

The Long Game

The Official Newsletter of the Golf Society of Australia

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Feature article:

The feature article this issue is a comprehensive research paper on **Peter Corsar Anderson** by Barry Leithhead. The impetus for Barry's research arose out of an enquiry from a member of the British Golf Collector's Society, who bemoaned the fact that so little was known of P C Anderson other than that he went to Australia!!

Besides the photograph below, items relating to Peter Anderson held in the Museum include:

- ◆ Mid iron he used winning 1893 British Amateur Championship at St Andrews
- ◆ Curriculum Vitae — researched and prepared by Peter Andrew
- ◆ Red leather medal case lined in velvet and satin, with cardboard replica of 1893 British Amateur championship medal

Below: Peter Anderson with his dog 'Sprig' at Geelong Golf Club circa 1900.

Photograph: Golf Australia Museum



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For the diary:

Final event for the year:

Monday November 13 at Victoria Golf Club

Doug Bachli Trophy (pm hit-off) followed by
Annual General Meeting and Cocktail Party

From the President:

As the golfing year draws to a close we look forward to our AGM, the Doug Bachli Trophy and the Australian Open.

The Doug Bachli Trophy, 18 hole Stableford event for Men and Women will be followed by the Annual General Meeting at Victoria Golf Club.

The Australian Open at Royal Sydney will feature our **History of Golf and The Open** display. Ross Baker has again agreed to demonstrate the making of a 'Hickory Club' during the course of the event. The first Australian Open Cup, won by the Hon Michael Scott in 1904, will be on display.

(cont p3)

**President's Trophy:
Royal Melbourne GC — 21 August 2006**



A warm but windy day greeted the field for the President's Trophy, played on 21 August 2006 on the Royal Melbourne Golf Club West Course.

The gusty northerly did nothing for some – especially when confronted with some tricky forward pins, several putts seen gliding off the front of the green.

Cliff George played to his handicap to qualify first with nett 36, followed by new member Paula Gompertz, Peter Gompertz and Jean Gilbert (40) on a count-back from Ian Rennick.

An extremely surprised Mark Wade was initially announced as taking up the 4th position until he protested! It soon became clear that his marker had deducted his whole handicap instead of just half for the 9 holes!!!

In the semi finals, Cliff took 2 holes to defeat Jean, while Paula defeated husband Peter on the 1st. On the first hole in the final Paula played a lovely links-style chip & run through the valley in front of the green while Cliff found the very deep rough. He conceded - in very good humour.



Results:

9 hole stroke event, 4 to qualify for match play finals — 7 clubs, stymie rules apply in match play, small ball allowed (did anyone use one?).

Semi Finals:

Cliff George d Jean Gilbert (2nd hole)

Paula Gompertz d Peter Gompertz (1st hole)

Final:

Paula Gompertz d Cliff George (1st hole)

Top left:

The finalists — Cliff George and Paula Gompertz

Below:

Runner-up, Cliff George, under pressure in the final.

To the Editor:

My copy of **The Long Game** [No 23 August 2006] arrived this morning - exactly 100 years to the day of John Betjeman's birthday in 1906!

Paula and I have played, St EneDOC, the course that is the setting of 'Seaside Golf'. That 'quite unprecedented three' is rumoured to have been scored on the 13th, which is one of the four very nondescript holes on the back nine - but the views are to die for.

Peter Gompertz

From the President – from p1

Golf Australia is providing the marquee, in which the Society will be joined by the Golf Collectors' Society.

This issue of **The Long Game** is the third by our new Editor, Moira Drew, who is to be congratulated on the quality of the magazine, which provides a valuable means of keeping members informed of the Society's activities.

The web-page is being re-developed –

www.golfsocietyaust.com - and will be linked to the new Golf Australia web site.

Please note the date of the AGM and Cocktail Party.

