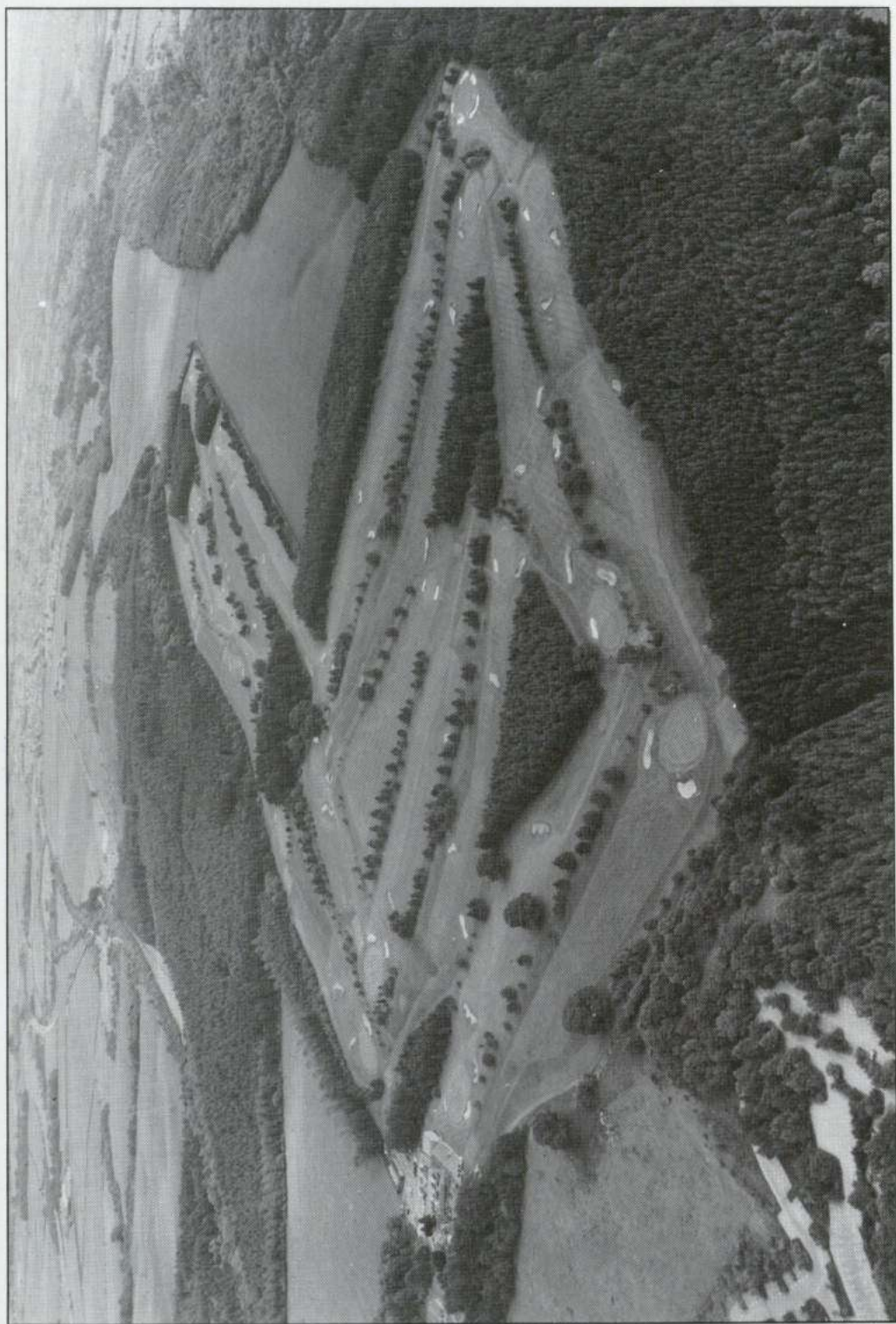






Aerial photograph of Hamilton Golf course, 1992



Centenary Volume

Published by Hamilton Golf Club

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Foreword

To be invited to be Captain of Hamilton Golf Club at any time would be an honour; to be invited to be Captain for the Club's Centenary Year is a singular honour. My appointment is a very generous acknowledgement of my family's association with, and service to, the Club since its inception in 1892.

This book highlights the principal features of the Club's development during its first 100 years. Sincere thanks are due to my uncle, Pat Soutter, for all his research work, to Mike Miller for liaising with the editor and for his production work, to Charlie McBain for his reproductive and photographic work and to Bill Morton for his input in refining the finished article. I hope the book will be read and enjoyed by members past, present and future.



The Centenary Committee, under Alan Daly's convenorship, has worked hard to produce a programme of events, both on and off the course, which it is hoped members will enjoy throughout the year, and a host of centenary items which members can purchase as mementoes. I should wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Alan, to all members of the Centenary Committee and to other members of the Club outwith that Committee, who have contributed so much in the preparatory work for a year which should be a memorable one for the Club. A number of significant course projects have been undertaken under the watchful and attentive eye of our Greens Convenor, George Campbell. As I write, the new implement storage building with staff facilities is nearing completion and brings this aspect of the Club's affairs into line with modern day requirements and

expectations. Our House Convenor, John Rodger, Social Convenor, Jim Orr, and Match Secretary, Bob Alexander have also been very busy with their remits. The efforts of all concerned are greatly appreciated.

Hamilton Golf Club has a fine tradition and reputation in respect of which the members can rightly be proud. It has produced many fine players, a few of whom have represented their country on occasion, and just as importantly many members who have over these 100 years given of their time and talents to promote the Club, improve the course and forge the way ahead for the benefit of succeeding generations. Over the years the Club has benefited from having a diverse membership, including knowledgeable professionals, experienced administrators and skilled tradesmen. We are indebted to all who have advanced the Club's cause.

The splendid location of the course is self-evident to anyone who has played it. Although situated in the heart of industrial Lanarkshire, the course's immediate surroundings on all sides comprise countryside and this is obviously one of its prime attractions to members and visitors alike.

In conclusion, our forebears have provided us with a strong, thriving Club and one of the finest golf courses in the central belt of Scotland - a rich legacy indeed! We must ensure the Club continues to flourish in the years to come. The first 100 years have provided us with a very solid base from which to prepare for the future - in the years to follow we shall, I'm sure, build on that wisely with vision and commitment.

I hope to share with you all a memorable and enjoyable centenary year.

P. Eliot Soutter
Centenary Captain

1 *The Early Years*



Towards the end of 1892, Hamilton Golf Club formally joined the growing ranks of such clubs in Scotland. Some months previously the first office bearers had been appointed and club rules adopted. The course was officially opened on 27th August and occupied ground, called the Barniehall Field, belonging to the Hamilton Parks Company. The Club took the ground on lease and the agreement was eventually drawn up by local solicitor William Brown. On 2nd November, in the offices of solicitors William Brown & Co (later to be J.B.Soutter Son & Main), the first minutes were recorded and the Club began life with a membership of 120.

Minutes of Meeting of the
Committee of Management of the
Hamilton Golf Club held within
the Chambers of Messrs William Brown
& Company, Solicitor, Hamilton upon
the 2nd November 1892 at 8 o'clock p.m.

Present

Messrs Graeme A.MacLavery, Captain
William Brown, W.W.Naismith, Gavin
Paterson, Thomas A.Dykes, W.Dundas
Brown, Treasurer and R.G.Slorach,
Secretary

Mr MacLavery presided

The Chairman reaffirmed that the Club had now been formally inaugurated and that this was the first meeting under the rules. Several informal meetings had been held at which the Office Bearers were appointed and the Rules adopted. The Barniehall field which they had procured from the Hamilton Parks Coy would ultimately be a very good course and we had reason to congratulate ourselves on

procuring it. The conditions under which we held the field for the current year were that we pay the Grazing Tenant £15 and the Hamilton Parks Company 5/- for each member who was not a member of the company. The next year's terms were not quite agreed upon yet, but he did not doubt they would come to a satisfactory arrangement. The Course was formally opened upon the 27th August last. He also stated that the Parks Company had given materials for the erection of the Small Club House ... that had been put up by the Greenkeeper with the assistance of the Company...

The meeting authorised the Treasurer to pay each of the assistants 5/-

The meeting then confirmed the appointment of the following Gentlemen as Office Bearers of the Club who had also agreed to accept Office, viz

Sir William Wallace Hozier Bart., Mauldslee Castle, *President*

Vice Presidents

Major Aitkinson, The Ross
Colin Dunlop, Huttonbank
Col. Clark Forrest, Udston
Major James Neilson, Mossend
Archibald Russell Esq, Crescent
John Watson Jr, Earnock

Captain

Graeme A. MacLavery Esq, Chantinghall

Members of Committee

Messrs William Brown, Solicitor
T.A. Dykes, Solicitor
Col. J.C. Kay, Solicitor
W.W. Naismith, C.A.
Gavin Paterson, Architect
Robert Robin, Wholesale Wine Merchant
J.B. Soutter, Solicitor
Robert Wilson, J.P.
W. Dundas Brown, Solicitor, Treasurer &
R.G. Slorach SCD, Secretary

Green Committee

The Captain & Messrs Colin Dunlop Jr.,
W.W. Naismith & Robert Wilson.
The meeting approved of...



With the material help of the Hamilton Parks Company and labour supplied by Company servants and Mr Nisbett, the first greenkeeper, a small clubhouse was erected. As can be seen from the illustration, the Club Committee authorised payment of five shillings to each helper! The opening membership comprised 81 gentlemen, 20 ladies, with the remainder as family tickets. The total revenue from the same amounted to £90 15s. Over the next few years membership increased steadily and at the first annual general meeting, on 24th January 1893, the number had already reached 172. Held at the Lesser Town Hall in Hamilton, the annual general meeting saw confirmation of the Club's first captain, Graeme A. MacLavery, who had been appointed the previous year. The Club began in a healthy financial position and entry fees of one and two guineas were charged for the ladies and gentlemen respectively. However, at a later meeting it was agreed that officers in the barracks at Hamilton should pay only 10/- entry fee plus the usual annual subscription. At the same meeting it was noted that parties who were not members had been observed playing over the course, and that they were to be warned off!

Membership continued to rise up to and beyond the turn of the century and in 1904, after amalgamation with Motherwell Golf Club, the membership stood at 320. In later years Motherwell's course was taken over by the military and its members were allowed to join Hamilton on payment of the annual subscription.

The first meeting of the Motherwell Club was a formal meeting of the Hamilton Club from date of amalgamation. No entry fee will be required. The Annual Subscription of the Hamilton Club (25/-) will date from 1st Jan 1904. All the present assets of the Motherwell Club will be handed over to the Hamilton Club, including the Club House & fittings, 1 pony mower & house for some lawn mower roller etc, & all tools. Together with whatever balance in cash remains on settling up. I shall be obliged if you will kindly advise me as soon as your Club decides definitely regarding this matter, so that I may be able to make the necessary arrangements for giving up our course at the end of this month. Trusting that the amalgamation may be successfully accomplished.

I am Yours Faithfully
C. R. Henderson, Hon Secy.

Union St.
Motherwell
10 Oct 1903

The Hon Secy
of the
Hamilton Golf Club

Dear Sir. With reference to the proposed amalgamation of the Hamilton & Motherwell Clubs regarding which a deputation of our Club has already met representatives of your Club, I have much pleasure in intimating to you that, at a Special General Meeting of our Club held last night, it was unanimously agreed to carry out the proposed amalgamation on the conditions mentioned at the above named meeting between our representatives. We -

Letter from Motherwell Golf Club, October 1903, confirming the proposed amalgamation with Hamilton



The old clubhouse

The first clubhouse proved very quickly to be inadequate and by mid-1893 the committee were discussing the prospects for a new building. After an abortive attempt to raise funds for this purpose through a football match between Queens Park and Celtic, the matter was left until the annual general meeting of January 1894. Plans prepared by an architect, Mr Paterson, were put to the meeting. However, it was felt that the decision whether to build a wood and corrugated iron clubhouse with water supply and lavatory facilities for £150 should be left to a special general meeting. Hence on 9th March, in the Lesser Town Hall, a meeting was duly held but it was agreed not to proceed with building a clubhouse.

However, just one month later, the membership called a further special general meeting at which it was agreed that the project should proceed immediately. At a subsequent meeting in May of the same year the committee's report on the issue (prepared by Messrs Soutter, MacLavery and Slorach) was heard and a clubhouse with water supply, toilets and 50 lockers was selected, at a cost of £145. Rapid progress was made and by late July the building was almost completed ready for the opening on 4th August. In furnishing the clubhouse, the secretary was authorised to buy:

a hanging lamp
 an umbrella stand
 towels, nail brushes, soap, and toilet paper
 a looking glass, brush and comb, and clothes brush
 door mats
 drinking jugs and two spittoons!

Refreshments in the clubhouse were somewhat limited at the outset, and in 1895 the greenkeeper took on a dual role as clubmaster to provide lemonade for members. (In addition, his duties included keeping washbasins and toilets clean and tidy.) Some three years later members could obtain tea and biscuits on Saturdays between 3 and 6pm for the princely sum of twopence per cup of tea with biscuit, and a ha'penny for each additional biscuit.

The question of supplying spirits to members was first raised in 1894 but left until the annual general meeting. Indeed the next record, at the annual general meeting of 1897, shows some dissent with a motion to ban the sale of liquor in the clubhouse being recorded. However, an amendment to sell the same was carried, although it was noted that the bar was not showing enough profit.



HAMILTON GOLF CLUB.

T. E. FORTY, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,

As desired, we beg to submit a general report upon the various schemes which have been under consideration and discussed in detail with your Committee, in terms of the accompanying plans and sketches, which have been made as self-explanatory as possible:—

Scheme A.—Proposed New Club House.

The site pointed out to us, viz., adjoining the eighth hole, we consider very suitable, being almost level, convenient of access, commanding an excellent view of the course, and having ready facilities for drainage, water, and gas supply.

The plan provides the following accommodation:—

Ladies' Room and Lavatory, Gentlemen's Box Room and Lavatory, Club Room, Verandah, Servery or Tea Kitchen.

Alternative plans are shewn, providing for (A) a Smoking Room above the Club Room, and (B) a Caretaker's House—the latter so arranged that it can be erected at any future time.

The building would be lit with gas, heated by open fire and by gas-steam radiators, and fitted up internally in a substantial manner.

In preparing the plans the question of economy has been kept in view by simple construction, and by utilising, where possible, the structure of the present Club House: and, having regard to this, our estimate of the cost is as follows:—

New Club House,	£800 to £850, say	£850
Additional Room in Roof,	£60 extra,	£60
Caretaker's House,	£150 to £170 extra, say	£170

£1080

The areas of the various apartments are:—

Ladies' Room,	532 Sup. Ft.
Club Room,	507 do.
Or as alternatively shewn—Ladies' Room, 420 Sup. Ft.	
Club Room, 590 Sup. Ft.	
Box Room (340 Boxes),	733 do.
Smoking Room,	246 do.
Gentlemen's Lavatory,	180 do.
Ladies' Lavatory,	120 do.

Scheme B.—Addition to Present Club House.

This can be most conveniently done by adding a Box Room to the east of Club Room, as shown on accompanying sketch; the Ladies' Room remaining as at present. The plan provides the following accommodation:—Ladies' Room and Lavatory, Box Room and Gentlemen's Lavatory, Club Room, Small Drying Room, and Small Servery or Kitchen.

A Smoking Room could be provided by cutting off a portion of the Club Room, as shown, by means of a folding partition.

We estimate the cost of this addition at £400.



The areas of the various apartments are:

Ladies' Room,	228 Sup. Ft.
Box Room (302 Boxes),	531 do.
Club Room,	579 do.
Or as sub-divided—Club Room,	332 Sup. Ft.
Smoking Room,	247 do.
Gentlemen's Lavatory,	99 do.
Ladies' Lavatory,	54 do.

2
1
—**Scheme C.—Acquisition of House in Bothwell Road.**

The following houses have been considered, viz., Oakley, Brandon Lodge, Elm Lodge, and Fernbank, and sketch plans of Oakley (being the smallest house) and Fernbank (as typical of the remaining three) shew how each of these could be adapted as a Club House as economically as possible. With this in view, a minimum of structural alteration is proposed, to give the following accommodation in each:—

Ground Floor—Ladies' Room and Lavatory, Club Room, Kitchen or Serryery.

Upper Floor—Box Rooms, Smoking Room, and Gentlemen's Lavatory.

A Drying Room can be obtained in each case.

The purchase price of Oakley is £700, and of the others £1000 each, and we estimate the cost of alterations as follows:—

Oakley, as shewn on plan,	£350
Caretaker's House,	200
Add Purchase Price,	700
	£1250

Should the Boxes in present Club House be re-used, and painting throughout be dispensed with, the amount would be reduced by £80.

Fernbank, as shewn on plan,	£335
Caretaker's House, say	200
Add Purchase Price,	1000
	£1535

With same deduction as before.

The areas of the various apartments are:—

OAKLEY.

Ladies' Room,	297 Sup. Ft.
Three Box Rooms (342 Boxes),	542 do.
Club Room,	246 do.
Smoking Room,	210 do.
Gentlemen's Lavatory,	144 do.
Ladies' Lavatory,	45 do.
Attic Rooms in addition.	

FERNBANK, &C.

Ladies' Room,	271 Sup. Ft.
Two Box Rooms (378 Boxes),	453 do.
Club Room,	371 do.
Smoking Room,	182 do.
Gentlemen's Lavatory,	150 do.
Ladies' Lavatory,	95 do.
Attic Rooms in addition.	

We are,

Yours faithfully,

ALEX. CULLEN, LOCHHEAD, & BROWN.

