

DG 'Dan' Soutar (1882- 1937): Winner of one Australian Open Championship, an Australian Amateur Championship, four Australian PGA Championships, two New South Wales Amateur Championships and a New South Wales PGA Championship, Dan Soutar was a class act. A burly Scot from Carnoustie, Soutar had an equally large impact on golf in Australia in the first part of the last century.

#### Early days

Daniel Gordon Soutar was born in Carmyllie, Scotland in 1882, and his family moved to Carnoustie when Dan was five, later learning to play golf over the famous links. He was the second eldest in a family of 11 and the difficulties of supporting such a large family meant that Dan left school at age 12 to earn a wage.

New Country, New Club, New Career Dan, still an amateur, joined the Marrickville Golf Club - today's Bonnie Doon Golf Club - that played a course laid out over Gannon's Paddock between the Sydney suburbs of Tempe and Sydenham. Only 3 months after arriving in Australia, Dan entered and won the 1903 Australian Amateur Championship played at the Adelaide



**Soutar's winning putt in the Australian Amateur final of 1903 at the Adelaide Golf Club's course at Glenelg. Note the fencing around the green necessary to keep livestock (and spectators!) off the putting surface**



**Dan Soutar pictured in the frontispiece of his 1906 book "the Australian Golfer"**

He was a regular caddie at Carnoustie, earning nine pence per round and at 14 became an apprentice carpenter. Those he became friends with and played against were Carnegie 'Neg' Clark and James Herd 'Jas' Scott and although both slightly older, Dan more often than not managed to beat them. At the age of 16, Dan beat 'Neg' 2 and 1 in the final of the Dalhousie Cup at Carnoustie.

In 1902 'Neg' Clark, who had turned professional, accepted a three year contract with Holdsworth MacPherson - one of the large stores in Sydney. The position required 'Neg' to promote the game of golf throughout New South Wales, teach and sell golfing products. So well did 'Neg' do out in Australia that he sent a cable to the 20 year old Dan and Jas whilst they were en route to settle in South Africa. The text essentially read "do not stop in Cape Colony proceed on to Port Jackson, employment arranged".

Soutar, who had been trained as a cabinet-maker, was employed by the same firm as Clark, although in a different department. 'Jas' Scott was employed as a golf professional, manager and greenkeeper at the Blue Mountains Golf Club - now known as Leura Golf Club - which was Clark's first course design in Australia in 1902.

Golf Club's links at Glenelg, beating fellow Scot Jim Howden 3 and 1 in the final. Watching Soutar win was Herbert 'Cargie' Rymill, who later credited this experience as igniting his passion for golf, leading to his career as South Australia's finest golf architect (Editor's note - see article on Rymill in GA6 2003). That same year, Soutar won the New South Wales Amateur Championship and repeated the feat the following year. He entered the very first Australian Open Championship in 1904, and finished a creditable third, beating 'Neg' Clark by one stroke.

When Clark's store contract expired in 1905, the Royal Sydney Golf Club offered him a position as professional, at double the salary the then professional, Victor East, was receiving. East moved to the Australian Golf Club and 'Neg' asked Dan to join him as his partner at Royal Sydney. Soutar accepted and thus turned professional - there was no special requirements for golfers to be deemed professional in those early days, however if one derived an income from the game, they were considered as such.

In his first year as professional, Dan won the 1905 Australian Open and the Australian PGA Championship. He won the PGA again in 1906 and 1907, and once more in 1910. He remained with Clark at the Royal Sydney Golf Club until 1907 and during that time, not only wrote Australia's first text book on golf and taught many influential people, but also designed some wonderful layouts.



**Photograph taken after the inaugural meeting in 1911 of the Professional Golfer's Association of Australia. Dan Soutar is second left in the middle row, while his great friend Carnegie Clark is in the middle of the back row. In front is J Victor East, who became a successful professional in the USA, designing clubs for Spalding and Wilson. Soutar was elected national Chairman.**

Mackenzie had sought out Soutar as a result of Dan's 1923 designs of Kingston Heath in Melbourne and Indooroopilly in Brisbane. It is possible that Mackenzie may have wished to use the services of Soutar and Clark in some way given their past experience. Being an affable and sincere Scot, Dan apparently did not take too kindly to the egotistical 'Good Doctor'.

Soutar left Moore Park at the end of 1931 and was employed by the sports store FJ Palmer and Sons until his unexpected and untimely death due to peritonitis in 1937, aged 55. Dan had entered a private hospital in Randwick for appendicitis and tragically contracted an infection from which he never recovered. He was survived by his wife, daughter and two sons. Mrs. DG Soutar was also a golfer, being the founding Captain of the Balgowlah Golf Club when it was formed in August 1925.