K H Wood AM, President

Recent New Members

Welcome to new members:

Nova Bell

John Price

Leon Rowbell

Dinner: Commonwealth GC, 3 September 2006— Speaker Tony Hallam

Tony Hallam, CEO of Golf Australia, began his presentation to the 70 members and guests by introducing two members of the recently-announced Australian team to play in the World Amateur Teams Championships (WATC) in South Africa during October, 2006, Emma Bennett (Kingston Heath GC) and Andrew Tampion (Kingswood GC).

After a short interview with each player about representing Australia and their personal aspirations, Tony explained how the 'amalgamated' men's and women's teams are co-operating and will support each other during the event. (The WATC is held biennially, comprising the Eisenhower Trophy for men and the Espirito Santo Trophy for women - staged during two consecutive weeks at the same venue. In 2008 the event will be held in Adelaide. Australia last hosted the event in 1968).

Tony then outlined the aims of Golf Australia, the major goal of the new organisation being increasing participation in all areas – play, volunteering, and watching.

While emphasising that the six months since his appointment has had three priorities:

- Preparing a strategic plan
- Getting the amalgamated organisation working
- Rebuilding the Australian Open and Women's Australian Open

Outcomes so far include:

- Securing the future of the Women's Australian Open for the next four years, under the renegotiated MFS sponsorship
- Securing the early support of leading Australian players Greg Norman, Geoff Ogilvy, Adam Scott and Aaron Baddeley
- Scheduling the Australian Open in a week that will maximise promotion of the game and enable an Australian winner of a major championship to participate
- Investment of significant funding in promotion of both events.
- Rebuilding the relationship with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), resulting in the return of funding for Golf Australia and the proposed AIS program in 2007
- Delivery of the ASC Elite Pathways Review, the first review to be jointly supported by the four peak bodies in Australian golf – Golf Australia, the PGA of Australia, the Australian Ladies Professional Golfers and the PGA Tour of Australasia– and with input from all stakeholders, including State Associations

Tony then spoke briefly about the relationship between memories and sport – tracing some early memories and noting how, over time, we begin to appreciate their significance.

Continued p8

Peter Corsar Anderson—a developer of Golf in Australia

By Barry Leithhead

Golf in Australia was founded by people from 'the old country' who brought it here, with ancient implements and the desire to find suitable ground on which to play. That foundation was developed by others who followed the founders, men like Peter Corsar Anderson.

Peter Anderson had two passions in his long life – education and golf. Anderson was already an accomplished Scot when at age 25 he arrived in Australia in 1896, having graduated from the old St Andrews University with MA and post graduate studies in Divinity. Anderson had also graduated from the Old Course at St Andrews, where he played often and well, holding for half a season the course record of 80, which was 4 under bogie. His golf was so good that in 1893 when only 22, he won the British Amateur Championship at Prestwick, beating J E Laidlay. However, he was in poor health with pleurisy and hoped for a better climate in Australia.

Arriving in Albany, then the major port in Western Australia, he met his elder brother Mark who was a shipping agent there and also a fine golfer. Albany is some 360kms south from Perth, where the Antarctic wind first assaults the golf course. Mark suggested Peter settle in Melbourne, where he had been Champion of Royal Melbourne Golf Club in 1893. Peter did not delay and within a short time had taken up a tutoring position with a well-to-do farming family at Mansfield, 90kms north east of Melbourne. Six months later he was appointed a master at Geelong Grammar School (GGS) and became a member of Geelong Golf Club (GGC).

If his golfing results are an indicator, Peter regained his health quickly. Within a year he had set the course record of 79 for GGC and he reduced it to 76 in 1898 and 75 in 1899, a record that stood until 1904 when his brother Mark reduced it by a single stroke. Peter won the first Championship held at GGC in 1898 and was Champion for six successive years until 1903¹.

Not surprisingly, Geelong won the Victorian State Pennants Championship from 1899-1901 and tied with Royal Melbourne GC in 1902. It is reported that in 1904 Peter Anderson won a pennant match 16 up! The Riversdale Cup was an important event and he won that in 1898-9 and 1902. Mark had won that Cup in 1896, its first year.