Report submitted by architects Alex Cullen, Lochhead and Brown for schemes to construct a new Clubhouse on the Low Parks

Towards the end of the century, due to the need to accommodate the lady members and provide committee rooms, the first extension to the clubhouse was considered and costed. Having unanimously carried the proposal, the membership was invited to contribute to the cost and the plans were accepted in February 1899. Over the next decade further extensions were considered and during the early years of the 20th century there was continuing activity now concentrating upon the provision of a new clubhouse, no doubt prompted to some degree by the increase in membership due to

TELEPHONE N° 4.

ALEX CULLEN, LOCHHEAD & BROWN.
ARCHITECTS.

ALEX. CULLEN, F.R.S.E., F.R.I.B.A.
JAMES LOCHHEAD, A.R.I.B.A.
WILLIAM BROWN.

BRANDON CHAMBERS.
HAMILTON.

14th January, 1911

Messrs Hamilton Golf Club
to
Alex Cullen, Lochhead & Brown

1908
May To making survey of old Club House, meetings with Committee and preparing alternative sketches for proposed alterations and additions

1909
October preparing further alternative sketches of proposed new Club House, meetings with Committee and making survey of proposed site

making survey and reporting on four hours in Bellhugh Road as to their suitability for a Club House *£8.8.0*

Preparing sketch plans of same and approximate estimate, and meetings with Committee

preparing report on the various schemes to submit to members

preparing working drawings of new Club House and submitting same to Committee for approval

Nov. before taking for estimate

Dec. completing working drawings preparing specification for land instructing Messrs

1910 Jan. Working estimate submitting same to Committee along with statement of proposed modifications to reduce cost

Carry Forward £8.8.0.



1910	For preparing the necessary plans, lodging with County Authorities and obtaining their approval	£ 8. 8. 0
	meeting with Contractors on site to adjust credit value of old materials and adjusting schedules in conformity with amended estimates	£ 1. 1. 0
	preparing scale and detail drawings for the various tradesmen, instructing latter and superintending the work until completion, raising and checking measurements with valuers and Contractors.	
	Also, including Clerk of Works' visits.	£ 49. 7. 0
	Restricted to	£ 58. 16. 0
		£ 50. 0. 0.

Itemised bill from the architects for the new Clubhouse on the Low Parks

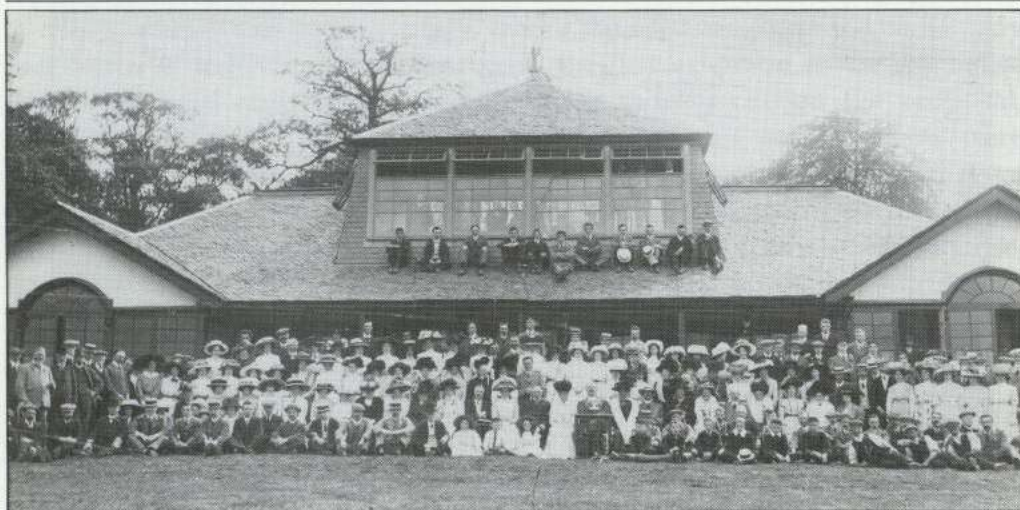
amalgamation with Motherwell Golf Club. This culminated, at the special general meeting of 1909, in the presentation of full details and plans and an accompanying increase in subscription to 25s to fund the building. Local architects Alex Cullen, Lochhead and Brown were responsible for all aspects of the preparation and production of plans and working drawings. In addition they liaised with the contractors, superintended the work and saw the job to completion for the sum of £58 16s, which in the event and presumably as part of the agreement, was restricted to £50.

By May 1910 the new clubhouse was nearing completion and insurance was obtained at the rate of £2 10s per £100 with the buildings valued at £900 and a further £600 for the contents including members' clubs and other equipment. The first annual general meeting to be held in the new clubhouse was on 23rd January, 1911.

The old course

Having completed the small clubhouse, Mr Nisbett, the greenkeeper, turned his attention to the course itself. Drainage was, and has remained, a problem from the outset, both in the Low Parks and the High Parks. Three greens, the first, second and eighth, were reported as being very wet and the Hamilton Parks Company was asked to have them drained. The first greens committee was





The new Clubhouse upon completion in 1910

formed in February 1893 and an early suggestion was for the placing of bunkers on the course, subject to the approval of the Parks Company. Mr Nisbett, who stayed with the Club until he was discharged in 1901, was given an assistant in 1894 and between them they cut the whole course with a scythe! Clearly the hard work proved worthwhile as the minutes of May 1895 record a vote of thanks to all concerned for the "...excellent condition of the course."

The original course had nine holes which were named as follows:

1	oaktree	2	long
3	firtree	4	hurdle
5	gate	6	year
7	thorntree	8	palace view
9	home.		

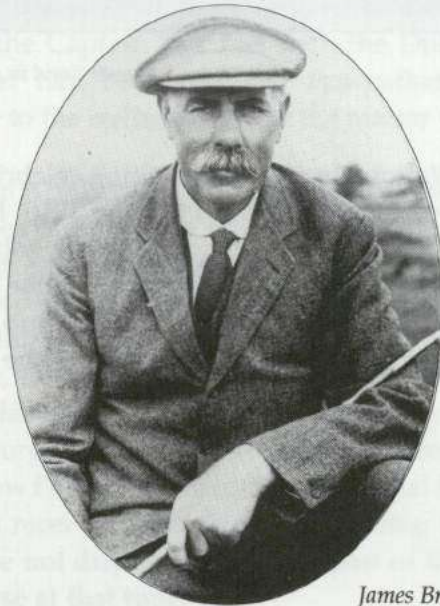
However, by 1903 it was decided that the names were no longer appropriate and new names were adopted. Each name was placed on the tee box together with the number:

1	hill	2	corner
3	circle	4	windy mailing
5	gate	6	bunker
7	ditch	8	terrace
9	home.		



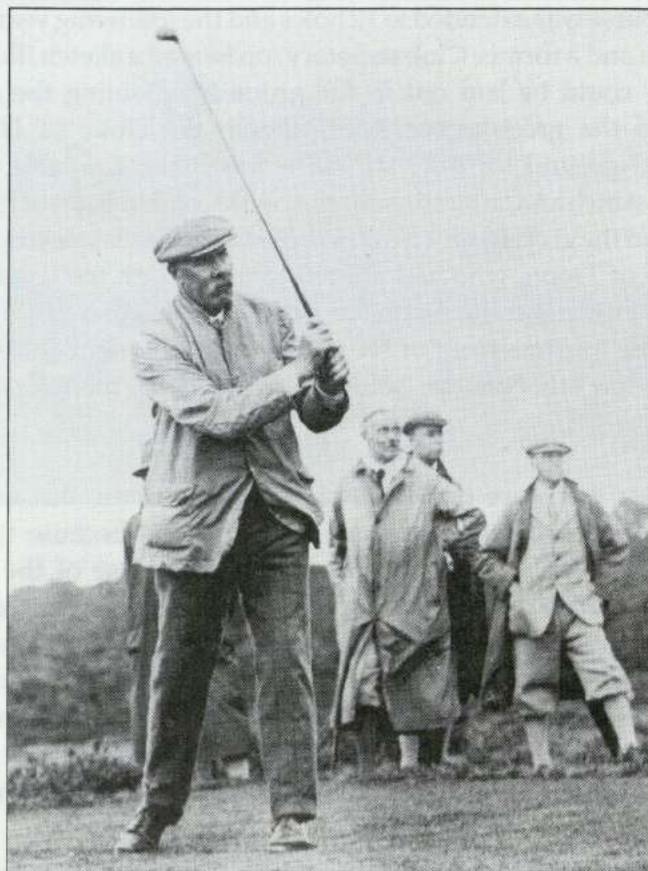
In 1904 the course was extended to 12 holes and the following year Dr Marshall, the Club captain and a former Club secretary, presented a sketch illustrating how nine new holes could be laid out in the grounds adjoining the course. After conferring with the greenkeeper, Mr Dalziell, the Duke of Hamilton was approached, but ground for only six holes was made available. Dr Marshall provided a new sketch and, after consultation with Colonel Bates of the racecourse, the extension and the ground rent were accepted by a special meeting held in May 1905. Mr Fernie of Troon, who had offered to assist with the layout of the new holes, was employed and by April the new holes were ready for play. New proposals for the improvement of the course were frequent and it seemed the custom was to view other courses before committing the membership to further outlay.

As a precursor to future problems of a similar nature, the annual general meeting of 1907 had to consider taking in new ground because the lower part of the course had been affected by subsidence. The lease of the new ground was agreed by July and put to a special meeting in September. Certain clauses put a heavy obligation upon the Club at termination and it was decided that £100 should be taken from existing monies and put in a sinking fund to meet the ultimate obligations, and that £10 should be added to the fund every year thereafter. The Club was beset with the problem of flooding once more in 1922 and a major proposal was made to consider alternative ground. James



James Braid, five times Open Champion





James Braid in action

Braid, professional at Walton Heath, was a golfing celebrity, having won the Open Championship five times between 1901 and 1910. He made golf clubs and balls and also offered his services as a consultant to golf clubs. James Braid and Mr Fernie of Troon were asked for their advice on the plans and although the Duke's factor, Mr Foulis, had a proposal for the Club to consider, it may well be that events surrounding the racecourse and the move to the High Parks took precedence.



2 The Move to the High Parks

As early as 1904, the possibility of moving to Riccarton/The High Parks was suggested by Dr Marshall. Following a committee visit to the site, the Duke of Hamilton's factor, Mr Barr, was approached to ascertain the present rent of the fields and the conditions upon which Riccarton Field (or the Deer Park) would be leased for a golf course. Thus began a protracted period of negotiation involving considerable effort from Club officials and Estate employees which resulted in the move 20 years later and culminated in outright purchase after an additional 50 years.

However, this early approach came to a premature end when negotiations ceased and no progress was made for the next ten years. In May 1914, the Club secretary discovered that the High Parks might indeed be available for a new course and the matter was immediately put to the Hamilton Parks Company and the Estate. At the annual general meeting of January 1915 it was disclosed that the Captain had met with the Duke's representatives and although the matter had been received sympathetically, it was decided, reluctantly, that due to the outbreak of war the matter would have to be left.

Somewhat later, in April 1922, the Club secretary discovered that another golf club was in the throes of formation within the district, and, more importantly, was negotiating for ground in the High Parks. Spurred on by this news, the Duke's factor, Mr Foulis, was contacted and having received assurances that the Hamilton Club would have first option on any ground available for a course, the committee visited the High Parks. The situation was complicated and given greater urgency by the likelihood that the Burgh of Hamilton would in all probability be purchasing the Low Parks. However, after the initial flurry of activity a letter was received from Mr Foulis stating that the Duke's trustees were not disposed to let any part of the High Parks for a golf course at that time.

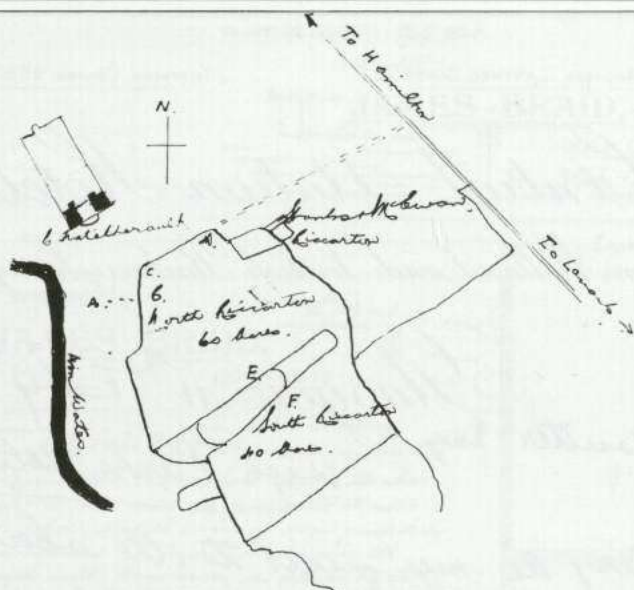


At the same time, October 1922, the committee considered plans for a new racecourse which had been received on loan from Sir Henry Keith. It was apparent that the Old Course would be seriously affected by the changes and the secretary wrote to Sir Henry pointing this out and stating that the Club could consider the position only if suitable, alternative ground was made available.

The 1922 annual general meeting in November saw a further development with the receipt of a letter from the Town Clerk of Hamilton suggesting a meeting concerning the proposed racecourse. It was agreed that this should take place and the membership decided that the whole of the Club's council be appointed as a special committee to meet with the Town Council. Early in 1923 fresh plans were produced which would seriously affect the course, and the Club's council was asked to consider alternative ground. James Braid was appointed as an expert adviser to the Club, at the expense of the Town Council, and met with Lord Hamilton, Sir Loftus Bates and Sir Henry Keith. Various meetings and consultations followed involving Braid and Mr Donaldson (then Club professional) for the Club. In February, Braid submitted a report proposing a new course layout, and in April a special general meeting of the Club accepted these proposals unanimously. By late summer the boundary between the racecourse and the Club was pegged out and in a final meeting with the Town Council, late in 1923, agreement was reached on the construction of the course which was due to start in a few days with the aim of having everything completed by the spring or summer of 1925.

All through this hiatus the question of the High Parks had lain temporarily dormant, but in March 1924 the matter received further impetus. Sir Henry Keith contacted the Duke's trustees regarding the possible transfer to the High Parks, saying that a definite proposal would be made shortly. Also in March, the Town Council produced a draft proposal for the High Parks Course delineating approximately 100 acres from the North and South Riccarton plantations, and itemising the responsibilities falling to the Club, Council and Estate. Thus in April James Braid visited the ground to plan the layout of a new course. In April, Braid's report was submitted with a suggested layout for the course, but one month later there was dissension amongst the committee with some members expressing a preference for staying at the Low Parks. However, at a special general meeting in June the proposal to proceed with the move to the High Parks was approved and only days later James Braid provided the specification for the work at the course. The text of Braid's report is printed here (page 20) with instructions for each hole.





Copy Draft/

27th March, 1924.

Dear Mr. Soutter,

Following on the personal interview which I had with you, when I showed you the letter from Mr. Foulis to the Town Council, I now put in writing what these proposals are, and what the Town Council is prepared to do.

1. The area to be let would consist of approximately 100 acres of land within the boundaries coloured red on the attached plan. The intersecting plantations are excluded, and while it would be preferred that these should be left as they are, if it is necessary a small portion of the plantation at the north-east corner of the South Riocarton field might be cleared. A path of communication would be allowed on the line E.F. on enclosed plan. It is suggested by Mr. Foulis that the precise boundaries and other details necessary should be arrived at on the ground. The Town Council are prepared to ask Mr. Braid to come north again, so that the whole of the layout of the ground could be arranged at the same time.

Sketch map of the proposed course at the High Parks submitted by the Town Council with their document

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS, "LARTNEC, GLASGOW."

TELEPHONE, CENTRAL 9680 (7 LINES)

*Central Station Hotel,**London Midland and Scottish Railway Company,**Glasgow; 11th Feby 1925-*
P. E. Soutter Esq High Parks Golf Club

Dear Sir / Re my visit to the above
today I have asked Donaldson to
hand you a copy of notes taken
and consider it will be possible
for you to play the following
holes provided the holes are cut
near the edge of greens should
more rain or frost come along
nos 1 (2 play on to 16th green) (3 play 14)
(4. no 15) 5 6 7 8 9 10 11. 12
(13 play on to 14th green) 18. fourteen holes in all
The remainder should be ready for play
at Easter *Yours faithfully,*
Jas Braid

Communications from Braid pertaining to his report and consultations about the planning and construction of the course at the High Parks



Messrs The Hamilton Golf Club
Hamilton

Bought of **JAMES BRAID,**

WALTON HEATH GOLF CLUB,

STATION —
Tadworth S.E.R.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL,
Dunm.

Telegrams:—"BRAID, GOLF, WALTON-ON-THE-HILL"

PARCELS:—Tadworth Station, S.E.R.

29th July 1924
OPEN CHAMPION, 1901
1905
1906
1908
1910

**GOLF CLUB and
BALL MAKER.**

Speciality: DRIVERS and BRASSIES.

Mr. P. E. Sautter Esq
Hamilton Golf Club

Memorandum from **JAMES BRAID,**

WALTON HEATH GOLF CLUB,

STATION —
Tadworth S.E.R.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL,
Dunm.

Telegrams:—"BRAID, GOLF, WALTON-ON-THE-HILL"

PARCELS:—Tadworth Station, S.E.R.

GOLF CLUB

MAKER.

Speciality: DRIVERS and BRASSIES.

High Parks Golf Course

Sir / I duly received your letter and visited the above on Friday 25th July I was naturally disappointed to note all the work had been stopped owing to some misunderstanding I gave certain instructions re formation of greens etc and also arranged with Donaldson re contouring etc I don't know if Mr Kirkpatrick informed you that I wanted 20 fms square of each green done with turf from the other course so that a putting surface will be ready when the course is opened

Yours faithfully
Jas Braid

Services & Expenses £ 4 4 0

26th March 1925
JAMES BRAID,
OPEN CHAMPION, 1901
1905
1906
1908
1910

**GOLF CLUB and
BALL MAKER.**

Speciality: DRIVERS and BRASSIES.