**Writings**

In 1906, Dan penned *The Australian Golfer* in which he described the country's best golfers, its courses, his teaching methods and much more. Today, a copy of this book can bring up to \$750. Jack Pollard, writing in his 1990 book *Australian Golf - the Game and the Players*, describes the photographs of Soutar swinging in *The Australian Golfer*:

*"Soutar had a long, sweeping swing, his supple wrists enabling him to take the club a long way back over his left shoulder before he hit the ball freely and gave it a full follow through. There was no jerk or hindrance in his swing and body turn, just a lovely free-flowing movement of the club. He was tall and fit, and usually wore a peaked cap or tam o'shanter."*

Dan also wrote and reported on golf in the 1920's for *The Sun* and *The Sunday Sun* newspapers in Sydney. He was a prolific letter writer to his wife when travelling to play tournaments, and a number of these letters from Dan have been preserved by his daughter. A selection of these were published in the 1991 book *Pro Golf - Out of the Rough*, and provide a fascinating insight into the life of a professional golfer in the early years of the last century.

**Controversy**

Dan won four Australian PGA Championships and although he is credited with only one Australian Open Championship, he actually should have won two more, only to be 'beaten' by some dubious decision making by the officialdom of the day at Royal Melbourne. The records show that Dan was runner-up a total of seven times in this event.

The 1907 Australian Open is credited to the Hon. Michael Scott of Royal Melbourne who played from outside the teeing area at the 12th hole on the second day. His playing partner, Victor East, drew Scott's attention to the error, however, Scott refused to replay the shot and accept a penalty. As a matter of principle, Soutar protested. This protest was dismissed by the host club's committee, which happened to be the club where the Hon. Michael Scott was a member - Royal Melbourne. The case was then referred to the ruling authority, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, who ruled that Scott should have been disqualified and Soutar be awarded the championship. This ruling was disregarded and the championship stayed with Scott.

**Professional career**

Soutar left the Royal Sydney Golf Club and became the professional at the Marrickville Golf Club's new course on the leased property known as 'Bonnie Doon', alongside the Cook's River at Arncliffe, which he had designed. He remained there until 1910 when, due to the lack of members support to purchase the property, he resigned.

Upon contacting his 'old' partner 'Neg' Clark, he was offered the position as manager/professional at the Blue Mountains - Leura Golf Club, where he remained for just one year, as in 1911 he was appointed professional at the Manly Golf Club.

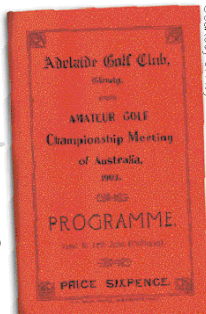
Whilst at Manly, Dan selected Joe Kirkwood from the caddie ranks to be his assistant and also taught Jim Ferrier and Ossie Pickworth, playing a significant role in the formative development of these champions.

Terry Smith, writing in his book *Australian Golf - The First 100 Years*, tells of how Soutar put the following sign up on the door of his professional shop at Manly:

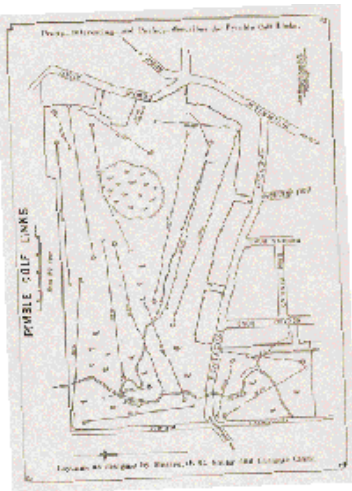
*Learn the Fundamentals of Golf  
SWINGING SWEARING CHEATING  
Practice balls 5/- a bucket  
Some of them round*

Soutar was instrumental in the establishment of the Professional Golfers' Association of Australia in 1911, serving as its National Chairman until 1919 and then from 1928-30.

In 1921, Dan moved to the new 'Neg' Clark designed Moore Park Golf Club, where he remained for ten years. During his tenure there, he was visited by Dr Alister Mackenzie in December 1926. 'The Doctor' was inspecting and reporting on a number of Sydney clubs including Royal Sydney, Manly, Bonnie Doon and New South Wales.



**Program for the 1903 Australian Amateur won by Dan Soutar**



**Soutar and Clark's plan for Pymble Golf Links from the prospectus c.1935-36**

During the 1912 Australian Open, Ivo Whitton obtained a ruling from a committeeman. Again the club concerned was Royal Melbourne where Whitton was a member. The ruling for unplayable lie at the time was that one must drop the ball behind, not to the side as Whitton had been allowed. A rules official lodged a written protest and again Royal Melbourne dismissed the protest. The case was referred to the R&A who found that Whitton had infringed the rules. Again it was the unlucky Soutar who had finished equal second, but the Royal Melbourne decision stood and Soutar was pipped again.