Consider the clubs Peter played with, bought from Tom Morris, paying 2/- for a head and 1/6 for a hickory shaft from America. His most expensive club was a brassie which cost 5/6. He won the Amateur Championship of 1893 at Prestwick with six clubs; a brassie, a mid-iron, a cleek (for long approaches), a mashie, a niblick, and a wooden putter he also used for the short game. As a reserve, he had a driver, which he did not use. At Geelong GC it is said he used only four clubs; driver, cleek, mashie and putter and rarely carried a bag for his clubs.

P C Anderson was reported to be one of those who selected the new site for the Royal Melbourne Course when that Club's old links were becoming hemmed in by building projects². He is also credited with laying out the Barwon Heads course at Geelong although the course did not open until 1907, well after he had gone to Perth³.

A Geelong Grammar student recalls: "P C Anderson ('Andie') joined the school direct from a world golf championship at St Andrews⁴ and was naturally an idol in the eyes of the sports loving community. His very broad northern accent captivated us and he joined the boys (chiefly juniors) on their excursions into the bush then surrounding parts of Geelong. Knowing nothing whatever of Australia and its bush life, he welcomed these days and in them learned something of the conditions of his adopted country"⁵.

The GGS Quarterly reports: "Mr Anderson has taken his golf clubs down to the river on several occasions, and has kindly given some of the fellows some hints on how to use them, in the race-course paddock. One of the fellows did not seem to be very enamoured of the game, describing it as 'the most dangerous thing since Waterloo.' He, of course, spoke from sad experience"⁶.

P C Anderson developed substantially as an educator in Geelong. He was a Master at the GGS senior school from 1896-99 and in Charge of the Preparatory School from 1899-1900. In 1899 Peter Anderson married Agnes Henrietta Macartney, the sister of the student he tutored at Mansfield and granddaughter of the Anglican Dean of Melbourne who in 1855 was one of the founders of Geelong Grammar School. Peter and Agnes became parents to six sons and seven daughters. He left GGS in 1900 to set up his own school, St Salvator's, also in Geelong⁷.

Peter might not have contested the 1904 Geelong GC championship, having moved to Perth, and it was won by Mark Anderson, the first of his three championships at Geelong (also 1907 and 1912). He was made a life member of GGC in 1917. Mark also won the Royal Melbourne Championship five times, the first time in 1893⁸. There's a nice quote in the RMGC history from Mr Balfour-Melville, who won an Australian Amateur title but could never beat him in a club event - M L Anderson always seemed to sink a long putt on the 18th!! Mark was runner-up in the 1905 Australian Amateur Championship at Royal Melbourne. It is interesting to note that from 1903, Royal Melbourne won the State Pennant Championship nine times in 12 years.

In 1904, P C Anderson became Headmaster at Scotch College Perth, WA, where the first four years must have been an all-absorbing challenge for Anderson, the educator. He was intent on

developing the learning of students despite the school's being in such a bad state on his arrival that the governors were thinking of closing it down⁹. The school was sited in grossly inadequate temporary premises and was moved to a new site at Swanbourne, seven miles (10 km) west of Perth, where a benefactor offered land. Anderson at once insisted that, unlike his predecessor, he should participate in council meetings, and soon proved himself a vigorous organizer capable of ensuring the success of the move¹⁰.

Anderson brought to Scotch College a model of 'godliness and manliness', for he was a 'typical product of a Scottish Presbyterian background', tall at 6'4", a strong disciplinarian whose main interest was in sport, and, although not an educational innovator, he was a 'reliable' leader. The notion of 'godliness and manliness' is at the heart of late nineteenth-century 'muscular Christianity', a term coined in response to the work of Charles Kingsley, associated with magazines like the *Boys' Own Paper* and a host of popular books like *Tom Brown's Schooldays* and *Coral Island*, and in recent years portrayed in films like *Chariots of Fire*¹¹.

In 1908 we hear a mention of Anderson in relation to golf and then it is where no course or club exists. Scotch College is within sound of the ocean and Anderson and others thought vacant land on the water's edge might be the making of a golf course.