High Park Golf Course

Dear Sir / I visited High Park Golf Course yesterday and have pleasure in stating that the work is now almost completed by the Contractor whenever he finishes the draining at present on hand a small hollow to fill up near no 5 green and a small piece of turfing near no 13 green, a piece of ground to be set down at no 11 adjoining the wood. The summer play commences now the further the course will be brought into condition. Now the bunkers are filled with sand the appearance has greatly improved

Yours faithfully
Jas Braid

Telegrams:—"BRAID, GOLF, WALTON-ON-THE-HILL"

JAMES BRAID,
Golf Club Maker.

Speciality: DRIVERS and BRASSIES.

Memorandum.

Walton Heath

To Mr P. E. Sautter Esq
Hamilton Golf Club

Dear Sir / I herewith enclose report as I understood you were calling a meeting this week. I will send on plan soon as possible, personally. I am convinced if your members know the place there can only be one decision that is High Parks

Yours faithfully
Jas Braid

15 June 1924

HAMILTON GOLF CLUB.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION BY THE COUNCIL TO MEMBERS.

Following upon the Special General Meeting of Members held on 4th April last, the Council of the Club submit the following report and recommendation :—

I. LOW PARKS SCHEME.

The Council again met with Braid on the course and explained the objection that had been raised regarding the crossing at the 1st and 18th holes. Braid was decidedly of opinion that the course as proposed to be laid out by him would be greatly superior to the present course and should not be altered. He suggested that any danger from the crossing could be avoided by placing a notice at the 18th tee that players going to the 1st hole had the privilege of the green. The position therefore remains as it was at the date of the Special General Meeting. The details of this scheme are already in the hands of the Members.

II. HIGH PARKS SCHEME.

On 2nd April last, the Council received a letter containing certain proposals which were meant to form the basis of negotiations for the laying out of a course at Riccarton. Braid was asked to examine the ground, and on the 14th of April, he reported as follows :—

THE COMMITTEE,
HAMILTON GOLF CLUB.

Gentlemen,

"Having accepted your invitation to visit High Parks and report on the suitability thereof for a Golf Course I did so on the 10th April, 1924, and consider there are great possibilities. The situation is splendid, and the air more invigorating than your present course, therefore the playing of the game will be more enjoyable, the subsoil with the exception of two holes is much lighter, consequently the game can be played in greater comfort, especially during the winter months, and taking everything into consideration I am convinced a superior course to your present one can be made. Provided a start can be made shortly, play should be possible by May, 1925. I have planned out a course about 6,000 yards which can be easily altered by adjustment of tees. The holes will be divided somewhat as follows 2 three shot, 5 two shot, 4 drive and iron, 3 drive and mashie, 4 one shot. Personally I am convinced if your members know the place, there can only be one decision—that is High Parks"

The following proposals are the outcome of these negotiations :—

- (1) The area to be let would consist of approximately 100 acres of land—60 of which form part of the field in which Shanks & McEwan are presently working a sand quarry. The subsoil is light and the ground lies high.
- (2) The minerals are reserved with power to work same without compensation for damage. In the event of mineral damage to such an extent as to render the ground unsuitable for golf the estate would endeavour to arrange for compensation ground, which failing, the damaged area would be taken back and a proportionate abatement of rent granted. The estate reserve the right to resume possession of an area up to five acres in extent along the Northern and Eastern boundaries if required, but in this event an equivalent area would be granted in the adjoining field, the estate bearing the cost of alteration of fences, but no other expenses.
- (3) All plantations and trees are reserved to the estate with power to cut and remove same, but any operations to be conducted so as to cause as little inconvenience and damage as possible.
- (4) Divisional fences to be erected where necessary including an inclimable iron fence along the Northern boundary. The initial expense of this fencing would be borne by the Hamilton Town Council and thereafter the Club would be liable for the cost of upkeep. The upkeep of fences round plantations to be mutual.
- (5) The Town Council to compensate the present agricultural tenant and also to be at whole expense of giving water supply rendered necessary through change of fencing.
- (6) Game and rabbits reserved, but reasonable protection to be given against damage.
- (7) Drains, ditches and roads to be accepted as in tenantable order and to be kept in like order. The mineral tenants' obligations to keep drains in order for agricultural purposes to be available to the Club.



(8) Power given to erect a pavilion and greenkeeper's house within the area let, the site and plans of the buildings to be approved by the Estate. Riccarton House to be available for the Club at an annual rent of £30. The Club to be entitled to remove pavilion at expiry of Lease. The Golf Club to receive the sum of £750 from the Town Council for their present pavilion.

(9) Exciseable Liquors.—If "No License" carried in area, Club not to be entitled to sell exciseable liquors.

(10) The plan of the Lay-out of the Course is approved so far as the Hamilton Estate is concerned. *The whole referred in connection therewith as to be done by the Town Council.*

(11) Access at present to be by Riccarton Lodge gate and no other.

(12) At end of Lease ground to be restored, but the liability of the Club under this head to be limited to £100.

(13) The tenants are to bind themselves to prevent in every way possible trespass on the neighbouring lands and plantations. The lands and plantations bordering the first, second and third holes and the fourth hole up to the passage between the woods, are not to be entered for recovery of lost balls or on any pretext whatever. The tenants are to use every exertion and means possible to control the conduct of the Members of the Golf Club and others using the Course with their authority. It is understood that in the event of this condition not being complied with after warning being given, it will be within the power of the Hamilton Trustees to cancel the Lease without compensation.

(14) No Sunday play.

(15) Period of Lease 21 years. The principal lease will be between the Hamilton Town Council and the Landlords—a sub-lease being granted by the Town Council to the Golf Club. At the expiry of the lease the Town Council will do nothing prejudicial to a continuance of the let to the Golf Club. Entry to the ground can be given immediately. The general lines of the lease to be similar to the present lease.

(16) The present grazing tenant to be entitled to continue grazing for this season on the ground presently let to him. Thereafter, till the expiry of his lease in 1928, he shall have the first option for sheep grazing each year.

(17) Annual rent £250—to run from date when course open for play.

(18) The turf on the greens of the present course to be available as far as Braid thinks necessary for the new course and teeing greens. The Golf Club to properly sow down the ground where turf removed.

(19) The Golf Club to have the right to remove the lockers in the present Club House.

(20) Golf Club to be relieved of all their obligations under their present Lease.

(21) Access for Racing Syndicate to the present course so as not to interfere with play to be given and arranged not earlier than 30th June.

With regard to finance, it is expected that there will again be a substantial surplus (£259/6/300) of Income over Expenditure for the current year, and it is estimated that at 30th September, 1924, the Club will have Funds in hand amounting to about £900. Adding to this amount the £750 to be received for the present pavilion there would be £1650 towards the cost of a new Club House.

It is not so easy to budget for a new proposition, but an estimate has been made of the normal annual Income and Expenditure for the High Parks Scheme. The estimated income is based on the present number of members only (although Mr. Braid stated that the High Parks Course could carry a larger number), and no income is included from sources other than the present. Provision of £100 has been made in the Estimated Expenditure for interest and redemption of loan which would be required for balance of the cost of new Club House. The estimate even on the above basis shows a small surplus of Income over Expenditure.

THE COUNCIL HAVING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE TWO SCHEMES ARE OF OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CLUB TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE HIGH PARKS SCHEME. AND RECOMMEND ACCORDINGLY.

NOTICE.

1. The plans of the alternative Golf Courses as laid out by Braid are exhibited in the Club House and Members are invited to inspect same.

2. Through the courtesy of Mr. Foulis, Estate Factor, Members wishing to visit the site of the course in the High Parks can do so on 2nd, 4th and 7th June between the hours of 4 and 9 o'clock p.m. on exhibiting their membership cards at the entrance gate.

3. An Admission Card to the Special Meeting of Members is enclosed. Please exhibit same on entering the hall.

Report from the Club's Council to the members presenting the two schemes for the Low and High Parks, recommending the move to the latter

14th April 1924

The Committee,
Hamilton Golf Club

Gentlemen,

Having accepted your invitation to visit High Parks and report on the suitability thereof for a golf course, I did so on the 10th April, 1924, and consider there are great possibilities. The situation is splendid, and the air more invigorating than your present course therefore the playing of the game will be more enjoyable, the subsoil with the exception of two holes is much lighter, consequently the game can be played in greater comfort, especially during the winter months; and taking everything into consideration I am convinced a superior course to your present one can be made, provided a start can be made shortly. Play should be possible by May 1925. I have planned out a course about 6000 yards which can be easily altered by adjustment of tees. The holes will be divided somewhat as follows: 2 three shot, 5 two shot, 4 drive and iron, 3 drive and mashie, 4 one shot.

- No. 1 Tee where marked, take fence away round paddock, cut down tree marked, green marked, bunkers in front and at green.
- No. 2 Raise tee, level furrows, bunker on left for pull, ditto in face of hill, and at green which will probably require building up.
- No. 3 Short hole bunkers practically all round.
- No. 4 Furrows beginning 140 yards from tee require to be levelled up 45 yards wide, bunkers to be made and green near as possible natural contour.
- No. 5 Tee marked, bunkers to be made, furrows in front of green to be levelled.
- No. 6 Tee marked, line of play slightly dog-leg, bunkers in face of hills and at green.
- No. 7 Tee marked, furrows at green levelled and bunkers made.
- No. 8 Tee marked, ground to be made good from 150 yards, 45 yards wide, draining required and green built up.
- No. 9 Tee and green marked, draining required, green well bunkered.
- No. 10 Tee marked, draining in front of tee required, ground to be made good beyond 130 yards from tee, 45 yards wide, bunkers etc. required.
- No. 11 Tee and green marked, end of spinney to be rounded off 23 yards at south to nothing at north side.
- No. 12 Tee marked, green will require to be built up at back and bunkered.
- No. 13 Tee and green marked, line of play slightly dog-leg, swamp to be left and furrows levelled.
- No. 14 Furrows to be levelled and bunkers to be made in face of hill near green.



- No.15 Cut down four trees taking out roots of two, green nearly natural, contour bunkers.
- No.16 Cut down one tree, level furrows, form green and bunker.
- No.17 Slight dog-leg, level furrows, bunker.
- No.18 Slight dog-leg between trees, bunker green in front and on left.

Braid's report to the Club's Council describing the new course layout

The following month work began on the racecourse and steps were taken to safeguard the Club's interests. However, events at the new course overtook those of the old when in November 1924, at the annual general meeting, the chairman expressed the hope that the new Riccarton course would be open for play by April 1925. At that same meeting the Town Clerk requested that in view of developments at the High Park, the Club should renounce the lease for the old course but very wisely this was refused until arrangements for the new course were nearer to completion.

The new lease was between the Club and Hamilton Town Council, but in 1931, after discussions with the Town Clerk, the secretary reported that there was no objection to the Club approaching the Duke of Hamilton's trustees to arrange a direct let. After further meetings and discussions lasting into 1932, a new lease was agreed and it was recommended that the sum of £118 16s 2d be paid to the Town Council for renunciation of their interest.

The first lease on the new course was due to expire in 1952 and in 1946 the secretary was asked to contact the Duke's factor to discuss the question of renewal or purchase. Mr Leech, the factor, felt sure there would be no problem renewing the lease but he thought it was unlikely that the estate would sell. This proved to be the case, and in addition the new rent represented a significant increase over previous years. The sum of £500 per annum was the figure, or £480 if the Club granted the estate grazing rights. In final talks with the new factor, Mr McDonald, the Club agreed to pay £500.

In the early days of 1925 over 3000 yards of drainage were put down, including 800 for the greens. Although it was clear that more was needed, it was very difficult to obtain tiles at that time. As the contractor neared the end of his task at the new course, Braid examined the results and, after reports from Braid and Donaldson, it was decided that the new course would be open for play on



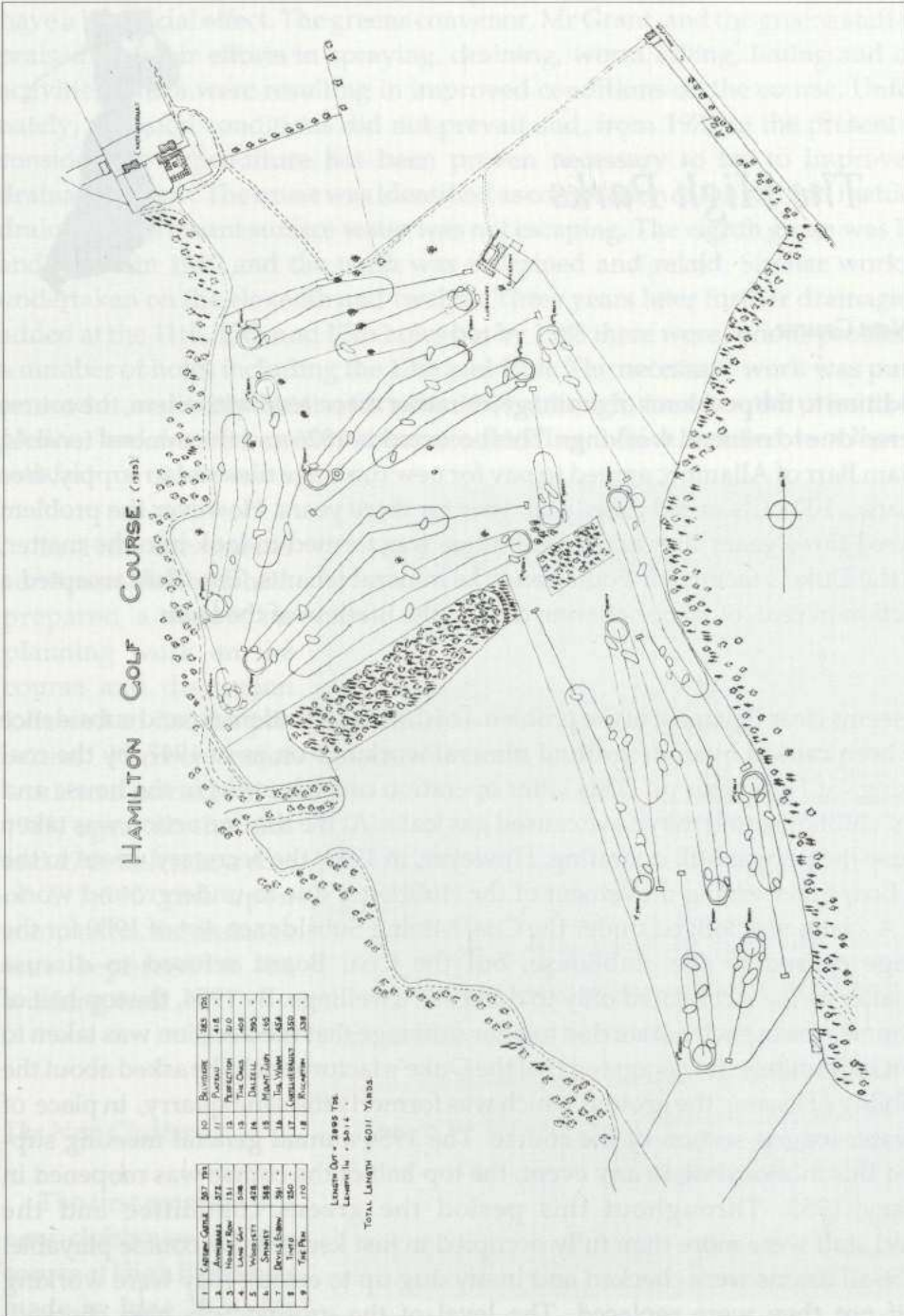
Saturday 4th April 1925. Entry to the course was gained on 27th February, and on the 28th the old lease was renounced and permission was given for the council to demolish the clubhouse at the racecourse. While the majority of the furniture and furnishings were temporarily stored, a stable and toolhouse were moved to Riccarton.

Upon reflection, it is remarkable to see that the current course layout has changed only marginally from that designed by Braid in 1925. Minor modifications were made subsequently to lengthen the course by almost 300 yards but the holes as shown on the illustration are those used today. Measurement of the course was arranged in April, and after consultation with the Golf Union regarding rules and guidelines, Mr Allison of the Town Clerk's office undertook the task. Holes in the outward half reached 2995 yards, and with 3016 yards for the inward half the total was 6011 yards. At this time the rule for out of bounds at holes one to four was laid down. This was in the interests of pheasant rearing carried out by the shooting tenant along these holes.

The holes are named as follows-again these have remained the same since the construction of the course.

<i>Hole</i>	<i>Length</i>		<i>Hole</i>	<i>Length</i>	
	1925	1992		1925	1992
1 Cadzow Castle	357	355	10 Belvidere	285	311
2 Avonbraes	372	368	11 Plateau	418	420
3 Hoolet Row	131	134	12 Perfection	210	220
4 Lang Gait	508	506	13 The Oaks	405	439
5 Woodyett	428	480	14 Dalzell	393	405
6 Spinney	388	407	15 Mount Zion	165	164
7 Devil's Elbow	391	426	16 The Wham	454	470
8 Tinto	250	298	17 Chatelherault	350	356
9 The Pen	170	175	18 Riccarton	338	347





The High Parks course layout, as designed by Braid in 1925



3 *The High Parks*



The New Course

In addition to the problems of drainage, or rather associated with them, the course suffered due to mineral workings. This occurred in 1926 and the mineral tenants, William Barr of Allanton, agreed to pay for new drainage tiles and to supply, free of charge, 100 carts of red ashes each year for three years. However the problem recurred three years later and a committee was formed to look into the matter, with the Duke's factor, Mr Foulis, and the mineral tenants. The Club accepted a reduction in rent, of £5 per annum, during the lifetime of the lease.