**Designs**

Whilst attached to the Royal Sydney Golf Club, Soutar's first design foray was a nine hole course on the police paddock in Mudgee in 1906 which is no longer in existence. In May that year he reported upon his design for the new Adelaide Golf Club's course at Seaton in South Australia, however, his design did not receive approval from the Committee.

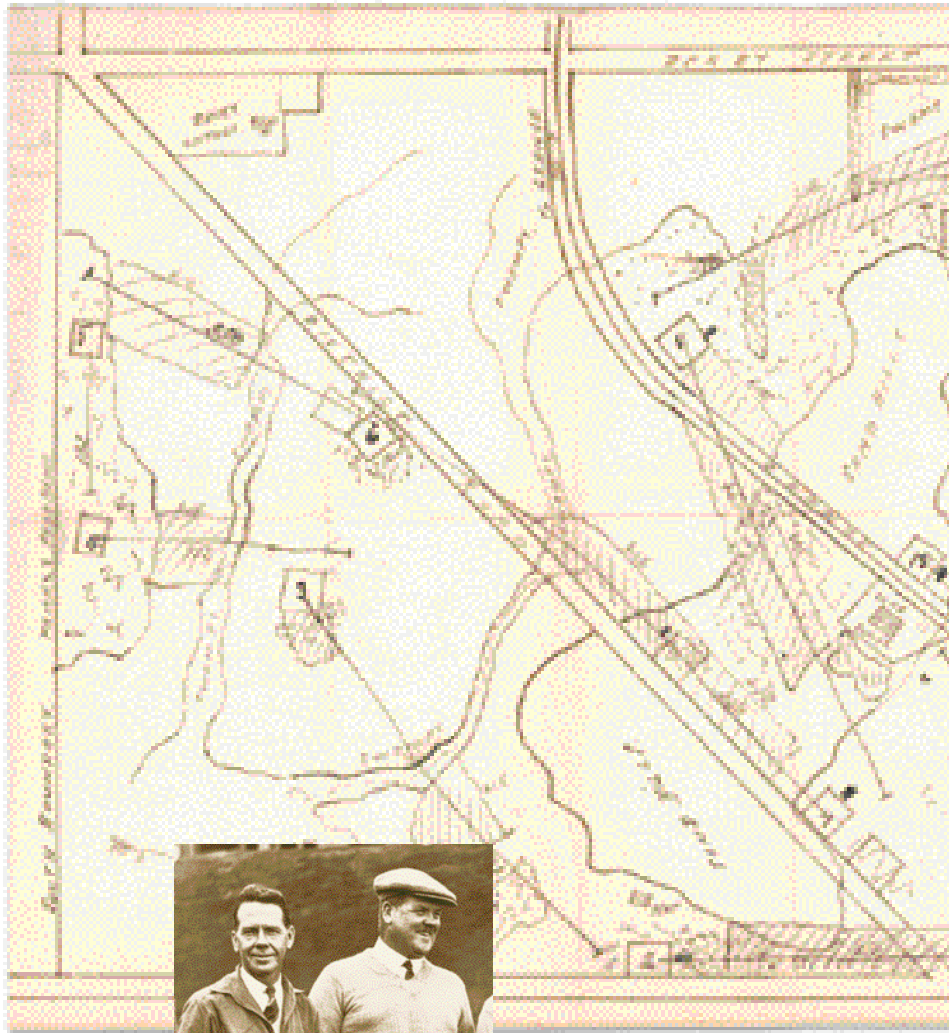
In 1907 he laid out the course for Marrickville Golf Club (from September 1907 the club altered its name to Bonnie Doon GC) and in the same year saw the opening of one of his better known designs, the course for the Concord Golf Club.

Here he had some 136 acres to work with and laid out a 6,100 yard 18 hole course for the members and a ladies nine holer of around 2,000 yards.

After leaving Leura Golf Club late in 1910, Soutar was invited to New Zealand in 1911 and played an exhibition match with FG 'Fred' Hood at the Auckland Golf Clubs new Middlemore course. Dan received the all-up sum of £15 to play the exhibition and advise the Club on bunkering the course. On this same trip he also designed the course for the Christchurch Golf Club (Shirley) with assistance from Kiwi JA Clements. Soutar apparently did not enjoy his time in New Zealand, writing to his wife from Christchurch on the 15th May 1911:

*"In a way I am rather sorry that I came over here as I think they are a rather dry harsh crowd and appear to look down on a professional. Of course, I am writing of the committee, and to give an instance, I went out to the links with the secretary who is not altogether a bad sort and he introduced me to some of his committee and none of them even asked if I would have a cup of tea or even a drink of water or have a look through the clubhouse, but of course that does not trouble me and I will get along alright without that."*

Upon his return to Australia he ventured to Mudgee to design a new nine-holer on Amber's Paddock at South Mudgee.