This was the origin of the Cottesloe Golf Club in 1908 and Anderson, along with N C Fowlie designed the course aptly named and still known as 'Sea View'. The opening of the 9-hole course by the State Governor on 11th September 1909 was only 15 months after the initial committee meeting. A year or so before, Anderson laid out the first nine holes of the Royal Fremantle course, a few miles south from Perth.

In the first two years Anderson won major events at the Sea View course, was appointed Captain in 1912 and one of the Club's delegates to the Western Australian Golf Association in 1913. Fowlie set the initial course record, bettered by Anderson in 1913 (77) and again in 1914 (75). Fowlie was State Amateur Champion

Footnotes:

1. *The History of the Geelong Golf Club* by Gordon Long BA, Dip Ed (Hawthorn Press 1967)
 2. In *The History of the Geelong Golf Club*, quoting *Golf World* 1957 taken from the *St Andrews Citizen*
 3. *Geelong Grammarians 1855-1913* by Justin J Corfield and Michael Collins Persse (1996) page 711 and ..
 4. Anderson was from St Andrews but he won the British (not world) championship at Prestwick.
 5. From a '60 Years on' memoir in 1955 by Noel Learmonth (1880-1970; GGS: 1895-98)
 6. The Geelong Grammar School Quarterly July 1897
 7. *Geelong Grammarians 1855-1913* by Justin J Corfield and Michael Collins Persse (1996) page 711
 8. Information accompanying AGU Museum item
 9. *Building a Tradition – A History of Scotch College Perth 1897-1996* by Jenny Gregory (UWA Press 1996)
 10. Obituary by Professor Geoffrey C Bolton quoting 'Three Schoolmasters' *Melbourne Studies in Education* 1976, S Murray-Smith Ed.
 11. *Building a Tradition – A History of Scotch College Perth 1897-1996* by Jenny Gregory (UWA 1996)
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Peter Corsar Anderson— from p5

in 1914. Anderson won the Club Championship twice (1917, 1919) when his handicap was +4 and his age almost 50.

It is recounted that two Scotch College students, R D Forbes and K A Barker were invited by their illustrious headmaster to play a round of golf with him. Feeling very pleased with themselves after the completion of their game, one of the students on returning to the Clubhouse said 'Sir, would you care for a drink?' Anderson said, 'Yes young man, I should like a sherry thank you', whereupon the student dug deep into his pocket and produced a ten-shilling note which he laid on the counter. The change however, was picked up and pocketed by Anderson, a costly but subtle reprimand for the young players. Forbes would later win the Club Championship ten times between 1921 and 1938¹².

Another story told of P C Anderson arose from the activities of a few boys from Scotch who developed a practice of trespassing on the course on Saturday mornings. When the chairman of Greens Committee asked 'the Boss' to exercise more control over his pupils, he received the reply: 'I look after the little beggars five days a week – someone else can worry about them in the weekend'.

P C Anderson won the last of his four Club trophy events in 1928 at the age of 57. He was a Committee member from the club's founding in 1908 until 1918 – in 1915 he was appointed Vice President, a position he held for 40 years until his death in 1955. He was appointed the club's first life member in 1936¹³. Cottesloe GC opened a new course at Swanbourne in 1931, near Scotch College, on seaside dunes/links land with few trees, 5 kms from Sea View. Anderson appears to have played no official part in the move. Although the CGC History records that he 'continued to make a valuable contribution to the establishment of the present course', P C Anderson's name does not appear in any of the records of the committee who created that course. Perhaps the designers Rees and Stevenson consulted him informally, perhaps even regularly. Given their inexperience in golf

course design, it would seem feasible for them to consult the club's "grand old man" who had designed a number of well known courses. However, the original CGC Swanbourne course would appear to have been largely or even solely the creation of W A Rees and T D Stevenson¹⁴.

There was evident dissatisfaction with this original design because the club engaged Alex Russell only a few years later (1934), to redesign the course completely. Russell's routing, totally different from the original, embodied the then traditional single loop of 18 holes – nine holes out and nine holes back, like so many famous courses, such as St Andrews. This Russell routing has largely survived today and surely it would have been more to Anderson's liking. The Sea View course is still in play, bare of trees, on ground that slopes down to the sea.