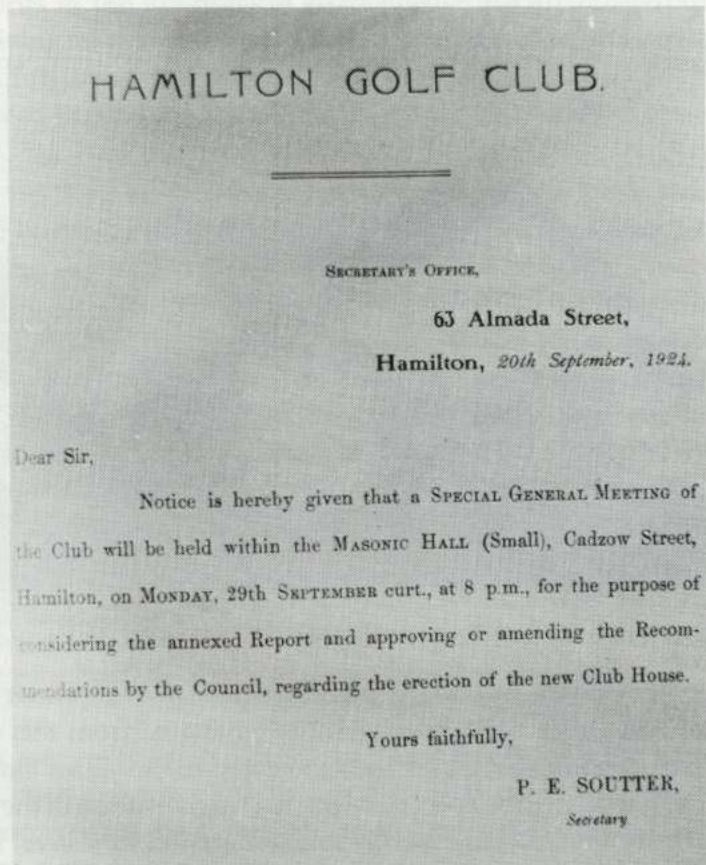
It seems clear that most of the problems of drainage, settlement and subsidence have been caused by underground mineral workings or, as in 1947, by the coal workings at Ferniegair pit. This latter operation caused cracks in the house and ladies' clubhouse and may have caused gas leaks. At the time no action was taken because the pit was still operating. However, in 1951, the secretary wrote to the Coal Board concerning movement of the clubhouse due to underground workings. A claim was lodged under the Coal Mining Subsidence Act of 1950 for the damage caused to the clubhouse, but the Coal Board refused to discuss the matter as the Act related only to domestic dwellings. By 1954, the top half of the course was in such a state due to poor drainage that the decision was taken to close it indefinitely. It was agreed that the Duke's factor should be asked about the possibility of leasing the ground which was formerly the sand quarry, in place of the water-logged section of the course. The 1954 annual general meeting supported this motion, but, in any event, the top half of the course was reopened in January 1955. Throughout this period the greens committee and the ground staff were more than fully occupied in just keeping the course playable. In 1956 all drains were checked and many dug up to ensure they were working and if not they were replaced. The level of the ground was also checked, particularly at the tenth and eleventh holes to ensure a clear run-off into the drains.

By 1960 the extensive corrective and preventative measures were beginning to have a beneficial effect. The greens convenor, Mr Grant, and the greens staff were praised for their efforts in spraying, draining, worm killing, liming and other activities which were resulting in improved conditions on the course. Unfortunately, the good conditions did not prevail and, from 1979 to the present day, considerable expenditure has been proven necessary to try to improve the drainage system. The cause was identified as compaction of the soil and inefficient drains, which meant surface water was not escaping. The eighth green was lifted and relaid in 1980 and the tenth was redrained and relaid. Similar work was undertaken on the eleventh and twelfth. Three years later further drainage was added at the 11th, 13th and 17th holes but by 1988 there were serious problems at a number of holes including the 13th and 17th. The necessary work was put to a contractor and completed in October 1988 although, two months prior to completion, bad weather caused extensive flooding, which resulted in a less than satisfactory outcome.

In 1989 the greens convenor, Mr Campbell, prepared a report on planning work on the course and discussion followed to list the priorities. Further major work was carried out in 1989, again on the 13th and 17th holes, at a cost of £11,000 and upon completion, the drainage was reported to be working well.

The New Clubhouse

The first mention of a new clubhouse for the course at High Parks was made in June 1924. Mr Lochhead submitted



Notice of a special general meeting held in September 1924 to discuss the construction of the new Clubhouse



plans accompanied by two estimates of £2500 and £3000. A committee was formed to deal with all aspects of this work and the Club secretary was requested to obtain the plans of Western Golf Clubhouse. Special meetings and referrals to the architects followed and by December 1924, tenders for the new clubhouse appeared in the minutes. A number of suggestions were made as to how construction of the clubhouse might be financed. These included a levy, a bank overdraft or loans from members-nothing changes ! Increases in membership, entry money and annual subscriptions were adopted to repay the capital.

Although the architects reported that the clubhouse could open towards the end of June, it was decided that the opening should be in September. In the intervening months attention turned to the more mundane aspects of proceedings:- gas supply, various items of joinery, and lockers. Most of the trappings of modern day life were acquired with the installation of the telephone in October, and provision for car parking early in 1926!



The new Clubhouse upon opening in September 1925

By the late 1920's lady members formed one quarter of the total membership of 700. Quite vociferous pressure emanated from this quarter, with the aim of securing improvements and extensions to the ladies' clubhouse. Earlier attempts to gain sitting room accommodation had resulted in the provision of a shoerack-hardly fair recompense! In 1932 a decision to shelve, if only temporarily, any improvements was not well received. However, by 1935 plans were prepared for an extension, and the ladies agreed to help meet the cost of building and upkeep



through increased subscriptions-on condition that the improvements were made. In 1936 increases in subscriptions for all members were suggested by the finance committee to fund the extension and the cost of laying on water to the greens. The rates agreed were £2 15s for gents and £1 7s 6d for the ladies. The extension included a "sun parlour" and by 1937 it was finished and a grant of £50 was made available for furnishings-16 wicker chairs, 5 glass-topped tables, carpet and linoleum!

Also at this time, first consideration was given to installing the "electric light" in the clubhouse. However, the quote supplied by the Clyde Valley Company was too high and the matter was dropped. A further attempt was made in 1945 but the cost of underground cables to the clubhouse, £250, was again deemed too high. Eventually a very satisfactory solution was found when the South of Scotland Electricity Board agreed to let the total cost of £350 be spread over 5 years with the Club's electricity accounts in the intervening period being deducted from the capital sum. After obtaining an estimate for the installation of wiring and power points throughout the Club property, the decision was taken to go ahead. To the estate's credit, they agreed to fund the installation up to the clubhouse.

From the mid to late 1950's right up to the present, there have been plans afoot to improve, extend and refurbish the clubhouse. In 1956 the task was relatively modest, comprising redecoration and installation of an oil-fired boiler. Alterations to the kitchen were made in 1959 to comply with new legislation but by 1961/2 several plans were under consideration for extension of the clubhouse. The most favoured project involved an extension towards the first tee to provide a new dining room and ladies' toilets; in addition the committee debated whether to enclose the verandah, thus incorporating it into the lounge. The likely cost was judged to be in the region of £4000 but at a special meeting in September 1962 it was decided not to proceed although the annual general meeting of 1964 agreed in principle to an extension. At a further special meeting in May 1965, approval was given for an extension as described-a new dining room, toilets and also kitchen alterations. The probable cost of £5500 was to be met by £2000 taken from funds with the balance generated by a levy of £3 per head for two years.

Further minor work was undertaken in 1967 and 1969 but in 1973 the house committee deliberated upon extensive changes to the clubhouse, including enlarging the lounge to incorporate the verandah. In addition, plans were laid to build a flat, wash rooms, a committee room and other facilities in a two or three storey block. The provision of a flat was subsequently dropped, and Mr Stuart



Clink, the Club's architect, prepared plans. At the annual general meeting of 1973 and a special general meeting in 1974 the captain presented the plan to the members. The cost was estimated at £55,000; it was hoped to finance this in part by a loan from Tennent Caledonian but the anticipated £20,000 to £25,000 became in reality only £10,000. In 1973 it had been decided to set aside income from the fruit machines specifically for clubhouse improvements, hence monies from this source and from existing funds left a remainder which was generated by a levy of £40 on all senior male members. After a vote the whole proposal was carried although only by a modest, if comfortable, majority. Ultimately the clubhouse was completed but largely due to the personal contributions in kind of several members, namely John Christie, Alan Daly, Tom Davidson and Gordon Wylie.

The opening of the new clubhouse was set for June 21st 1975 and the ceremony was performed by the Duchess of Hamilton. Of course the event coincided with the Club's fiftieth year at Riccarton and at the same time a presentation was made to Duncan Bell for his long service to the Club. Throughout his many years with the Club, Duncan Bell was a member of Council for over thirty years. During this time he served as match secretary from 1944 until 1973 and was captain between 1954 and 1956. He was also the first president of the Lanarkshire Golf Association in 1953.



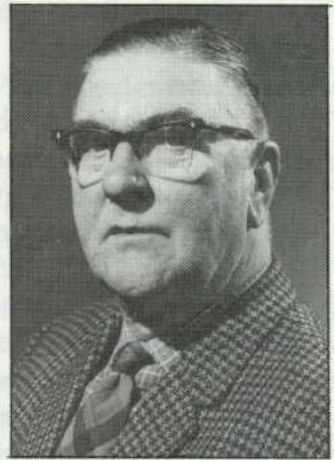
The opening ceremony for the Clubhouse extension, performed by the Duchess of Hamilton, 1975





The new Clubhouse extension, opened officially in June 1975

In 1987 upgrading work was undertaken in the lounge, dining room and bar areas when the major change was the lowering of the ceiling. This was all part of a plan instigated in 1984, to refurbish and improve both buildings and course at a cost estimated then at £150,000. This total included provision for a new house and shed for equipment and implements. The astute financial management of the Club was apparent when in 1987 the finance convenor, Mr McKinlay, reported a surplus of over £6000 on the two Club accounts. This was considered particularly satisfactory, bearing in mind the levels of expenditure embarked upon, and at a time when other Clubs were not reporting such good results. The most recent addition to the Club's facilities is a new implement building with staff accommodation costing £60,000 which is now completed.



Duncan Bell



4 *Membership: Rules and Fees*

At the annual general meeting of 1900, it was confirmed that the Club rules would be printed for the first time. It was also proposed at the same meeting that the Club adopt the new St Andrews Rules of Golf. The first reference to Club rules and constitution was made some years earlier in the inaugural minutes but several unrecorded meetings had been held prior to this point to establish the details. Subsequently, the rules were updated at irregular intervals to account for changes in, for example, the number of visitors accompanying members to the Club and the associated fees.

At this time (1900), Club membership was healthy, reaching 200, and this figure was boosted by amalgamation with Motherwell Golf Club in 1904. In 1905, due to a large and rapidly growing membership, it was proposed that numbers be restricted and the entry fee increased from two to three guineas. However, this was rejected at a special general meeting in May.

In the same year, it was decided that members of the theatrical profession should not be allowed free use of the course, but should be permitted to play on the same terms as strangers. A little later, in 1911, some members complained that theatrical players were being brought to the course to play free of charge, which was a breach of the rules. However, the point was made that if 3 or 4 guineas was paid, members could bring in as many theatrical friends as they wished!

Early in 1906, when membership had reached 380, the rules were laid down for lady and junior members. By the end of the First World War, ladies accounted for approximately one third of the membership, 154 out of a total 503, and come 1921 were represented on council. Indeed, by June 1919, membership was increasing so quickly that consideration was given to closing entry. It was agreed to admit members until the gents' figure, then 349, reached 400. To accommodate the extra demand for



storage, 60 new lockers were ordered from the joiner at a cost of 12 shillings each. The decision to close membership was implemented in October pending the annual general meeting, and in the meantime a waiting list was started. A long waiting list formed over the next 12 to 18 months, and shortly after the annual general meeting of 1921, rules were set out for temporary members. The distinction between full and temporary membership was first made in 1915 when 500 badges were ordered, at a cost of 15s 6d, for temporary members using the course. However, at the time of moving to the new course at Riccarton, the membership had grown to 418 gents, 159 ladies, 79 juniors and 22 honorary and life members. In 1928, with total membership standing at 683 (and ladies at 176) it was decided to limit the number of lady members to 180.

At the annual general meeting in February 1920, ex-Provost Moffatt was appointed the first life member of the Club, and in 1924 Dr J.Hume Patterson was made the first honorary life member, in recognition of his service as Club captain between 1918 and 1924. The special category of extraordinary membership was introduced in 1952/3 for older members of long standing.

After the Second World War, membership stood at 477, a considerable reduction on the figures of a decade or so earlier. Although estimates showed that for 1947 expenditure would exceed income, the motion to increase the subscription from £2 15s to £4 was defeated. It is perhaps worth noting that in 1938 the ladies' membership stood at 198, at which point the list was closed.

The membership is of course the primary source of funding for the Club and on many occasions has been asked to pay levies to assist with extensions or work on the course. In addition to increasing fees, numbers could also be increased if there was the capacity. This happened in 1949 when the senior membership was increased from 400 to 440 to provide extra income to meet ever-rising costs. By 1951 the subscriptions were: gents £5 10s, ladies £3, juniors £1 5s and family tickets £7. With the continuing expenditure on the clubhouse, the course and staff wages, further increases were approved in 1963 to 11 guineas for gents and £5 10s for ladies.

Almost twenty years later, in 1980, it was agreed to extend membership to 490 for seniors, and 130 for ladies and one year later the full annual subscription was increased to £92 plus VAT. By 1989 the sum was £226.50 including VAT. In 1988, for the first time since the Club was founded, it became necessary to consider reducing the membership. The primary reason for this was to reduce wear and tear on the course caused by an increase in the number of active playing members.



In the following year no new members were admitted, save for those naturally entering from the juniors. Also in 1989 it was agreed that any member over 65 years of age who had been a full member for 40 years or more should be granted life membership, with full voting and playing rights. This was subsequently accepted at the 1990 annual general meeting although it was stipulated that eligible members should apply for such membership. The subscription for senior members now stands at £297.50 including VAT.

Currently the oldest member of the Club is Mr William Richardson, who is in his 93rd year, and is still an active member after 70 years' membership, having joined the Club in 1922/23 following junior membership of a club in Fife. Mr Tom Steven joined the Club as a junior member in 1918/19 and accordingly has been a member for 74 years. He will be 90 years of age in July 1992 and is still to be seen regularly playing on the course.

Sunday golf

A topic of longstanding debate, Sunday golf, was first mooted in 1904 shortly after the merger with Motherwell Golf Club. Perhaps it is and was no surprise that this first attempt proved unsuccessful. Despite this lack of success, it was noted in 1905 that, contrary to regulations, some members were still playing on a Sunday. The committee took a very dim view of this activity and asked the green-keeper to notify them of anyone flouting the rules.

Little reference is made to the topic thereafter but by 1957 Sunday golf was incorporated into the general subscription. However, there is record of a motion, made in November 1940, to be put to the next annual general meeting and it may well be that this indicates when Sunday golf was first permitted.

5th November 1940.
Tuesday.

The Secretary,
Hamilton Golf Club,
63, Alameda Street,
Hamilton.

Dear Sir,

We hereby give notice that the following motion will be made at the next Annual General Meeting of the Hamilton Golf Club:-

"That a ballot of the Members of the Hamilton Golf Club be taken on the question of Sunday Golf at Hamilton and, if necessary, the Golf Council take steps to have the terms of the lease revised."

Signed. *David Jardine* "Proposer"
Thomas S. Macfarlane "Seconder".

Notice of a motion from the members for Sunday golf, to be put to the 1940 annual general meeting



5 *The Purchase of the Riccarton Course*

The question of buying the course was raised initially by Mr Smellie at the 1925 annual general meeting. No further mention was made until 1934, but at that time the Duke of Hamilton was not prepared to consider selling. Three decades later an approach was again made to the Duke. The proposal was to purchase the land at an agricultural rate on condition that the ground was used for no other purpose. The corollary to this was that should the golf Club cease to exist, the ground would revert to the Duke's ownership, at the price paid originally. Unfortunately, the Duke once again refused to sell. However, in that same year-1964- a meeting was arranged to discuss extending the lease. In 1968, a 50 year lease was agreed, providing security for the Club.

After a further lapse of 10 years, the matter was brought before the committee by the joint secretary, P.E.Soutter. Having spoken at length with the Duke's factor, it transpired that Hamilton Estates now wished to sell the course. It was noted at this point that successive Dukes of Hamilton, who had been both the Club's Patron and landlord, had always treated the Club very fairly. The rents paid over the years had been very reasonable and successive factors had been most accommodating. Mr McDonald, the factor at that time, was no exception and he had proven himself a good friend of the Club.

For the purposes of selling, the course was to include the land within the present boundaries and also the strip of ground to the right of the fourth hole and all the timber growing on the course, the latter to be valued separately. The Club regarded this as satisfactory and the secretary notified all members of developments via a circular sent out with the fixture card. Two sub-committees were formed to handle the transaction. The first, which comprised Messrs Daly, Wylie, Christie and joint secretary P.E.Soutter, was to deal with what might constitute a reasonable price. The task of deciding how the funds might be raised was left to the second



team: Messrs Alexander, McLaughlan, Fleming, Miller and P.E.Soutter. Very shortly after, the Club was approached by Hamilton Estates and a meeting arranged between the factor and the committee. After negotiations lasting through several meetings, a price of £115,000 was finally agreed in May, 1978. However, it was suggested that the Club should also purchase the timber in the wood between the fifth and eleventh holes in preference to the estate removing it. At a special meeting of members early in June, the proposals were approved. Subsequent valuations of the timber and ground to the right of the fourth fairway, and the timber between the fifth and eleventh greens, produced figures of £3920 for timber and £1275 for the additional ground. These figures were accepted and the final price thus became £120,195. By August the legal requirements for completion of the purchase had been concluded and all the papers were ready for signature. Thus, some fifty years after the process began, the course became the property of the Club!