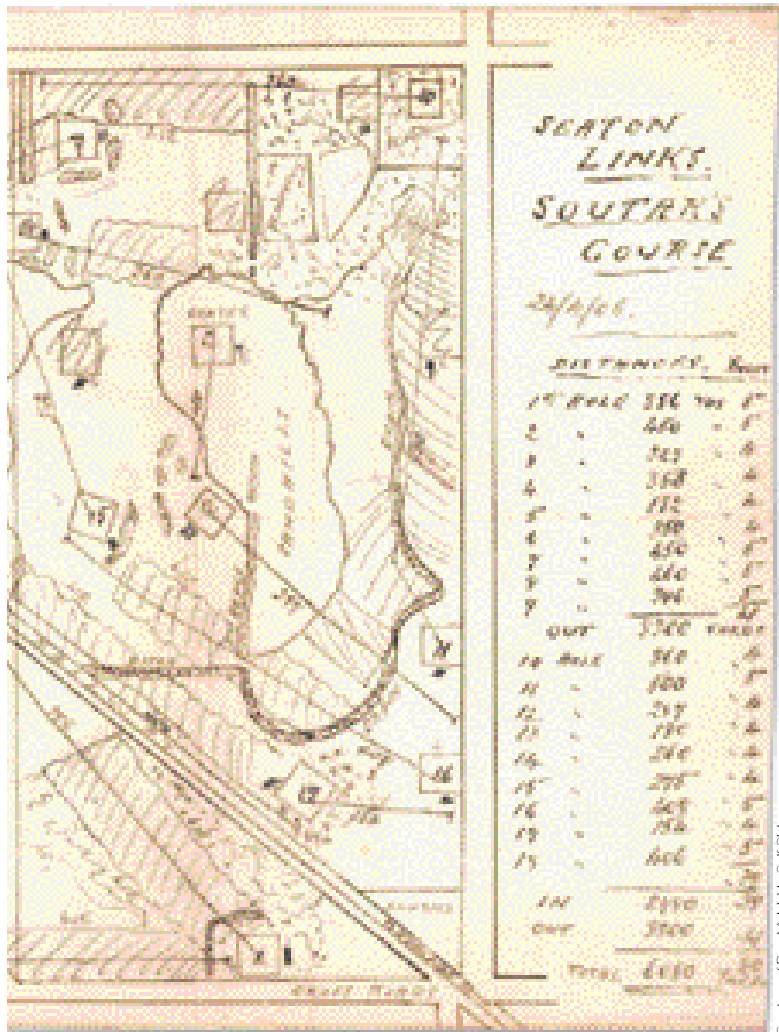


Photograph courtesy of Al Howard

**Tom Howard (left) and Dan Soutar at Royal Sydney for the qualifying for Dunlop Cup of 1931, won by Dan Soutar - ties and plus fours compulsory apparel, two-tone shoes optional**

Whilst attached to the Manly Golf Club, he designed a nine hole course for Wentworth Falls Golf Club in 1913 (the current 2nd to 9th holes remain) and in 1916 totally redesigned the Concord Golf Club's course, due to changes in the land under the Club's control. In 1917, he designed the first nine holes for Bowral Golf Club's fourth course.

After moving to Moore Park Golf Club, Dan designed a nine hole course for Armidale Golf Club in 1922, which is sadly no longer in existence. Al Howard, golf course architect in his own right, is the son of Tommy Howard, one of Dan's closest friends and he relates Soutar's experiences at Armidale:



**Left: plan of Dan Soutar's proposed layout for the Adelaide Golf Club's course at Seaton. The plan was drawn by Club secretary and future golf course architect HL 'Cargie' Rymill**

In 1924 work commenced on clearing the site for the Avalon Golf Course in the Pittwater area of Sydney, to a design by Dan Soutar and the course was open for play in October 1926. The second nine holes for Roseville Golf Club followed in 1925, a further nine holes for Long Reef Golf Club was completed in 1927, and Soutar then laid out a new 18 hole course for Armidale Golf Club. It is interesting to note that when the Club purchased land for its new home in 1927, an associate member, Miss Mary White, paid Dan's fee and expenses.

Soutar also undertook a site report for the New South Wales Golf Club in 1925, examining the land at La Perouse and putting forward a report that was most favourable. Oddly, after this, when the New South Wales Golf Club Company Ltd issued their prospectus in March 1926, it featured a course layout that had been prepared by 'Neg' Clark and 'Jas' Scott. Why Dan's design was ignored by the Company is not known.

In 1928 he designed 18 hole courses for Bankstown Golf Club and Wagga Wagga Country Club, as well as the first nine holes for Elanora Country Club. Soutar's fee for designing and supervising the construction of these nine holes at Elanora was £250, a significant increase over his £25 Kingston Heath fee of some 5 years earlier. The Elanora history records that Soutar 'test-drove' some of his holes before they were built - a member came upon Dan driving balls from on top of a large rock outcrop at the 9th hole, hitting off a mat down into the scrub-filled valley below. Soutar had some local lads attaching red flags to saplings where his balls landed and this rock eventually became the medal tee of today's 9th hole.