P C Anderson's brother, Mark returned to Albany WA around 1913. He stayed there, apparently, for the remainder of his life, was Albany Golf Club president in 1922-23 and father of Bill and Jean who were dominant Albany golfers and golf club administrators of the next generation. It is not known from club records whether Mark won any Albany Club Championships (which would seem likely) but he quite obviously became the "grand old man" of the Albany GC. Presumably the Anderson brotherhood started the long close relationship between the Albany and Cottesloe golf clubs which, if not as strong today as once it was, still involves annual club visits.

The extension of Albany GC from nine to eighteen holes (planned in the '30's but executed in the '50's), was apparently designed by another Cottesloe Anderson – David, CGC's professional in the 1920's.

The Albany GC history records that Mark was an eccentric soul who preferred to putt with a 5 iron. It also lists the following story about him. "Tom Catling told me of being a caddy for old Mr Anderson who, like Tom's father, was a dour Scot given to playing his golf in silence. One day after almost 18 holes in silence, Tom remarked 'That was a good shot, sir.' The old man grunted and played on. At the end of the round he handed a sixpenny coin to Tom, saying he was nice lad but he talked too much."¹⁵

After WWI, P C Anderson seems to have been largely absent from the formal CGC administration. However, he continued to play regularly and was a delegate to the WAGA. It is likely that his perpetual vice-presidency was a largely ceremonial father-figure role, a continuation of the "grand old man", the legendary British Amateur Champion of long ago. As such, he gave the CGC a much increased status and aura of credibility. Club members really looked up to him with awe and respect as a figure of considerable stature. Of course, this was assisted by so many of his Scotch College pupils and masters becoming members of the club. There is a huge Scotch old boy contribution to the club to this day. *CGC's History 1893-1983* was compiled by Geoff Newman, a Scotch pupil who later taught under PC Anderson and eventually became the school's Deputy Headmaster.

Anderson was headmaster of Scotch for forty-one years, retiring in 1945. During this period enrolments rose from 59 to 410; more than 3,000 boys passed through Scotch in his time. The first decade of his regime was marked by the provision of science laboratories, a cadet corps, sports grounds and a boatshed. By 1914 Scotch was established as one of the four leading independent boys' schools in Western Australia, and for the next thirty years Anderson was doyen among the Protestant headmasters, setting an educational model whose influence extended well beyond his own college. He was a masterful administrator, careful in times of financial stringency but insistent on bold planning whenever opportunity permitted. Impressively built and inclined to be set in his opinions, he earned the nickname 'Boss', but was respected for his scrupulous fair-mindedness and capacity for hard work. Legends generated around him, such as the yarn that he once caned the entire school in an attempt to put down smoking. He was awarded the CBE in 1947¹⁶.

Footnotes:

12. *The History of Cottesloe Golf Club 1908-1983*
13. *ibid The History of Cottesloe Golf Club 1908-1983*
14. *ibid The History of Cottesloe Golf Club 1908-1983*
15. *Albany Golf Club history* book, quoted by Graham McEachran
16. Obituary by Professor Geoffrey C Bolton

Peter Anderson's great passions for education and golf were played out in three distant arenas – St Andrews in Scotland, and Geelong and Perth in east and west Australia. Not only was Peter Anderson's passion for each at a high level but his persistence and determination through difficult times of world wars and the Great Depression were a significant testimony to his character, as was the quality of his golf.

'The history of golf in Australia' is both how the golf was transplanted to Australia and the development of golf once there. Peter Anderson stands tall in both these dimensions of our history. The heritage of golf he brought to Australia, in how he played the game, the clubs he used and his understanding of the game and the course on which it is played, came from the foundation of golf, at the Old Course, St Andrews.

When we think of people like Peter Corsar Anderson, we recognise and respect the people who were the founders and developers of golf in this country, on whose shoulders were the burdens of building courses and clubs and the standards of play, and whose passion was encouraging young golfers to play the game well, in its true spirit. These are the shoulders on which we modern Australian golfers stand. Such is the history of golf in Australia.