PES/IG

PERSONAL

7th December, 1978

A.D.L. McDonald, Esq.,
Hamilton & Kinneil Estates Ltd.,
Auchingramont Road,
Hamilton

Dear Mr. McDonald,

Now that the purchase of the course has been completed, I am writing on behalf of the Council and members of the Hamilton Golf Club to thank you and your staff for all the co-operation that the Club has had over the years, and the very friendly relationship which has existed between the Landlord and Tenant. Will you please convey to His Grace the Duke and her Grace the Duchess, the Club's thanks for the consideration shown to it by them and their predecessors since the Club was founded in 1892. They can rest assured that the Club consider themselves as Trustees for this very beautiful part of Hamilton and will always care for it and use it in such a way as would be approved by them.

May I add my personal thanks to you and Mr. Brown for all the assistance that you have given in the past and during the recent negotiations.

Kind regards,
Yours sincerely

P. E Soutter



Hamilton and Kinneil Estates Limited

Directors :

The Duke of Hamilton, K.St.J., B.A.
The Duchess of Hamilton.
Elizabeth, Duchess of Hamilton.
Sir Ian F.C. Bolton, Bt., K.B.E., LL.D., C.A.
John M. Brown.
John Taylor, C.A. (Secretary 6, St. Colme Street,
Edinburgh, EH3 6AD)

Commissioner :

A.D.L. McDonald, F.R.I.C.S.
Factor, West of Scotland :
H.R. Brown, A.R.I.C.S.
Factor, East of Scotland :
A.S. Chalmers, F.R.I.C.S.

Telephone : General Office 285060
Commissioner and Factor (West) 285060

Hamilton Estates Office.
18 Auchingrampart Road.
Hamilton. ML3 6JZ.

13 DEC 1978

11th December, 1978.

ADLM/MAC

P. E. Soutter, Esq.,
Joint Secretary,
Hamilton Golf Club,
63 Almada Street,
HAMILTON.

Dear Mr. Soutter,

Thank you for your letter of 7th December, 1978, which is much appreciated and a copy of which will be placed before the first H. & K. Board Meeting in January next. It has always been a pleasure to negotiate with you and the Council re the development and improvement of the Course. Indeed, rather than regard our association as one of landlord and tenant, it has virtually been a partnership with, consequently, a very great improvement in the Course during the last thirty years. This year I don't think I have ever seen it looking better so that it is a great pleasure for the Duke, and those other people on the Estate representing him, to know that the Members have been able to buy it and that it is in first class hands for the future.

My personal thanks to everyone on your side for being so helpful and understanding in our many discussions during the last three decades.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner.

Reply from Mr McDonald, for Hamilton and Kinneil Estates, reciprocating Mr Soutter's good wishes. These letters illustrate the tremendous rapport developed between Club and Estate over the years.

(Opposite) Letter from Mr Soutter on behalf of the Club, and after the purchase of the course, thanking the Estate for the help shown over the years



6 *Modifications to the Course*

In its early days at the High Parks the course was already considered as one of the best in the West of Scotland. A facility which became available to Hamilton and other golf clubs in 1929 was that of the Bingley Research Station, a small estate in England acquired to enable the Golf Union to determine the best methods of keeping greens and fairways in their optimum possible condition. In 1930 Mr Bennett, the Club's representative to the Western District Council, visited Bingley and the following year Dr Evans came from Bingley to see the course and report upon it.

Proposed alterations to the 8th and 9th holes in 1931 had to be shelved due to the cost but there was general dissatisfaction with these holes and in 1934 it was agreed to approach James Braid to gain his advice. In all, Braid discussed the 5th to 9th and 13th holes. Throughout this period there is reference to the acquisition of more ground to extend the course, both to improve the playing facilities and to accommodate greater numbers. Late in 1935, Mr Foulis, the Duke's factor, wrote to the committee stating that ground to the south and east might be available. While Mr Foulis proceeded to draw up a lease, the Club sought Braid's advice on the proposal. At about the same time, watering of the greens is first mentioned. The 12th, 15th and 18th greens were watered at a cost of 50s per green for 9 days. The Club was loaned sufficient hose by a member! However, in the following year, an estimate was obtained for provision of water supply to the greens. After a full report from the County Water Engineer, it was decided to take supply from the mains in the Carlisle Road. The cost was approximately £450 and the installation went ahead but by 1937 there were problems with poor water pressure on the top side of the course. Although Mr McMillan, the water engineer, was consulted, it seems that he had no suggestions to make nor advice to offer!



As the years passed, mention would still be made regarding acquisition of further ground, and in 1946 it was proposed to have a turf nursery behind the sixth green. The course seems to have been grazed by cattle, but especially sheep, for most of its history. This inevitably resulted in problems with posts used to fence off greens being broken by cattle, and sheep grazing areas of the course which required treatment with weedkiller. On many occasions the greens staff hand weeded greens but in 1948, when the fairways were suffering badly from weeds, the committee selected a preparation called Verdone for application by machine. In addition, members (or volunteers!) were asked to spread sulphate of ammonia by hand. Incidentally, in 1933 when the Club was given 10 cwt of this chemical, "female labour" was "employed to spread same." Indeed, as far back as 1916 the efficiency of female labour was recognised by the committee when a female labourer was employed for a weekly wage of 15s and "*proved to be the most satisfactory*"!

Reports were still being sought from Bingley, and soil samples sent for analysis. They were also asked for their recommendations on the proposed shortening of the sixth and fourteenth holes. In addition to Bingley, whose advice was usually implemented, the greens committee also commissioned a report from Mr McKenzie Ross, a course architect. In 1951, first mention was made of the preparation of winter greens. As mentioned elsewhere, drainage caused problems almost every year, and playing in the early 1950's seems to have been badly affected. Also in 1951, it was agreed that the whole course should be used as a practice ground subject to all shots being played from the rough or semi-rough onto the course. Prior to this the section of the course between the 12th and 15th holes had been set aside for this purpose after an unsuccessful attempt to obtain the ground on the site of the old sand quarry. The greens were excluded from this arrangement and in 1951 it was therefore decided to choose a site for a practice putting green at the Clubhouse. As late as 1956, a practice area including a green and bunkers between the 14th and 16th holes was under consideration. It was confirmed two years later and is still in use.

Daisies were also presenting serious problems, so much so that the members were once again called upon to "weed as they played". In this instance small containers of daisy killer were made available to members for application during play. However, the Club received an offer from Boots to treat one fairway free of charge with Cornox. The thirteenth fairway was much improved and the decision was taken to purchase a sprayer to treat the whole course.



Mr Grant, the greens committee convenor, put in considerable effort to improve the course and in 1960 instigated a plan of tree planting. Thus began the evolution of the whole course from one with an open aspect to one which is now substantially wooded and treelined. Initially attention was paid to the areas around the 5th, 6th, 9th and 12th holes. Hamilton Estates made a generous gesture in this respect, by offering to plant 1000 trees free of charge in those sites requested by the Club. The annual general meeting of December 1960 approved the final plan and, save for subsequent supplementary planting, the present configuration of trees reflects the original planting. Planting continued over the years and in 1966 the Estate offered more mature trees from the plantation at the periphery of the course. Also in that year a new fifteenth green, known to some as Grant's Folly, was opened on a one year trial. However, by 1971 this green was abandoned and the old 15th was used again.

The provision of a new practice ground was raised in 1971 when Hamilton Estates offered the Club ground to the right of the first tee. The ground came into use in April 1972 but was discontinued shortly thereafter because the farmer's cattle showed an appetite for the practice balls ! In 1984, a 16 acre field adjoining the 12th hole was offered for sale and the Club decided to acquire it at a cost of £21,000.

Although the research station at Bingley had, over the years, provided advice and assistance of benefit to the Club, it was decided in 1977 that their services were no longer required on the matter of greens. It appears that their reports had become repetitive. However, after a gap of eleven years the Club consulted Bingley once more and sought a written report on the course. The report was considered helpful and constructive and it supported the work of the green staff, especially over the previous few years in trying to change the types of grass grown.

Many years after the installation of water to the greens, a pump was purchased to maintain pressure to the various parts of the course. Subsequent testing of the water pressure at the 9th and 18th holes showed the pressure to be constant. The possibility of improving the system with pop-up sprinklers was discussed in 1971 but the cost of £5000 was considered prohibitive. However, when the cost had risen to £28,500 in 1980, the proposal to proceed was passed unanimously at a special meeting of members. Because of this installation it was noted that the size of the greens would have to remain fixed, and the committee discussed this aspect with the greens convenor and greens committee. The system was installed by January 1981 and the accompanying electrical systems were completed for the new playing season.



7 *Greenkeepers, Professionals and Club Masters*

Since the outset the greenkeeper has been an important member of the support staff for the Club. All matters pertaining to the course and its good condition fell within his remit and he faced (and in some instances still faces) the recurring problems of poor drainage, damage caused by a variety of animals which over the years has included both wild and domestic varieties (currently badgers), and the attentions of unwanted people whether in the guise of "illegal" Sunday players or the Ministry of Agriculture attempting to plough the course during the Second World War!

After almost ten years with the Club, the first greenkeeper, Mr Nisbett, was discharged in 1901. The Club advertised the post in the Glasgow Herald and Scotsman, and in March, Matthew Pringle was appointed. Even in these early days there were problems with staff and in 1903 Pringle revealed that he had been offered a new position at Renfrew Golf Club. To retain his services the committee were authorised to offer a rise of three shillings, bringing his weekly wage to 23 shillings. Pringle accepted the new terms and stayed, but by 1905 had been replaced by Mr McEwan. The tasks falling to the greenkeeper were obviously becoming somewhat onerous because in 1906 an assistant greenkeeper was appointed. In 1907 he was earning 22 shillings per week, 5 shillings less than the head greenkeeper.

A passing fixture, the Greenkeepers' Day, was instigated in June 1921 when it raised £22 for the staff. However, it was very shortlived and by December the following year had been dropped. At the annual general meeting of 1923 the greens staff, and especially Mr Donaldson, who was appointed greenkeeper in 1919, received praise for the excellent state of the course. Mr Donaldson saw the Club make the move from the

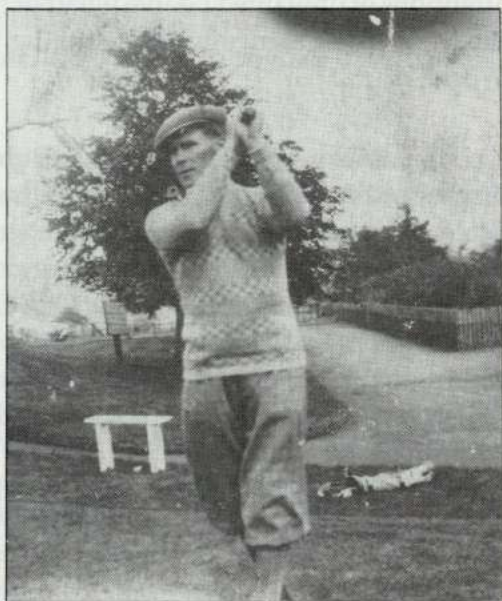


Low Parks to Riccarton, and particularly in the preparative stages was instrumental in attending to the laying of drainage and the general improvement of the course.

The question of appointing a professional was first raised in 1906. This was prompted by a letter from David Herd of St Andrews requesting permission to give golfing lessons on the course in return for a wage. Although the Club allowed the lessons, no wage was provided. One year later John Riddle of Musselburgh asked to be professional club maker at Hamilton, but a decision was postponed until the committee had consulted with other clubs who had already set terms for professionals. After visits to Erskine, Cardross and Pollok Clubs it was decided not to proceed. Some five years later, in October 1912, Mr Walker was appointed professional although his stay was a short one, ending in his resignation a little over two years later. At much the same time, January 1915, Mr Pringle also left his greenkeeper's post to go to Falkirk Golf Club.

*Greenkeeper and later Club professional,
A.A. Donaldson pictured here in 1937*

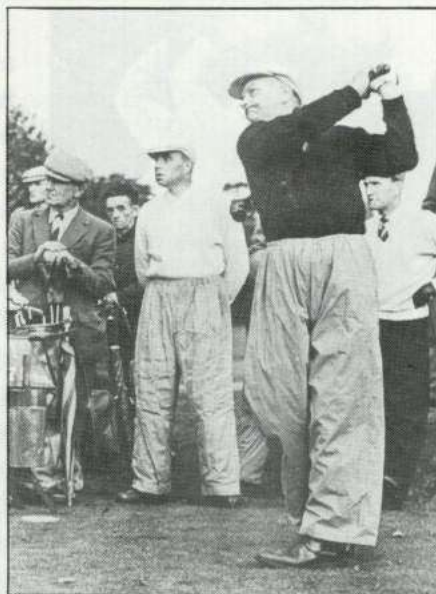
William McEwan replaced Pringle as greenkeeper and in addition to a wage of 35 shillings for man and wife and free accommodation and gas, also kept the profit from the sale of teas, balls and clubs! When Mr Donaldson came to the Club in 1919, eminently qualified after experience at East Kilbride, Cathcart Castle and Lundin Links, Mr McEwan unfortunately refused to move out of the house! Mr Donaldson's assistant at East Kilbride, Mr Morrison, also made the move to Hamilton but due to the problem of accommodation both greenkeepers had to cycle from East Kilbride! In reparation, the Club paid Donaldson's rent in



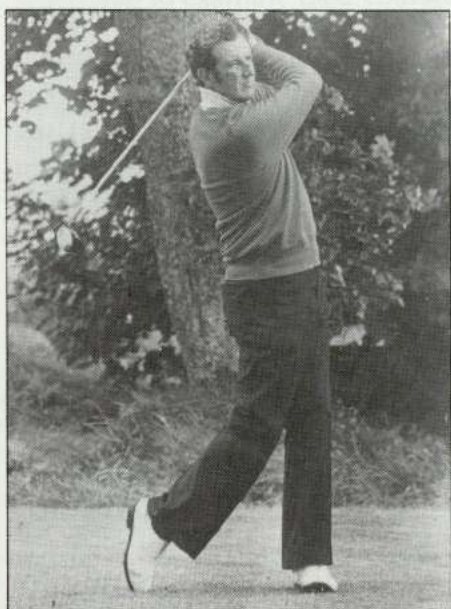
East Kilbride and the hire of the two bicycles! A number of greenkeepers were employed by the Club over the years up to the Second World War, and in January 1939 Mr Lawson became professional and greenkeeper, replacing Donaldson, whose appointment had been terminated the previous January. Mr Lawson was working shifts in industry but it was agreed to pay him 30 shillings per week for whatever services he could give to the Club.



Thereafter the posts of greenkeeper and professional remained linked in one way or another, and in 1939 it was decided to create a professional shop from the outhouses. Interestingly, this remains the shop and workshop to this day. The departure of Mr Lawson, and also his successor Mr Hall, was marked in 1949 by the decision to create the posts of Club master/professional and Club mistress in addition to the head greenkeeper and his assistants. Mr Lawson returned to the Club in 1950 as Club master and professional, with his wife as Club mistress. Also in that year Mr Robert Orr was confirmed as head greenkeeper, having started with the Club in 1927.



Jimmy Lawson, Club Master and Professional in 1950



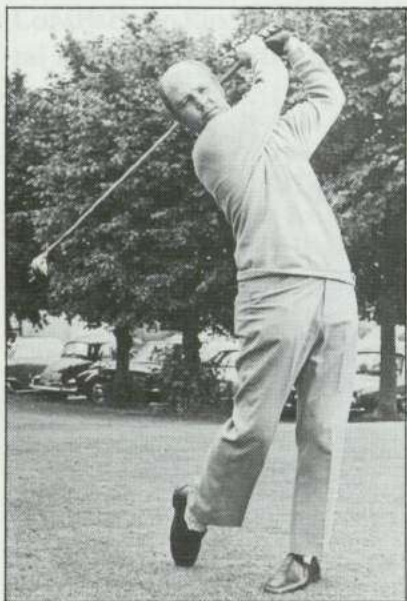
David Huish

The Greenkeepers' Day, which was dropped from the list of events in 1922, was resurrected in 1953 as the Greens Staff Benefit day. On this occasion £32 was raised and record is made of the event in later years.

Mr and Mrs Lawson remained in their jobs until 1961 when they intimated that the work was becoming too much for them. Mr Lawson requested that he stay on as professional but after discussing the matter the members decided that they would prefer a younger person as professional, appointed separately. Mr Stangoe was appointed in 1962 for an annual retainer of £200, to be succeeded by David Huish in 1966.

After a very short stay, Mr Huish left in February of the following year. In March 1967 he was replaced by Mr Moir, ex Scottish Boys' Champion and former Tasmanian Open Champion, who remains the professional to this day.





Maurice Moir

After the departure of the Lawsons in 1961 and for some years following, the posts of Club master and mistress were occupied by numerous couples, with changes every two or three years. In the mid-1980's after advertising for yet another replacement, it was decided to appoint a manageress responsible for catering, the bar and the general running of the clubhouse. Mrs Rigg was successful, being chosen from 55 applicants. Mrs Rigg departed in 1990 and, following further deliberation, the decision was taken to revert to the old system of a joint appointment-husband and wife. In addition to the combined salary the post attracted free accommodation and the profit from the catering. The current incumbents, Mr and Mrs Grant Scott, were appointed in October 1990 as Club master and Club mistress.