**Dan Soutar, aged 51, at an exhibition at Royal Canberra Golf Club in 1933**

Soutar also laid out a unique indoor course at Sydney's State Theatre. It was described in 'Pro Golf - Out of the Rough':

*"An outdoor appearance was given by the State artist, Mr Findlay, who did the wall decorations. It gave the appearance of being out on the golf links with a vista of trees, fairways and greens in undulating country, with here and there a glimpse of the sea from the cliffs. The fairways and greens in the 8000 square feet 'paddock' had a very grassy look, a special type of green felt being used, complete with undulations."*

It is worth discussing two of Dan Soutar's better documented commissions in more detail - one that did not come to fruition and another that did, fortunately for Australian golf.

#### Adelaide Golf Club

When the Adelaide Golf Club outgrew its leased course at Glenelg, it looked for a permanent home, and a group of club officials, led by 'Cargie' Rymill, selected a fine parcel of sand dune country at Seaton, west of Adelaide. By 1905 Rymill and Club Secretary CL Gardiner had laid out a temporary course and in 1906 the Club went in

search of a professional opinion on the layout for the definitive course. They selected newly turned professional Dan Soutar, with Club minutes recording that no member was to give any opinions on the course to Soutar except the Committee:

*"Mr Giles moved that Mr Soutar be asked to come over and decide upon the course using the greens as they are now, and that he also be asked to recommend an alternate course involving other greens if he is of the opinion that a undoubtedly better course could be so provided. And that no member of the Club shall either play with him or accompany him over the course or offer any suggestion calculated to influence his decision, all recommendations and instructions to him being given through the Committee only - carried. Terms to be as mentioned in letters to Mr Gunson, ie £1-1-0 per day while here in addition to fare and board."*

*"In 1922 Dan was planning a nine hole course at Armidale and was informed that the centre of the site was required for aeroplanes and that permission for bunkers could not be granted. Now presenting a dour Scotsman with such a golfing ultimatum was a trifle unwise and maybe, just maybe, Dan bequeathed them a few mounds at Armidale for bumpy landings just as a reminder that a grand old champion had passed that way."*

He travelled to Brisbane to lay out Indooroopilly Golf Club's course in 1923 (now known as St. Lucia Golf Course), and most famously, designed the Kingston Heath Golf Club's course in Melbourne in 1923. A nine hole course for Mosman Golf Club was completed in 1924 (no longer in existence) and Pymble Golf Club's course in 1925.

At Pymble, Dan wrote a report in December 1924 that was later reproduced in the Club's prospectus. He commented that the "course is now laid out and work can be commenced straight away, and went on to say that your detailed plan is in the hands of the surveyor, and will be furnished you when complete". The reference to 'our plan' relates to the involvement of Dan's friend Carnegie Clark, who provided a supporting report to the Club and suggested some alterations to Dan's layout. The prospectus contains a plan of the course drawn by surveyors, presumably the ones referred to in Soutar's report. The layout of the first course, as reconstructed by Club historian Bob Ross in 2001, varied in many respects from the course depicted in the prospectus. The first nine holes were opened in February 1926 and the full 18 in March 1928.

Soutar himself wrote later that year in his book *The Australian Golfer*:

*"Early in 1906 I was asked by the Club to go over and suggest any necessary alterations or improvements to the new course. I formed a most favourable opinion of it and when the alterations are made in accordance with my suggestions, the Club will have an excellent championship course, equal to any in Australia."*

Royal Adelaide Golf Club still has Soutaris original report to the Club in one of its minute books, along with a plan of his suggested layout. It also has the subsequent plan put forward by Rymill, Club captain Dr Swift and Mr WJ Gunson. An examination of both these plans reveals a high degree of similarity in styles and lettering, and comparison with plans known to be have been drawn by 'Cargie' Rymill later in his career indicate that Rymill was undoubtedly the author of both plans. Further, the plan denoting Dan Soutaris proposal is labelled 'Soutar's Course', a title that would be most unlikely to have been put on it by Soutar himself. Perhaps the most likely explanation is that Rymill made a copy of Soutar's plan (the minutes indicate that Soutar did prepare one) and the original has since been lost. It is likely that Rymill accompanied Soutar during his inspections and possibly Rymill noted Danis suggested holes and drew these up for him.

It seems Soutar spent a number of days in Adelaide examining the Seaton course, as minutes of the 23rd April 1906 indicate that Rymill had met Dan on his arrival and had given him the Committee's instructions in writing but had yet to receive a report from him. The minutes of 26th April record that Soutar was still in Adelaide and had met with the Committee:

*"Mr Soutar was present and made a verbal report on the present course, condemning the same. He also produced a plan of his alternate course, and after explanation, the Committee adjourned to view the same."*

After Soutar had left Adelaide, the Club wrote and asked him for a written report. Rymill reported that he had paid Soutar's account, which was for the sum of £14-8-3.