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Compiled by Barry S Leithhead, Editor, *The Brassie*, newsletter of the Golf Collectors Society of Australia, 4 August 2005

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With generous contributions gratefully received from:

Alasdair Courtney, Archivist, Scotch College Perth; Malcolm Purcell and Fatima Pandor of Perth; Michael Collins Persse, Keeper of the Archives, Geelong Grammar School; Ms Moira Drew, Museum Curator for Australian Golf Union/Golf Society of Australia and Archivist, Royal Melbourne Golf Club; Graham McEachran of Cottesloe GC History Group; and recognising the encouragement from John Pearson, Editor of *Through the Green*, magazine of the British Golf Collectors Society.

Book Review:

The Centurions of Golf - 100 English Courses celebrating 100 years of golf

by Mike Berners Price

Radial Sports Publishing Ltd, Lincolnshire £25 plus £15 (overseas shipping) or direct from www.radialSPORTpublishing.com

At first glance this personal tribute to 100 golf clubs in England that have celebrated 100 years of existence appears to be a coffee table book as it is published with illustrated boards and without a dust jacket. It is anything but.

The clubs featured are a wonderful mixture of classic courses and previously unheard of, by a wider public, golfing gems. Traditional links courses sit easily alongside parkland, cliff top and heath-land courses as well as a few which have survived being laid out over common land to which the non-golfing public have unfettered access.

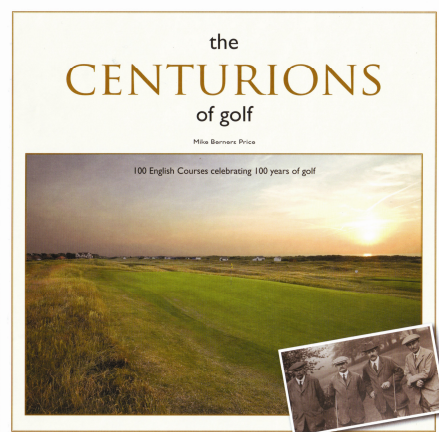
The author has decided on a quasi chronological order of golf course development, starting with the oldest club in England, Royal Blackheath, and then moving to the oldest club still playing over its original ground, Royal North Devon and on to other 'founders and influencers' before looking at some of the 'expansion courses' that benefited from the massive extension of railways in England towards the end of the 19th century. There then follow chapters on groups of clubs that have in common such characteristics as their designers or their physical location.

Essentially, this is a series of love letters to his mistress, golf, in the form of 100 essays, none of which are given more tribute than others; wonderfully illustrated with traditional clubhouse and fairway views alongside quirky pictures of images unique to a particular club, and sepia toned postcards and newspaper photographs (among which is a scene of the 7th Army camped on a golf course at Lyndhurst in Hampshire's New Forest from which my grandfather marched to Southampton before embarking with 'the Old Contemptibles' for the first battle of Ypres in which he was taken prisoner, and so survived the Great War).

No self-respecting golf historian's library should be without this wonderful book and its wealth of historical detail, as relevant today as when these clubs were founded. My one regret is that I have only played 21 of the 100 courses. So many old courses, so little time!

If you would like to read about the 'Hitler tree' or the 'waiting list for Sirs', you'll just have to buy the book.

Reviewer: Peter Gompertz



Actual size: 215 x 215 x 22 mm

Dinner Speaker: Tony Hallam

From p3

Several questions prompted some further comments:

Retaining of national and state structure is considered the best for promoting participation, but amalgamation at a State level, offers similar challenges to those experienced at the national level.

Discussions have taken place with other national golf bodies. A close relationship is being forged with the PGA especially in regard to the important role of training golf coaches.

Daryl Cox, past President and Life Member of the GSA, on behalf of those present, thanked Tony and wished him well in his efforts.

History of Golf in Australia Sub-Committee:

Earlier in the evening, Daryl Cox presented a progress report on research being conducted by the History of Golf in Australia Sub-Committee. This research will be reported in more detail in forthcoming issues.