From his appointment as head greenkeeper in 1950, Robert Orr gave a further 25 years of sterling service to the Club and in July 1976 retired after 50 years. The occasion was marked with a social evening and presentation. Mr Johnston, the assistant greenkeeper, was appointed in Mr Orr's stead, until his own retirement in 1985 after 27 years with the Club. Mr Peter Hall then joined the Club, making the move from Pollok Golf Club, and he is still the Head Greenkeeper.



8 *Man against Nature*

To begin with, the first greenkeeper found himself building rather than tending, in the guise of erecting the first clubhouse and, in 1893, contemplating excavating bunkers. The latter task was delayed for at least three years because in May 1896 the committee discussed erecting a "few hurdles" in lieu of bunkers! Some five years later the committee, after further deliberation, decided to experiment with a bunker comprising a turf wall with sand behind. After a further lapse of five years, it was proposed that new bunkers be formed, and a visit was made to Killermont Golf Club to examine their course.

Maintenance of the course clearly became too much for two men with a scythe because, at the annual general meeting in 1897, it was decided to purchase a horse mower, at considerable expense. As the new century began, so did the Club's commitment to labour-saving machinery with the purchase of a turf renovator and green cutter. However, horse power (*sensu stricto*) was used for almost thirty years and the horses, carts and harnesses were finally sold late in 1927 for £35 16s 11d. It would appear, however, that all work requiring a horse was contracted out, and not until 1913 did the committee consider making a purchase. Paradoxically, at about the same time thought was given to the possibility of obtaining a motor mower!

Finding a suitable animal was clearly no easy matter because although the auctioneer, Mr Smellie, recommended a horse and Mr Pollock, the veterinary surgeon, examined the animal, after a trial period it was found to be unsatisfactory and had to be replaced. A harness, second-hand cart and boots were purchased and a man taken on to work the horse. The horse was disposed of just before the First World War and when replaced both man and horse were taken on hire.



The molecatcher has found recurring, if somewhat erratic, employment at Hamilton Golf Club over the years, beginning in 1902 at the rate of £1 per annum. The moles did not differentiate between the old and new courses and caused problems on both sites. Surprisingly, the rate for the job remained the same for decades, and when Walter Watson agreed to the job in 1932 he too was paid an annual fee of £1! During the war rabbits caused a lot of damage, particularly to the first and third greens, and the Duke of Hamilton's factor arranged for the gamekeeper to keep the numbers down. Indeed, during 1947 and 1948 the Estate shot 8000 rabbits in an attempt to at least moderate the problem. A further mention after the Second World War was the last for some time, but in 1971 badgers first appeared and an appeal was made to Hamilton Estates to help rid the Club of this new pest. It was not until 1987 that various pests, including moles, badgers and rabbits reappeared to damage the course. However, special care was now necessary when dealing with the badgers as they had become a protected species.

Various items of equipment and machinery have always been part of the greenkeeper's arsenal in battling against the elements and nature in an attempt to maintain the course in tip-top condition. Over the years such machines have become more sophisticated and more expensive, and yet the basic materials used have remained much the same. Mention is made throughout of the treatment of greens and fairways to eliminate unwelcome flora and fauna, but in the 1920's bonemeal was the fertilizer used while worm-killer was the only pest control adopted. Dealing with weeds on the greens in these days was often left to members through the application of a mixture of iron, sulphate of ammonia and sand, and lime frequently applied to the fairways.

At much the same time, during the first years at the High Parks course, sand was used in the greenside bunkers with red blaze in the fairway bunkers. This was still the practice up to the end of the 1950's. Although blaze required replacement every ten years, compared to every four years for sand, it became increasingly difficult to obtain good blaze and it was decided that sand should be used for all bunkers. At that time 954 tons of sand were required for the whole course!



9 *Through Two World Wars*

Golf has continued at Hamilton through two world wars despite obvious difficulties. In addition numerous members fought in the second war and some unfortunately did not return.

During the 1914-18 war, part of the course had to be given up to aid the war effort but all 18 holes were reopened by February 1920. Only passing mention is made of the war but in minutes recorded in 1916 and 1917 the number of members serving was 50 and 72 respectively. Out of this number six were killed although only two, Lieutenants Keith and Wishart, were named. Inevitably the Club membership fell during the war and this reduced income significantly. To counter this the Club sought, and obtained, a reduction in rent. The estate agreed a reduction of £25 per annum until the declaration of peace. Also, the course was fenced into two, with one half being used for golf and the other for grazing.

At the end of the war the Club was asked by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland and the District Agricultural Committee to make part of the course available for food production. Unfortunately the intervening period between the wars was cruelly short, and by May and June of 1939 the signs were clear. Officers of the barracks with whom the Club had links, the Second Battalion Highland Light Infantry, intimated that they would not be renewing their subscriptions for the coming year. Come September, and the outbreak of war, the Club met to discuss the prevailing situation. The consensus was to continue as before, as far as possible, but competitions were to be suspended and lighting restrictions dealt with at the clubhouse. In May 1940, when 47 Club members were in the services, the Club granted a request from Captain Alexander for use of the course in military manoeuvres.

To minimise the possibility of enemy aircraft landing, posts were placed over parts of the course. After a meeting with the



Scottish Command Officer, the secretary reported that an annual compensation of £5 would be paid under the Compensation Defence Act 1939, with the right to further claims for restoration of the ground and fairways. Also in 1941 the Department of Agriculture contacted the Club asking them to consider ploughing 15 to 20 acres for the production of additional crops. After a meeting in March, it seemed an alternative would be to allow grazing by dairy cattle. Although the current grazing tenant refused to assist in any way, Hamilton Estates office helped the Club fence off the top part of the course and the greens. Access to the top of the course was gained through the Belvedere Plantation, thus avoiding the need to go over the lower part of the course.

Even conflicts such as this present moments of humour, and the presence of both fences and cattle resulted in some changes to the rules of play, as follows:

...a ball lying in or near cow droppings so as to affect play shall be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, without penalty...

The inevitable dearth of commodities was apparent, with lack of petrol for the machines presenting problems. Equally serious, the supply of whisky was limited to only two dozen bottles per month. However, in December 1941, the spectre of the course being ploughed arose again. Pressure from the Board of Agriculture was increasing, and attempts to get neighbouring farmers to plough their land in return for grazing proved unsuccessful. Numerous golf clubs were facing the same dilemma and Hamilton held matters in abeyance until the appeals of other clubs were heard. Further to a letter from the Board, Mr Smellie, the captain, attempted to find a farmer amenable to the idea. Eventually two farmers agreed to the proposal, and arrangements were made regarding finance and fencing.

As a result of the grazing arrangements, which closed holes 5-11, the playing of the course was revised as follows: existing holes 1, 2, 3 and 4; a new hole from the 16th tee to 11th green; existing holes 12-18 inclusive, then replay 1-4, 11 and 12. This resulted in a scratch score of 71 and a total length of 5601 yards.

By 1942, 90 Club members were serving in the forces and sadly casualties were reported over the coming months and years. One of the Club's younger members, William McFarlane, was listed as missing after the RAF raid on the Skoda works. Another airman, H.H. Patrick, was reported killed in action, and between 1942 and the end of the war there were more either killed in action or reported missing.



These included Dr W.H.Black, son of the vice-president, who was killed on D-Day, Alan Thorburn, an older member of the Club, and Robert Hay, while serving in the RAF.

Much of the committee's time at this point was taken up with trying to find material to repair fences and substitutes to treat greens, in addition to the constant problem of obtaining petrol. In 1944 attention was diverted once again to the battle against ploughing the course. The Board of Agriculture wanted an additional 20 to 30 acres and Mr Smellie again coordinated efforts to find farmers who were prepared to plough the additional land. After the farmers agreed to provide the extra 30 acres, the Board decided they wanted 35, but eventually the negotiations were complete. To convince the Board of their good intentions, the farmers had to supply details of the ground normally ploughed and the extra areas proposed. Finally this was deemed acceptable. The Club faced further course damage when in 1944 they received a letter from the Ministry of Fuel and Power raising the possibility of working opencast coal on the eighth green. The committee reserved the Club's right to compensation, a stance supported by the Duke of Hamilton's factor. This presumably went ahead because in August 1948 the Ministry de-requisitioned the land.

Towards the end of 1944, there were signs of the impending close of the war, and the Club was informed by the Scottish Command in Edinburgh that the "anti-aircraft posts" could now be removed. This finally happened in February 1945 and the cost of £18 was charged to the Scottish Command. Also at this time the Club was considering the generation and use of funds for course reconstruction, and a projected surplus of £600 for the coming year would help in this respect. The return of service personnel was seen as a source of members, both new and old, and it was decided not to raise subscriptions, in order to induce new members.

The top part of the course was eventually opened in August 1945 and every effort was made to return the course to its original condition. Of course everyone was affected by rationing for some time to come, a point of irritation for Mrs Hall, the Club mistress, who in 1949 was receiving only a half pound of bacon for the Club's use! Whisky was still being rationed, as was coal, and by early 1950 the Club's supply of coal had run out. The last annual general meeting of the war was held in December 1945, and already some social events were being arranged to help return life to some semblance of normality.



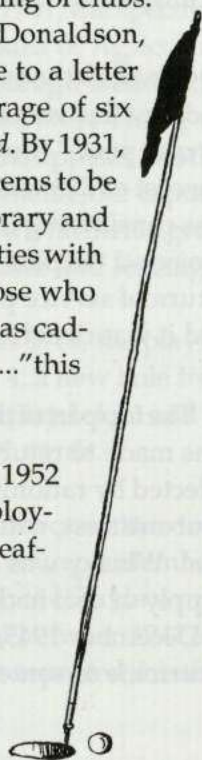
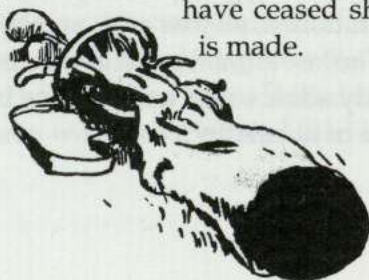
10 *Caddies-An Endangered Species*



Caddies have not been seen at Hamilton for some considerable time but they were obviously around at the outset as the secretary was instructed early in 1893 to obtain badges for them to gain access to the course. By 1896 the rate per 9 holes was 6d and 9d for 18 holes. However, a complaint was made that these rates were too high and accordingly it became 3d per round save for Saturdays when the rate was doubled!

Curiously no further mention is found until in 1922 the remuneration for caddies was fixed at 1s 3d per round, which included the cleaning of clubs. Appointments were made by the professional, at that time Mr Donaldson, who also issued the badges. Just a few years later, in response to a letter from the insurance company, it was agreed to insure an average of six caddies throughout the year for £300, the premium being £2 8s 9d. By 1931, the erection of a caddy shelter was considered although there seems to be no record as to whether the plan was implemented. The temporary and transitional nature of caddying work clearly led to some difficulties with the "Labour Exchange", and in 1937 a list was drawn up of those who had agreed to inform the Ministry of Labour of their earnings as caddies. One year earlier the fee per round was fixed at 1s 6d, and ..."this had not to be exceeded".

The last reference to any matter involving caddies was in 1952 when accommodation for caddy cars was discussed. The employment of caddies must have ceased shortly thereafter as no other record is made.



11 Club Committees and Personalities



The minutes of the inaugural meeting of 1892 reveal the original committee structure of the Club. The Committee of Management comprised a Captain (Mr MacLavery), a Secretary (Mr Slorach), a Treasurer (Mr Brown) and eight committee members, one of whom was a solicitor named J.B. Soutter, who that night began a family connection with the Club that was to remain unbroken for a century.

Golf club committee work involves many different and specialised tasks, and the original Committee of Management soon recognized that fact.

As a result, in its first decade the Club saw the formation of numerous committees, commencing with the Greens Committee (1893) which comprised the Captain and three members of the Management Committee. The Handicap Committee (1896) was formed to consider alteration of the scratch score and in that same year the score was reduced from 90 to 86. Two months later, in August, the Match Committee came into being to assist the

HAMILTON GOLF CLUB.

Match Secretary's Report for year ending 31st Dec 1903.

During last year 7 Inter Club Matches were played, and of these 4 were won and 3 lost. The wins were against Lenark, 57-0. Cathkin Braes 8 Matches to 4. Carlisle 42-2, and Grampellier 21-0 all at Hamilton and the defeats were Cambuslang away by 3-28. Glasgow University 9-18 at Hamilton and Cathkin Braes away by 3 Matches to 8.

Two Matches took place among the Members. (1) Captain & Vice Captain & resulted in a win for the Captain's side by 8 holes. 36 players took part in this Match. (2) Married & Single. The Married men won by 29 holes.

The result of the Competitions were as follows:-

MONTHLY MEDAL COMPETITION. won by Mr A.B. Lang.,

The following were the winners in each month, Messrs Lamb, Steel, Reid, Shanks, H.E. MacHale, J.C. Thorburn, Tait, Archibald, Kemp, Ferguson, Lang, G.C. Neilson. Ten of these played off for the prize & Mr A.B. Lang won.

BOGEY COMPETITION. for President's Prizes (Mr Robin) was won in the 1st class by Mr Reid, and in the 2nd class by Mr G.C. Neilson.

HOLE TOURNAMENT FOR PRESIDENT'S CUP. (Spring Competition) was won by Dr Marshall.

Do Do (Autumn Competition) was won by Mr A.B. Lang.

Dr Marshall proving ultimate winner. Mr A.B. Lang being ultimate winner.

FOURSUME COMPETITION. for the Captain's Prizes was won by Messrs Robert Beattie & D.C. Kemp, Jr. The runners up were Messrs Shanks & T. Lyman.

MIXED FOURSUME COMPETITION. The 1st prize was won by Miss Ramsay & Miss E. Ramsay (Club Prize) and the 2nd prize by Miss Patrick & Mr D.B. Patrick (Baillie Hamilton's Prize)

On account of unfavourable weather the Matches between the Bothwell & Hamilton Members, and the Hamilton & Motherwell Members had to be abandoned.

The match secretary's report for 1903

Secretary in arranging the increasing number of matches with other clubs. Further details of the Club's matches and performances are given in later sections. The Match Secretary's report for 1903 gives an indication of the growing number of competitions both within the Club and against local opposition.

31 BARRACK STREET,
HAMILTON, 31st January, 1903.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

HAMILTON GOLF CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, the 22nd inst., when the following officials were elected, viz.:

<i>President,</i>	...	Mr ROBIN.
<i>Captain,</i>	...	Bailie MACHALE.
<i>Vice-Captain,</i>	...	Mr JAMES MOFFAT.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	...	Mr T. S. YOUNG, Bellevue, Hamilton; or 104 West George Street, Glasgow.
<i>Secretary,</i>	...	Mr A. B. LANG, 31 Barrack St., Hamilton.

The financial statement, shewing a credit balance of £19, against a debit balance last year of £153, was considered highly satisfactory. This result was entirely due to the hearty response made by the Members to the appeal by the Committee, when a sum of £164 was subscribed. The accounts for 1902 showed receipts from all sources, including arrears, entry money, subscriptions, and box rents, amounting to £160, and expenditure, including rent, groundsman's wages, expenses in upkeep of course, bank interest, and general charges, to £150; shewing a credit balance on the year's working of about £10.

Mr Robin has presented a Silver Cup to be played for by the Members of the Club, the conditions of which will be posted in the Club House. Bailie MacHale has promised Prizes for a Foursome Competition. Mr Moffat has agreed to give the Prize of 5s to the winners of the Monthly Competitions for the current year; and Mr Robin has further promised a Prize for the Bogey Competition.

It was arranged to have Club Matches, Captain v. Vice-Captain, Married v. Single, and Hamilton v. Bothwell; particulars of which will be notified in due course, and it is hoped there will be a good turnout of Members for these fixtures.

Members are reminded that Subscriptions are now due, and may be paid to Mr T. S. Young, Bellevue, Hamilton, or 104 West George Street Glasgow; to the Greenkeeper; or to Mr J. C. C. Wilson, Agent, Commercial Bank, Hamilton.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW B. LANG, *Secretary.*

The printed report of the AGM of 22 January 1903, recording the response of the members in eradicating the debts of the previous year



The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1905

Cash Received				Payments					
By Balance from last A/c	£	26	13	4	To rent of Course Water	£	91	15	"
Subscriptions during year		232	1	6	Groundsmen's wages		82	2	"
Entry Money do		21	10	-	Upkeep of Course		35	9	11
Receipts for Rent Boxes		20	3	6	Lundry payments				
Rent of Grazing		13	"	-	which include monthly				
Balance from M'well Club		7	"	14	Medal prizes, Upkeep of				
Amount received from					house, Stationery &c		76	12	"
miscellaneous sources		20	1	6	Balance carried to 1905		84	11	3
	£	370	10	2			370	10	2

The detailed, but as yet hand-written, balance sheet for 1905

As implied above, the Club handled its finances judiciously and although early surpluses soon became modest deficits, this was considered quite satisfactory in view of the expenditure on the clubhouse, the course and other essentials. It is interesting to note that in 1895 the Club obtained 2.5% for any monies deposited in the bank. However, at the turn of the century, the Club's debts were approaching £100-£200 and the Secretary was instructed to obtain subscriptions from defaulters, and at the annual general meeting of 1902 suggestions were sought which might help the Club's finances. In addition to the ideas of holding a concert and a drive to recruit more new members, a letter was sent directly to all members asking for assistance in reducing the deficit. A total of £157 19s 6d was promised and all but 19s was paid, thus defraying the loss of £153 for 1902. Towards the end of that year, a motion was tabled that the subscription be increased from £1 to 1 guinea and family tickets from 10s to 10s 6d.

It was clearly felt that the monetary aspects of running the Club were worthy of greater attention, and so in November 1902 a Finance Committee was approved and appointed. Their remit was to look after the Club's finances and suggest ways of increasing income whether by subscriptions or through other means. The first detailed balance sheet was given at the annual general meeting of January 1905, and the first printed balance sheet was submitted at the annual general meeting of January 1907.