Dan's report to the Club is instructive of the mindset of Club committees at the turn of the last century and gives an insight into Soutar's approach, especially considering that this was possibly only his second golf course project:

*"Rose Bay, 12th May 1906  
To the Committee of the  
Adelaide Golf Club,  
Adelaide, SA*

*Gentlemen,*

*In submitting my report on my recent visit to your links at Seaton, I take it for granted that you are desirous of having links equal to the best in Australia, from a Championship point of view and also with the object of improving the standard of play in South Australia.*

*In the first place I may state that I examined the ground thoroughly, both the ground you are at present playing on and the ground at your disposal, and I unhesitatingly say that as your links are at present laid out they are absolutely unfair to the good or scratch player and don't supply a proper test of Golf because, they are badly laid out as regards distance and there is not enough variety in the lengths of the different holes.*

*The greens are not properly guarded, and a bad approach will have as much chance of getting close to the hole as a well-played shot.*

*The holes are not long enough.*

*In regard to all the objections the remedy is simple, viz. Extend your course and take advantage of the splendid golfing country at your disposal - in my opinion the finest in Australia.*

*The ground at the far end of your property, where I purposed (sic) laying out the 4th, 5th and 6th holes of the course that I took some of your members over, is natural golfing country and with a little expense in regard to cutting a channel and banking up a little to keep back the floodwaters, it could be made first class in a very short time, and the 4th and 5th holes would be very sporting, as they are well guarded by natural sand bunkers and the natural ground where the greens would be is nice and undulating and fairly well grassed. I cannot advise you too strongly to take advantage of the new ground and make a really first class course, as the natural features are there and only want taking advantage of to make the course first class.*

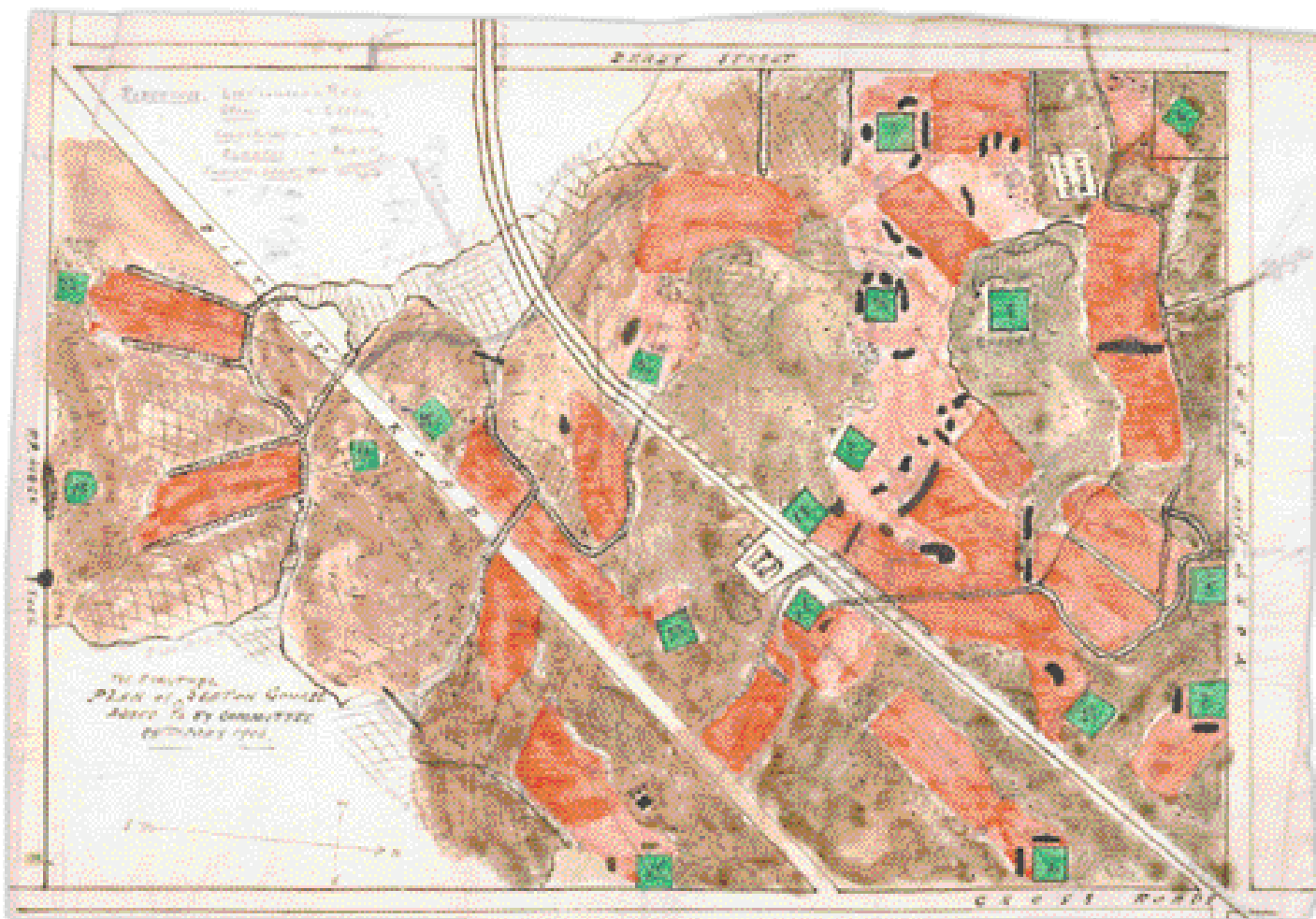
*I understand from what I was told, when I was in Adelaide, that the great majority of your members thought that the new course would be too long, and too severe for the average player down there. This, in my opinion, is a great mistake and if you are desirous of a championship course it should not be given much attention, as it has been proved over and over again that when a course is a good length (and I consider 6000 yards is a good length) and properly bunkered it raises the standard of play immensely. Of course if you are to study the average player in your Club the present course will naturally find more favor than the proposed new one, because it is easier and more to their liking. In my opinion you will make a great mistake if you do that, as your club is the leading Club in South Australia, and ought to study the other side of the question - namely the players from the other states. They will not undertake the trip to Adelaide to play in a championship of there is not a course which provides a proper test of Golf and your present course does not do that, whereas the proposed new course would be a very good test as there are a number of very good length holes from 350 to 400 yards and also a very good short holes, viz, the 5th and 13th.*

