400-600) while a fine long-nose putter by Tom Dunn made £1000 (£600-800). Two Life Association of Scotland calendars did well, the 1906 depiction of surviving Open Champions at St Andrews making £875 (£400-600) and the 1903 image of Vardon (as appears on the cover of this magazine) at £813 (£400-600). An Automaton caddie stand also made £813 (£400-600). Two Army and Navy gutty balls (Numbers 1 and 2) each made £688 (£400-600).
Queen's Men with a Common Interest in Golf
by
John S Hanna, Brendan G Cashell and John G Neill

The title of this book derives from the constitution of the Queen's University Golfing Society, drawn up 50 years ago by some of the most distinguished academics, medics and lawyers in Ulster. Not content with 50 years of the Society, which mainly catered for University staff and graduates, the authors also give us a history of the QUGC, the undergraduate society, founded much earlier in 1906, which has seen some seriously good golfers from the island of Ireland. Both accounts are preceded by an introductory history of Queen's University itself, which includes the early professorship of 23-year-old Peter Tait, father of Freddie.

Histories of golfing societies and associations are awkward
to bring off satisfactorily because of the difficulty of identifying the themes and linkages that make up a coherent structure. The focus of the society after all is social golf and personal enjoyment, which do not lend themselves to exhaustive analysis. This book pays due note to key moments in the respective sets of minutes and sets the context of early golf history in Ireland. Beyond these, it concentrates very much on the character of individual members and their contribution to the wider world of golf. While as golfers they had greater or lesser success, they all appear to play to scratch in the more important game of personality and fellowship. Later sections in the book cover fellow graduate societies on their fixture list, importantly including the Scots, the Dublinares, and Oxford and Cambridge. A number of names familiar to BGCS members appear. The book is beautifully produced in viii + 291 pages, printed in full colour with many photographs, case bound with an attractively understated dust wrapper. The book is fortunate to have the contribution of John Neill, the founding Treasurer and current Captain, with the co-authorship of BGCS members John Hanna and Brendan Cashell, who must surely have provided many of the illustrations from classic golf history sources that adorn its pages. The volume comes signed by all three authors, and by a recent Honorary Life Member, Graeme McDowell who finished a first year’s course in engineering before being lured to scholarship and golfing glory in the United States. It is available as a limited edition of only 300 copies for £25 plus £5 p&p (more for overseas customers) from John Hanna at Downshire Park, Carnreagh, Hillsborough, Co Down, BT26 6HB, tel 028 9268 9341, email jshana@talktalk.net.

John Pearson

_Golf in West Edinburgh_

by

Maurice McIlwrick

Maurice McIlwrick is an octogenarian whose father was an important Lothians scratch golfer between the wars, and grandfather was a pioneer in the great development of new Edinburgh suburban clubs in the late nineteenth century. He has gathered information on the history of clubs in West Edinburgh area for a number of years, the major sources being published histories and the personal reminiscences of family, friends and acquaintances. 37 clubs are covered, including the familiar Baberton, Barnton, Bruntsfield Links, Mortonhall, Murrayfield and Merchants of Edinburgh. Others are not so familiar, including a number of defunct clubs, and some who have not recorded their centenaries. These include the private club on the Dalmeny estate, home of the Earl of Rosebery.

Some good sources like the early handbooks, do not appear to have been used and I suspect this account misses some of the more obscure of the defunct clubs. The author suggests that the flexibility and economics of the digital print medium may permit later updated editions.

However, it does contain two references to two obscure booklets that would in themselves justify purchase: one written by A Geoghegan and HM Knight for the _Evening Dispatch_ in 1903, which records the foundation of the Braids courses in the late 1880s; and WJ Walker’s _60 years of Golfing Reminiscences_, published in the late 1920s and therefore going back as far as the 1860s, when he claims to remember scarlet coats on Bruntsfield Links and acquiring a feathery ball. Both publications appear in Donovan and Jerris and are transcribed in the text of Mr McIlwrick’s book.

_Golf in West Edinburgh_ is published in A4 format, and consists of around 100 pages, nicely designed by Neil Christie, with an attractive illustrated cover based on a period sketch by VS Addison. Mr McIlwrick has printed 300 copies at his own expense, so his cover price of £7 may be seen as a modest contribution towards his significant costs, and we must forgive his occasional inaccuracy and idiosyncratic editing. Postage is £2 extra (more for overseas). Contact details: M McIlwrick, 21 North Gyle Loan, Edinburgh EH12 8JJ; telephone 0131 339 6838; email mcilwrick@one-name.org

John Pearson

‘Lally’

by

_Lally de Saint Sauveur-Segard_

Few in the golf world are eminent enough to be known simply by their first name, but mention ‘Lally’ in international golf circles and they recount with affection her career and dominance of French and international ladies amateur golf. Daughter of golfer André Vagliano, she first won the French title in 1939 and later famously added the 1950 British Ladies Championship. At that Royal County Down event, her talent and charm on and off the course added many more to her fan club. In a long career, she had many successes in international team events, and won senior events up to 1987. She initiated the Espirito Santo team trophy and later was to be the long-serving ladies president of the World Amateur Golf Council from 1964-1994. Not content with that, she took on the honorary presidency of the European Society of Golf Collectors and Historians and has never missed a meeting, delighting the members with her presence and her quick wit. There is a darker side to her story, since her father, active in the Paris Resistance in WW2, was arrested. Luckily encountering a golfing Gestapo interrogator, he survived.

This is a book for French readers, but Lally has kept wonderful records of her career from the start. This book, beautifully produced, is part-scrapbook and is a delight on the eye even for non-French speakers, and gives a remarkable visual record of women’s amateur golf in the second half of the twentieth century. Because she is so youthful, her year of birth is quite rightly omitted from this autobiography. But we can recall that she famously won the British Girls event at North Berwick in 1937, age 16. The book is available from its Editor, Nathalie Jeanson at aberweb@noos.fr with a quoted price of €25 plus p&p.

David Hamilton