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1906.

CASH RECEIVED.

By Balance from last year.	£152 6 11
Subscriptions received during year.	345 0 0
Entry Money.	97 13 6
Box Rents.	23 0 0
Entrée of Gentlemen from Mr. Childs.	54 0 0
Do. from Mr. Desmoulin for 1905.	43 0 0
Interest on Deposit for £50 with Commercial Bank, Hamilton.	3 19 10
Interest on Deposit for £100 with Commercial Bank, Hamilton.	3 15 6
Interest on Sum deposited with Savings Bank, Hamilton.	1 7 11
Amount received from Temporary Members and Miscellaneous Sources.	15 0 9
	<u>£747 9 1</u>

PAYMENTS.

To Bank of Commerce and West.	£108 0 0
For Clubhouse's Wages.	113 0 4
Upkeep of Clubhouse (including New Building from Club House).	58 13 16
Amount expended in laying out new beds.	56 43 6
Upkeep of House (including out of new Taid and Calky House as per schedule).	65 16 10
Secretary's Remuneration and Auditor's Fee.	17 17 6
Stationery, Printing, &c. for year.	15 2 11
Sundry Payments, which include Insurance, Monthly Model and other Expenses.	78 18 11
Postages, Stationery, Carriage, Barges for Calkies, and March Secretary's Expenses.	164 1 19
Balance carried to next year.	<u>£747 9 1</u>

THE BALANCE IS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS.

Cash in hand.	£1 2 7
Sum on Deposit Receipt with Commercial Bank.	100 0 0
Balance in Hamilton Savings Bank.	16 7 11
	<u>£177 19 6</u>

Less Balance at Dr. of Current Account.

	13 8 9
	<u>£164 1 0</u>

GLASGOW, 12TH JANUARY 1907.—I have examined the Cash Account for the year ended at 31st December, 1906, and compared the entries with the relative vouchers, and I certify that I find the same correct. The Bank Deposit Receipts have been exhibited to me.

WM. W. NAISMITH, C.A., Auditor.

The first printed balance sheet, for 1906, submitted to the AGM of January 1907



Some details of the accounts for that period make interesting reading. Stuart & Co were paid £1 10s 9d for grass seed, Hugh Hamilton 14s for manure, the Golf Agency 4s for score cards, but perhaps inevitably the largest item was 4 guineas to A.F. Forgie, Chartered Accountants in Glasgow, for auditing the accounts! As the years passed, there were further increases in subscriptions and entry fees, and by 1921 the Club had a record year financially. Indeed in 1923, it was able to pay off all existing loans, with due interest.

Other changes were to follow. At the annual general meeting of 1905 the hitherto separate posts of Secretary and Treasurer were combined, and the first holder of the new office was P.E. Soutter, son of original committee member J.B. Soutter.

Over the years more committees were formed: for example by 1914 social functions had become a feature of Club life, and this led to the formation of an official Social Committee in 1920 and a House Committee in 1924.

In addition to these standing committees, from time to time the Club has found it expeditious to appoint *ad hoc* committees whose members are selected because of a particular expertise which they can offer, and in 1978, arguably two of the most important committees were formed to handle the purchase of the High Parks course. The details of this transaction are documented on page 33. The members of the two committees were Messrs. Daly, Wylie, Christie and Soutter to look at price and Messrs. Alexander, McLaughlan, Fleming, Miller and Soutter to discuss fund-raising. Likewise, a Centenary Committee was formed to prepare for the Club's celebrations in 1992.

Over the years these committees have been well served, and indeed the Club has on occasion formally recognized what can only be described as outstanding service by particular individuals. Pride of place here must surely go to the Soutter family, who have served the Club since its inception.

They are celebrating their own centenary of service to the Club. The present Joint Secretaries' grandfather and great-grandfather, J.B. Soutter, solicitor in Hamilton, started off the service as a founder committee member in 1892. He was replaced on the committee by his son P.E. Soutter, also a solicitor in, by this time, the family firm on 24th February, 1900. He served on several committees until appointed to the joint offices of Secretary and Treasurer of the Club, at the annual general meeting held on 27th January, 1905. He remained in this office until his



death in 1945, having served for 40 years in the joint capacity and for 45 years in all. In the interim his oldest son, J.B. Soutter, again a solicitor in the family firm, was appointed Joint Secretary and Treasurer with his father at the annual general meeting on 11th December, 1939, although he was away on service with the Royal Navy at the time. On 29th March, 1945 on the death of his father, he was appointed sole Secretary and Treasurer and picked up the reins on his demobilisation. He remained in this capacity until his resignation in 1975, having served in office for 36 years.

After the war the duties of Secretary and Treasurer became more onerous and, at the annual general meeting on 11th December, 1950, P.E. Soutter's youngest son, P.E. Soutter, by this time about to enter the family business, was appointed Joint Secretary and Treasurer with his brother, and he still serves the Club in this capacity after 42 years.

On the resignation of J.B. Soutter, his son P. Eliot Soutter, who by this time was also in the family business, was appointed to the office of Joint Secretary and Treasurer with his uncle, at the annual general meeting of 1975, and remains in office to date.

As a token of the Club's appreciation of the family's service, P.E. Soutter was elected Captain in 1986, and P. Eliot Soutter has been honoured by being elected Captain in this, the Club's Centenary year. The family is very proud to have been of service to the Club throughout the years of its existence. A new generation of young Soutters is waiting in the wings, and hopefully one or more of them will continue this long and happy association of the family with the Club.

During the 1950's and 1960's a number of members who had long-standing connections with the Club were awarded honorary membership. These included William Wood,



Three Soutters in 1975. From left to right: P.E., P. Eliot and J.B. The photograph in the background shows P.E. Soutter wearing the robes of office when he was Provost of Hamilton



a past Captain and President, who died in 1961, and Mr D.M.McGill, who resigned in 1962 after 25 years with the Club, having occupied every available office. He was also a past Club champion and President and was made an honorary Vice-President. A similar honour was given to Mr A.T.Smellie in 1965. He too had given service in various Club offices and was instrumental in helping the Club avoid the wartime ploughing of the course. Honorary membership was also granted to Duncan Bell, J.J.Scott, and James Walker in 1966.

Over the coming years, honorary membership was conferred on many members who had been with the Club for a long time, serving on council and committees. The names included J.Grant, for his efforts as greens convenor, G.M.Smellie who, when granted such membership in 1982, had been a member for 50 years, and T.M. Dickson. Then in 1983 honorary membership was conferred upon P.E.Soutter, who had been Joint Secretary and Treasurer for 33 years with his brother J.B. and latterly with his nephew P.Eliot Soutter who continued in office.



12 Scores, Records and Handicapping



The first record of the scratch score for the course was made in 1896 shortly after the formation of the handicap committee, when the score was reduced from 90 to 86! Some early score cards indicate the scores members were achieving. In this case the players are Messrs Reid, Blair and McHale.

Date, 26 Sept 1896
Opponent's Name, Mr. McHale

Holes	Hole	Opponent's Hole	Hole	Hole	Opponent's Hole
1	7	6	10	7	6
2	7	5	11	6	6
3	5	5	12	5	6
4	6	6	13	5	8
5	5	5	14	7	5
6	5	5	15	4	5
7	6	5	16	5	5
8	6	6	17	6	6
9	6	6	18	5	5
Total Out	53	50	Total In	53	52
Add total out, 103					
Total of Round, 103					

Date, 26 Sept 1896
Opponent's Name, Mr. McHale

Holes	Hole	Opponent's Hole	Hole	Hole	Opponent's Hole
1	5	8	10	7	5
2	5	8	11	7	5
3	5	8	12	7	5
4	6	8	13	7	6
5	5	8	14	6	6
6	5	8	15	6	6
7	5	8	16	6	6
8	6	8	17	6	6
9	6	8	18	6	6
Total Out	54	72	Total In	52	66
Add total out, 106					
Total of Round, 106					

Date, 26 Sept 1896
Opponent's Name, Mr. Blair

Holes	Hole	Opponent's Hole	Hole	Hole	Opponent's Hole
1	8	9	10	7	8
2	6	6	11	7	8
3	6	6	12	5	8
4	5	6	13	6	8
5	6	6	14	6	8
6	6	6	15	6	8
7	6	6	16	6	8
8	6	6	17	6	8
9	6	6	18	6	8
Total Out	54	54	Total In	54	54
Add total out, 108					
Total of Round, 108					

HAMILTON GOLF CLUB.

Competition, The Monthly

Date, 26 Sept 1896

Mr. McHale Score

1st ROUND			2nd ROUND		
Holes	Hole	Score	Holes	Hole	Score
1	7	4	1	7	2
2	7	4	2	7	2
3	5	6	3	5	2
4	6	6	4	6	2
5	5	6	5	5	2
6	6	6	6	6	2
7	6	6	7	6	2
8	6	6	8	6	2
9	6	6	9	6	2
Total Out	52	52	Total In	52	32
Gross Total, 104					
Deduct Handicap, 18					
Net Score, 86					

Date, 26 Sept 1896

Opponent's Name, Mr. Reid

Holes	Hole	Opponent's Hole	Hole	Hole	Opponent's Hole
1	7	10	6	7	10
2	6	11	6	7	10
3	5	12	6	7	10
4	4	13	6	7	10
5	6	14	6	7	10
6	4	15	6	7	10
7	6	16	6	7	10
8	4	17	6	7	10
9	6	18	6	7	10
Total Out	49	49	Total In	49	49
Add total out, 98					
Total of Round, 98					

Date, 26 Sept 1896

Opponent's Name, Mr. Blair

Holes	Hole	Opponent's Hole	Hole	Hole	Opponent's Hole
1	7	10	6	7	10
2	6	11	6	7	10
3	5	12	6	7	10
4	4	13	6	7	10
5	6	14	6	7	10
6	4	15	6	7	10
7	6	16	6	7	10
8	4	17	6	7	10
9	6	18	6	7	10
Total Out	51	51	Total In	51	51
Add total out, 102					
Total of Round, 102					

In 1921 the scratch score of the course was fixed at 74 and the bogey 76. The following year the secretary received a letter from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club approving the scratch score. Over the years new records have been established only to be broken and set once again. Some of the notable achievements are listed below with changes in course scores. These relate to the new course at the High Parks.

- 1928 John Barbour set the amateur course record of 73
- 1932 scratch score reduced to 74. Because of abnormal conditions, one stroke was taken off the 2nd and 7th holes.
- 1933 Club scratch score fixed at 74 as per guidance from the Scottish Golf Union
- 1933 Dr Reid reduced the course record to 71
- 1936 standard scratch score reduced to 73
- 1942 temporary scratch score of 71 for reorganised course during war
- 1947 Scottish Golf Union confirms scratch score at 74
- 1951 Standard scratch score fixed at 71
- 1956 New course record of 68 set by J.F. Milligan
- 1957 J. Neilan sets a new course record of 67
- 1959 J.F. Milligan sets new course record of 65
- 1964 Due to a new method of calculating standard scratch score laid down by the Scottish Golf Union, the score was to be reduced to 69. If extended by 124 yards it could be upgraded to 70. This was agreed upon and between 10 and 40 yards were found at the tees to the 5th, 7th, 14th, 16th, 17th, and 18th.
- 1965 In the Cadzow Challenge, J.F. Milligan set the reconstructed course record of 67
- 1973 Standard scratch score of 70 confirmed after measurement of the course
- 1984 A new course record of 62 set by Gordon Hogg



Gordon Hogg, course record holder and winner of numerous trophies

Competition <u>Medal</u> Date <u>18th July 1984</u> S.S.S. 70									
Player <u>GORDON HOGG</u> Handicap <u>3</u>									
No.	Name	Scr.	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
1	Cadzow Castle	11	555	324	4	4			
2	Avonbray	1	368	336	4	3			
3	Boyle Row	18	134	120	3	3			
4	Larg Gill	9	306	463	5	4			
5	Woodcote	5	440	439	5	5			
6	Springy	13	407	552	4	4			
7	Devil's Elbow	1	426	389	4	5			
8	Lotto	15	298	272	4	3			
9	The Ben	7	175	160	1	2			
OUT			5149	2875	16	33			
IN							1132	2861	34
OUT								1144	2875
TOTAL								6287	5736
Total Score			62						
Less Handicap			3						
Net Score			59						
Marker's Signature		<i>G. Hogg</i>							
Player's Signature		<i>Gordon Hogg</i>							

THE scorecard which will become a treasured memento in the Hogg household.

Motorsport

The record-breaking scorecard of Gordon Hogg, 18th July 1984



The scheme for fixing handicaps was based upon details obtained from the Golfing Union in 1925. However, by 1936 the handicap committee convenor reported that the Golfing Union system, which was based entirely upon medal play, was not working satisfactorily, especially for handicaps over six. After much discussion it was agreed to apply the rules up to handicap 9 and thereafter to allow the committee to use their own discretion. It was reported at the following meeting that all handicaps over 9 had been dealt with-drastically! The committee then took the process to its logical conclusion and in 1947 agreed to ignore the Golf Union handicapping scheme. They based their system upon the average of the two best scores returned in stroke competitions during the period April to September. If two scores were not available then the handicap remained the same. All handicaps were adjusted according to this method.

There were many changes in the handicapping system and in 1976 further alterations were proposed, including special rules for category 1 players. The Club felt consultation was appropriate and turned to the Lanarkshire Golf Association to seek assistance. It later transpired that the Scottish Golf Union would ban from all competitions held under SGU rules any club not conforming to the handicapping regulations. The Club secretary subsequently queried the authority of the SGU to suspend players and was informed that this authority did not exist and that the whole handicapping system was under review. In 1981 a new handicapping system, the seventh, was implemented and by August the following year the necessary alterations in club competitions and handicaps had been made. The handicapping system continues to be under review.



13 *Club Captains and Champions*

It was not uncommon in the early days of the Club for the Captain to hold office for several years. As time passed and the office became one with greater responsibility and commitments, the period of office was reduced to two years and ultimately in 1978 to one year. The full list of captains is given below:

Graeme A. MacLavery	2.11.1892 - 24. 1.1895
Robert Robin	24. 1.1895 - 22. 1.1903
Baillie MacHale	22. 1.1903 - 21. 1.1904
James Moffat	21. 1.1904 - 27. 1.1905
Dr J.Marshall	27. 1.1905 - 26. 1.1906
Dr J.Fotheringham	26. 1.1906 - 25. 1.1907
W.M.Shanks	25. 1.1907 - 23. 1.1908
J.J.Cameron	23. 1.1908 - 29. 1.1909
Dr Steele	29. 1.1909 - 31. 1.1910
D.T.MacMillan	31. 1.1910 - 23. 1.1911
Thomas Shanks	23. 1.1911 - 30. 1.1912
James Young	30. 1.1912 - 30. 1.1913
Major Wishart	30. 1.1913 - 29. 1.1914
George Bennett	29. 1.1914 - 28. 1.1915
John Welsh	28. 1.1915 - 8. 3.1918
Dr J.Hume-Patterson	8. 3.1918 - 17. 6.1924
T.H.Gilmour	27.11.1924 - 6.12.1926
D.W.Barbour	6.12.1926 - 26.11.1928
J.H.Keith	26.11.1928 - 24.11.1930
James Wilson	24. 1.1930 - 21.11.1932
Donald C.Orr	21.11.1932 - 26.11.1934
Daniel Scott	26.11.1934 - 25.11.1936
Samuel Thomson	25.11.1936 - 5.12.1938
A.T.Smellie	5.12.1938 - 18.11.1940
Dr William Cullen	18.11.1940 - 26.11.1942
John J.Scott	26.11.1942 - 28.11.1944
John Black	28.11.1944 - 2.12.1946
William Wood	2.12.1946 - 6.12.1948
T.G.Smith	6.12.1948 - 11.12.1950
D.M.McGill	11.12.1950 - 8.12.1952
James Walker	8.12.1952 - 6.12.1954
Duncan D.Bell	6.12.1954 - 12.12.1956



Dr William Wilkie	12.12.1956 - 15.12.1958
J.C.Robert	15.12.1958 - 12.12.1960
W.Johnstone	12.12.1960 - 10.12.1962
J.Grant	10.12.1962 - 14.12.1964
A.E.Coghill	14.12.1964 - July 1965 (died in office and replaced by vice-captain Mr J.B.Rowe)
J.B.Rowe	12.12.1966 - 9.12.1968
G.M.Smellie	9.12.1968 - 14.12.1970
T.M.Dickson	14.12.1970 - 11.12.1972
W.Gall	11.12.1972 - 9.12.1974
A.M.Baird	9.12.1974 - 17. 1.1977
W.F.Morton	17. 1.1977 - 15. 1.1979
R.A.Rennie	15. 1.1979 - 28. 1.1980
R.M.Alexander	28. 1.1980 - 26. 1.1981
K.C.Arthur	26. 1.1981 - 25. 1.1982
T.Davidson	25. 1.1982 - 31. 1.1983
G.G.Wylie	31. 1.1983 - 31. 1.1984
J.R.Christie	31. 1.1984 - 28. 1.1985
A.C.Daly	28. 1.1985 - 27. 1.1986
P.E.Soutter	27. 1.1986 - 26. 1.1987
C.B.Arthur	26. 1.1987 - 21. 1.1988
K.H.Martyn	21. 1.1988 - 31. 1.1989
W.A.Gibson	31. 1.1989 - 29. 1.1990
A.Marshall	29. 1.1990 - 28. 1.1991
J.T.C.Bell	28. 1.1991 - 27. 1.1992
P.Eliot Soutter	27. 1.1992

Of the above, D.D. Bell (1954), W.F. Morton (1974) and A.C. Daly (1988 & 1989) served as President of the Lanarkshire Golf Association.