*I must again strongly advise you to improve your course by taking up the new ground at your disposal as the only way you can alter your present course without taking in new ground is by shifting back the tees and that would not make much difference, certainly not enough to make it a championship course. If you cannot see your way at present to adopt the course I laid out I would certainly recommend you to keep it in view and work up to it as circumstances will permit.*

*Yours faithfully  
DG Soutar"*

Soutar produced a plan for the new course of bogey 80 and a length of 6080 yards. Two of Soutar's planned holes played across district roads which had not yet been purchased by the club and closed, while one played across the famous railway line. The course ran in a generally clockwise direction, with his suggested holes 2 to 7 being located on land where the current 14th to 18th holes are situated.

Apparently Rymill and Swift were not convinced that Soutar's plan made the best use of the golfing ground and developed their own plan, which was produced and discussed at the meeting on 1st May 1906. The Committee decided to play over the proposed course and report at the next meeting, following which they decided to post both the plans of Soutar's new course and the Committee's alternate course in the Clubhouse. After receiving Soutar's report, the Committee *"decided not to adopt Soutar's new course at present"* and work started almost immediately on making bunkers on the Rymill and Swift layout. Interestingly, the new course made use of 14 of the greensites that were planned by Soutar, including the famous 'Crater Hole' green of the current 11th, but with the layout routed in a generally anticlockwise direction, as is currently the case. It was some 225 yards longer and not only crossed the district roads three times, it had three holes that played across the railway!



Courtesy of Royal Adelaide Golf Club

### Kingston Heath Golf Club

The Elsterwick Golf Club in Melbourne was forced to move and look for fresh fields as its municipal owned course was threatened with extinction. The club found new sandy land further south near Cheltenham and set about to select the right person to design their course. Stanley Dutton Green, a Melbourne solicitor, headed up the search and corresponded with both JH Taylor and Harry Vardon who advised that with the advent of the rubber cored ball, any new course should be made as long as possible. The club appointed Dan Soutar in 1923 as their architect, with a simple brief to "design a course to championship standards which would stand the test of time".

As can be seen from Dan's report to the Adelaide Golf Club, this brief meshed perfectly with his own philosophy and he delivered them a brute of a course for the day, the longest layout in the country at that time. It stretched some 6,812 yards, with a bogey of 82 and only two short holes. Soutar's design fee was the princely sum of 25 guineas plus travelling expenses.

The club history of Kingston Heath records how Soutar went about laying out the course:

*"Carrying the surveyor's plan he walked over the area several times without comment, each time returning to a picturesque avenue of gum trees which stood out among the dense tree scrub near the centre of the property.*

*At last he stopped at that avenue of trees and said, "Here is where we start, an ideal ready-made short hole for the 10th", and around that feature he planned the course. Soutar's first plan showed the 10th hole running from east to west; he reversed this later to avoid playing into the afternoon sun. His final plan with minor modifications was accepted at a committee meeting held on 15 May 1923."*

Royal Melbourne kindly lent their renowned curator Mick Morcom to oversee construction of the course, and work commenced in June 1923. The new layout opened in 1925, albeit unbunkered. Many courses in those days were built sans bunkering, with the view that the bunkers would be added later when it could be seen how each hole was being played, and it appears that Elsterwick's new course,

**Plan of the seaton course proposed by Rymill, Swift and gunson, and drawn by 'Cargie' Rymill. This was the layout adopted by the club in may 1906.**

by now renamed Kingston Heath, was in that category. Soutar had also designed an interesting shared green for the 8th and 16th holes, as at the Old Course.

When the Club learned in 1926 of the impending visit of Dr Mackenzie, they signed up to have the Doctor implement a scheme of bunkering during his stay. What Soutar thought of this is not known, but he would most likely have been none too thrilled, as he would have no doubt anticipated undertaking the bunkering himself.



Photograph courtesy of Royal Melbourne Golf Club

**RMGC lent their esteemed curator Mick Morcom to build Dan Soutar's design at Kingston Heath in 1923**

Mackenzie was most impressed by what he saw of Soutar's routing and general design, and especially Morcom's outstanding construction work. In his report on Kingston Heath, Mackenzie advised the Club that:

*"The design of the course is excellent and it would be difficult to improve upon the position chosen for the greens.*

*The construction work also which has been carried out by Morcom is in many respects better than I have seen on any other golf course in Britain or Australia. This is particularly the case as far as the undulations of the fairways are concerned.*

*The course has been so well designed and constructed that there is little for me to suggest with the exception of a bunkering scheme. I would suggest that the course be slightly shortened as it is somewhat too long even for a Championship links."*

This must go down as perhaps the only time a golf course architect suggested that an entire course be shortened! The committee resisted shortening Soutar's layout, with Dutton Green saying that, *"If we are proved wrong it will be easier to shorten than lengthen the course"*. Time proved them, and old Dan, to be correct.

Mackenzie recommended the shortening of the fifteenth hole from a

length of 222 yards with a blind green beyond the present one, into an exquisite par 3 that is the most recognised hole on the course, and arguably Australia's second best par 3 after Royal Melbourne's 5th West. Save this, Kingston Heath's routing today remains true to Dan Soutar's design, and it is clear that he had great skill in selecting interesting green locations, as evinced by his recommendations at Royal Adelaide that were subsequently taken up and Mackenzie's recognition of this aspect of his work at Kingston Heath.

#### **Soutar's legacy**

Soutar, along with his fellow Carnoustie immigrants in Carnegie Clark and 'Jas' Scott, pioneered professional golf in this country, bringing their Scottish

work ethic and all-round skills to bear on the game as a whole, from teaching, to playing, to clubmaking and to course design. It is in the latter category that we are most thankful for the appearance of Soutar and his colleagues on the Australian golf scene, as they utilised their knowledge of the natural links of their home country and applied them wisely here.

Dan Soutar was a giant of a man in many ways. Humble, yet proud, this talented golfer and designer has earned his place in the pantheon of early Australian golf course architects, if only for his work at Kingston Heath, let alone his many other fine contributions to the game.

*by John Scarth and Neil Crafter*



**Top: Mackenzie's only change to Soutar's routing at Kingston Heath was to shorten the long par 3 15th and bring the green up to the ridge-top. This 1937 photograph shows the result.**

**Bottom: Also from 1937, Kingston Heath's short 10th hole. The avenue of established gum trees that Soutar selected to route this hole through can be clearly seen.**



Courtesy of Graham Grant and Kingston Heath Golf Club

References and sources: *The Australian Golfer* by DG Soutar, Angus and Robertson, 1906 / *The Story of Golf in New South Wales* by David J Innes, New South Wales Golf Association, 1988 / *Pro Golf - Out of the Rough - Illustrated History of Professional Golf in Australia* by Colin de Groot and Jim Webster, 1991 / *Golf in New Zealand* by GM Kelly, The New Zealand Golf Association, 1971 / *Far and Sure - The Auckland Golf Club, 1894-1994* by Derek Dow, 1994 / *Elanora - A History of Elanora Country Club* by H Barry, Elanora Country Club / *The Royal Adelaide Golf Club, 1892-1992*, by Michael Cudmore, The Royal Adelaide Golf Club, 1992 Royal Adelaide Golf Club Ken Soutar (Dan's grand nephew) Concord Golf Club / *The Test Of Time* by Stewart H Williams, Kingston Heath Golf Club, 1981 Kingston Heath Golf Club / *Australian Golf - the Game and the Players* by Jack Pollard, 1990 Al Howard (son of Tom Howard - friend of Dan Soutar) Ian Arnold - Historian, Indooroopilly Golf Club Bob Ross ' Archivist/Historian, Pymble Golf Club / *25 Great Australian Courses* by Tom Ramsey, 1981 / *Australia's Finest Golf Courses* by Darius Oliver, 2003, The Professional Golfers Association of Australia for the use of photographs.