The Ladies' captains from 1946 to the present day are as follows:

1946-48	Miss N.Gibson	1975	Mrs G.Hamilton
1949	Miss B.Jack	1976-77	Mrs A.Reid
1950	Mrs A.Fleming	1978	Mrs R.N.Baxter
1951	Mrs J.Scott	1979	Mrs A.A.Gillen
1952-53	Mrs W.Wilkie	1980	Mrs E.Y.Chapman
1954-55	Mrs J.Hendry	1981	Mrs S.Wylie
1956-57	Miss A.Cochrane	1982	Mrs M.MacLean
1958	Mrs J.Lynas	1983	Mrs B.Bryan
1959-60	Mrs A.Wray	1984	Mrs M.B.Allan
1961-62	Mrs M.Fraser	1985	Mrs N.Arton
1963-64	Miss C.Harvie	1986	Mrs E.R.Campbell
1965-66	Mrs W.Gall	1987	Mrs J.Marshall
1967-68	Mrs J.Milligan	1988	Mrs E.Nelson
1969-70	Mrs W.Norris	1989	Mrs W.Brown
1971	Miss F.Fleming	1990	Mrs E.Gibson
1972	Mrs J.S.Smellie	1991	Mrs P.Milligan
1973	Miss J.Pollock	1992	Mrs M.Arthur
1974	Mrs C.S.Davidson		



Club Champions - Ladies



1946	Miss M.Frame
1947	Mrs J.Nicoll
1948	Miss M.Frame
1949	Mrs A.Fleming
1950	Mrs J.Fraser
1951	Mrs A.Fleming
1952	Mrs J.Nicoll
1953	Mrs A.Fleming
1954	Mrs J.Lynas
1955	Mrs J.Nicoll
1956	Mrs J.Nicoll
1957	Mrs A.Fleming
1958	Miss E.Allan
1959	Miss A.McDonald
1960	Miss J.Smith
1961	Miss E.Allan
1962	Miss J.Smith
1963	Miss J.Smith
1964	Mrs W.Norris
1965	Mrs W.Norris
1966	Mrs W.Norris
1967	Mrs W.Norris
1968	Mrs J.Evans
1969	Mrs P.Davidson

Club Champions - Gents

1912	John C. Barbour
1913	P.E. Soutter
1914	John C. Barbour
1915	George Bennett
1920	P.E. Soutter
1921	John C. Barbour
1922	P.E. Soutter
1923	P.E. Soutter
1924	Emerson Chalmers
1925	P.E. Soutter
1926	David Russell
1927	David Russell
1928	P.E. Soutter
1929	A.T. Smellie
1930	William Wood
1931	Richard Little
1932	Richard Little
1933	A.T. Smellie
1934	A.T. Smellie
1935	Richard Little
1936	J.S. Gray
1937	J.B. Soutter
1938	A.T. Smellie
1939	D.M. McGill
1940	William P. Soutter
1941	William Wilkie
1946	A.A. Cumming
1947	P.E. Soutter
1948	P.E. Soutter
1949	J.F. Milligan
1950	J.F. Milligan
1951	G. Parker
1952	G. Parker
1953	J. Bell
1954	J.F. Milligan
1955	Iain Frame
1956	R. McTavish
1957	Iain Frame
1958	J.B. Rowe
1959	A.C. Irons
1960	J.F. Milligan
1961	J.F. Milligan
1962	R. McTavish
1963	R. McTavish
1964	J.F. Milligan
1965	J. Neilan
1966	Ian T. Frame
1967	J. Neilan
1968	A.R.H. Baird
1969	W.F. Morton



Club Champions - Ladies Cont.

1970	Mrs J.Evans
1971	Mrs P.Davidson
1972	Mrs W.Norris
1973	Mrs J.Evans
1974	Mrs J.Evans
1975	Mrs J.Evans
1976	Mrs J.Evans
1977	Mrs K.Lynas
1978	Mrs W.Norris
1979	Mrs W.Norris
1980	Mrs W.Norris
1981	Mrs W.Norris
1982	Miss A.Campbell
1983	Mrs W.Norris
1984	Miss A.Campbell
1985	Miss A.Campbell
1986	Miss A.Campbell
1987	Miss A.McGuire
1988	Mrs A.Hendry
1989	Mrs A.Hendry
1990	Mrs A.Hendry
1991	Mrs A.Hendry
1992	Mrs A.Hendry

Club Champions - Gents Cont.

1970	A.R. Todd
1971	K.H. Martyn
1972	J. Neilan
1973	H. Miller
1974	J. Neilan
1975	C. Hogg
1976	H.S. Milligan
1977	G.C. Banks
1978	G. Hogg
1979	G.C. Banks
1980	R.M. Alexander
1981	H.S. Milligan
1982	Alan McEwan
1983	Alan McEwan
1984	Alan McEwan
1985	Ronald C. Maclean
1986	H.S. Milligan
1987	Ronald C. Maclean
1988	Andrew Hannah
1989	Alan McEwan
1990	H.S. Milligan
1991	H.S. Milligan
1992	Brian Smith



14 Competitions



The fixtures list for matches whether at Club or county level has always appeared very full, and the process began in June 1895 when Motherwell, soon to amalgamate with Hamilton, requested a match. Other clubs followed, including Airdrie and Cambuslang, and by November 1895 the secretary reported that matches against all three clubs had been won. By early 1896, regular matches were established with Lanark in addition to the aforementioned clubs. An increasing number of requests for matches was received over the next few years from teams representing Scotstoun Club, Calderbraes, Strathaven, Wishaw, Carluke, Glasgow University, Cambuslang, Cathkin Braes and Drumpellier. In fact Drumpellier cancelled their fixture in 1905 but by June 1907 a request from Portobello Golf Club for a match had to be refused due to there being quite enough club matches already. However, at the same meeting in 1907 a request from the Young Men's Christian Association to play the course was granted.

The Club maintained its early winning ways, and at the 1901 annual general meeting it was reported that of five club matches played, four had been won and one lost, with a balance of 57 holes in favour of the Club. In 1909 the success rate was down to 50%, but 1910 saw two developments of significance: the first ladies' inter-club match was raised in committee, and a challenge match-Braid versus Taylor-was suggested. Braid was famous as the Open Champion, a title he won five times between 1901 and 1910. Initially a date for the challenge match could not be fixed but after appointing a sub-committee to manage the event, July 29th 1911 was chosen. The financial end result was a deficit of 17s 9d although by all other factors it seems it was judged to have been a success!

Further exhibition matches were proposed, and in 1913 the secretary contacted Duncan, Ray and Vardon, suggesting a match the following summer. It was subsequently arranged for the Saturday after the Open Championship and all local clubs were informed and sent 20 tickets each to distribute. There would

appear to have been no match report and the only record remaining is of a financial nature, and details a loss of £4 4s 2d!

A continuing record of matches with other clubs was kept, albeit somewhat sporadically and in 1920 six such games were played. By 1929 it was decided to play only one club match during the year, against Colville Park, and the next year the match with the University was dropped and one game played against Lanark. This pattern presumably continued for some time although in 1936 the inter-committee game was reinstated after a suspension of several years, at the suggestion of Bothwell Castle Golf Club. After the Second World War club matches were resumed and arrangements were made to play Colville Park, Lanark and Cambuslang. Teams for the club matches were chosen purely on the basis of the lowest handicaps from the handicap book.

Club Trophies

During the early years of the Club and developing in parallel with the growth of the seasonal fixture list with neighbouring clubs, the opportunity arose for individuals and teams to participate in competitions generated within and outside the Club. The first Club trophy was the Dunlop Medal, presented by Mr Colin Dunlop, one time vice-president. Although no date is specified it would appear this was early in 1893. During that same year at least three more medals or cups were presented to the Club for internal competition. Notably, one presented by Colonel Clark Forrest was for a ladies' competition, and a medal donated by Mr Watson, after whom it was named, was first won by Eliot Soutter. The President's Cup, as it was later to be known, was a beautiful silver cup presented by Sir William Wallace Hozier, Baronet of Mauldslie Castle. It was won outright by Dr. J. Marshall in 1901 after his third successive win and was re-presented by his family and re-named the Marshall Trophy.

After this highly productive start to the competitive history of the Club, the frequency with which new competitions appeared did not slacken. Some were to enjoy a longer history than others but each trophy was given with respect, and in many cases affection, for the Club. One such donation was the Castlehill Cup, presented by Mr Robin on his retirement as captain in 1903..."as a token of respect for the generous and courteous way he had been treated by the members of the Club". In 1929 it was reported that the Castlehill Cup had been won outright by John G. Barbour who re-presented it to the Club to be suitably inscribed.



Competitions were held for long driving and holing out (both in 1894) and medals for the same were presented by Mr McHale and Mr Naismith respectively. At a committee meeting in 1897 the secretary reported that in the match and handicap monthly medal competition Dr Marshall completed the first nine holes, left the course for an hour, and returned to finish the second nine and succeeded in achieving the lowest score of the day. However it was decided that in the circumstances the score could not be entertained!

Upon the amalgamation with Motherwell Golf Club, the Colville Cup and Dalziel Cup were given to the Club. In 1912 the Duke of Hamilton, after being approached by the Club, presented a trophy which became the Club Championship Trophy. In 1935 the format of the championship competition changed and was decided by stroke play.

Amid all this activity, the lady members were not forgotten, and in 1911 the mixed foursomes Club competition was first mentioned. Similarly the juniors were not excluded and a little later in 1925 a knock-out competition for the boys was proposed. Mr Lang agreed to donate a prize, which was the Thankerton Trophy, and the first winner received the cup in 1927. During the same year Mr Nelson, the Club president, donated the Nelson Shield. Many cups were presented to the Club by the family of former members and one such was the Shanks Cup, presented in 1928 by the widow of W.M.Shanks, who had been Captain 20 years earlier. Similarly in 1950 Mrs Adam presented a trophy to the Club in memory of her husband. This was to be played for by the older members as a reminder that Dr Adam always recommended his patients to play golf-for all ills! He was a well known personality and was often seen racing around the course, followed by his chauffeur, who caddied for him! In 1950 two further trophies were presented to the Club for annual competition. These were the Clyde Cup and Silver Grouse, both donated by Mr David McGill, Club captain from 1950 to 1952.

Members continued to donate trophies for Club competitions and in 1953 Dr William Wilkie, Club Captain between 1956 and 1958, presented a trophy later named the Cadzow Jug. Over the next three or four years there were further donations, including the Coronation Trophy, presented by Dr Collins, and a trophy (later named the Dalsersf Bowl) from Mr A.E. Coghill. In 1953 the secretary, P.E.Soutter, said his family wished to present a trophy for the family foursomes competition. This was in memory of his father and became the Eliot Soutter Memorial Trophy.



Two trophies of note were presented to the Club in 1966 and 1967. Mr Branks Wilson donated a silver salver for competition in aid of cancer research, to be incorporated into an existing competition. The Branks Wilson trophy thus became the prize in the new medal competition. In the following year Mrs Coghill presented the Alex Coghill Memorial Trophy in memory of her husband, who was a former captain of the Club. In 1970/71 the juniors benefited from a number of donations including a trophy from Mr Archie Baird for the junior champion, the Clark Edgar Trophy, presented by Mr John Burns in memory of his grandson, for winners of the juniors' medal finals, and J.B. Henderson also gave a trophy.

Some trophies are of note for their connections with well known Club members. In 1981, Mr Grant and Mr Milligan presented a trophy for men over 55, to be played for over 36 holes; in the same year the James Orr trophy was donated by Jim Orr and this was to be for weekday competitions; two years later, the Duncan Bell trophy was presented for anyone in the new handicap category class 4.

Over the next few years the juniors gained more trophies to play for, including the Hopetoun Salver (from Mr J.R.Christie in 1984), the McGregor Trophy (from Mr J.McGregor in 1984) and the Soutter Punch Bowl (presented by P.E.Soutter) in 1987.

Outside Competitions

While the Club trophies and medals were proliferating, there was much activity in competitions outside the Club. This involved members representing the Club or competitions using the facilities which the Club had to offer, and over the years many successes have been recorded, both on an individual and a club basis.

Because of its traditional strength in depth, the Club's team performances have been of a consistently high standard, and indeed what must rank as its finest achievement was victory in the national Grandee Trophy competition in 1972. This competition, sponsored by the Churchman's tobacco company, was open to club teams from the four home countries, each of which produced its own national champion at the end of a protracted series of eliminating matches. Each team consisted of four players and the match took the form of singles matchplay, with aggregate holes up or down being used to determine tied matches.



The Hamilton team, consisting of Jim Neilan, Gordon Hogg, Ken Martyn and Bob Smith, won their way through to become the Scottish champions at Carnoustie, thus qualifying for the U.K. finals held at another championship course, Birkdale, in September of that year. The semi-final draw paired us with the Welsh champions, Whitchurch, and one change in the Hamilton line-up was that Ronnie McTavish replaced Bob Smith. Victory over the Welsh brought the Scots face-to-face with a strong Irish side from Shandon Park containing three internationalists, who had defeated the English champions, Moor Park, in the other semi-final. There was great excitement among the Hamilton contingent who had gone to Birkdale to cheer on the team. A closely fought final, packed with high quality golf, saw Hamilton emerge as narrow but worthy winners of what in effect was the British club championship. As the sponsors decided against repeating the competition, Hamilton Golf Club thus became the first and only winners of the Grandee Trophy - a unique achievement in every sense!



The successful team of 1972, from left to right, Ronnie McTavish, Ken Martyn, Jim Neilan, Tom Dickson (Captain), D.D.Bell (Match Secretary) and Gordon Hogg. The trophies are the Lanarkshire County Shield, the Grandee or British Club Championship Trophy and the Scottish Club Championship Trophy



GRANDEE GOLF INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION CLUB COMPETITION ROYAL BIRKDALE SEPTEMBER 13 TH & 14 TH 1972									
3 RD PLACE			POSITION			FINALS			
BURY OFFICE			W			S			
ENGLAND (MOOR PARK)	W. STANLEY	W. DODD	W	3/2		SCOTLAND (BIRKDALE)	J. NEILAN	B. HOEY	A
WALES (WHARTON CHURCH)	M. ALLCHIN	S. JONES	W	5/3		IRELAND (SHANON PARK)	K. MARTIN	B. EDWARDS	A
	M. RYAN	D. RICHARDS	W	4/2			C. MOGE	D. LONG	A
							R. M. BASH	D. HOEY	A

The scoreboard from the final of the British Club Championship

The club's playing strength has been evident in other team events over the years. For example, in the Scottish club foursomes championship, sponsored by the Evening Times, they were runners-up in 1951, represented by Jack Milligan and George Parker; in 1957 Milligan, this time paired with John Rowe, reached the semi-finals; and in 1986 Brian Smith and Alan McEwan succeeded in winning the trophy for the Club on their own course. Not to be outdone, the ladies, after reaching the semi-finals in 1969, won the national foursomes championship the following year in the persons of Joan Norris and Freda Davidson and again in 1983 through Joan Norris and Alyson Campbell (now Mrs. Hendry).



The victorious Evening Times Foursomes duo of 1986, Brian Smith and Alan McEwan



At county level, the formation of a Lanarkshire League was first discussed in 1946, and seven clubs were involved. These were - in addition to Hamilton - Cambuslang, Bothwell Castle, Calderpark, Kirkhill, Sandyhills and Calderbraes. However, it was not until almost three years later that this became a reality, with East Kilbride replacing Sandyhills. Over the years, like Topsy, the Lanarkshire League has grown and grown and currently comprises 25 clubs. Hamilton's record is second to none in this league, having won the championship no fewer than eleven times (1955, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1966, 1972, 1978, 1979, 1987, 1988 and 1991). In addition, the club won the Lanarkshire Team Championship (involving three representatives from each club) in the years 1957, 1958 and 1959, and the James Brown Memorial Trophy, another team competition, in 1986 and 1989. The Club's juniors also recorded victories in the county league championship in 1968, 1985 and 1986, and the ladies emulated them by capturing their inter-club championship in the form of the Park Trophy in 1960, 1970, 1979, 1981 and 1982.

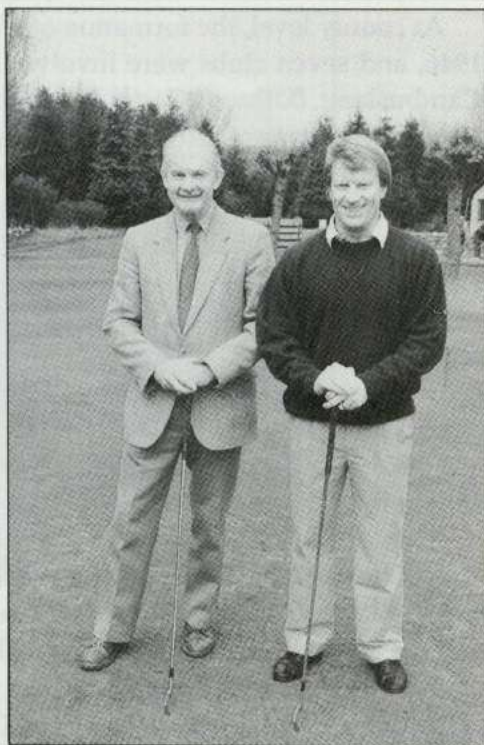
Not surprisingly, Hamilton names figure prominently in the individual county stroke-play and match-play championships. The former is played over 36 holes, and the top 16 in that competition qualify for the latter. The stroke-play championship has been won by Jack Milligan (1949 and 1960), George Parker (1950), Ian Frame (1966), Harry Miller (1980) and Gary Jones (1988); the match-play was won by Jack Milligan (1964) and Jim Neilan (1966); and in 1969 and 1978 two players achieved the very difficult 'double' - Ronnie McTavish and Harry Milligan (following in father's footsteps). The Lanarkshire Golf Association Order of Merit, awarded to the most consistent scorer in nominated 'open' 36 hole tournaments throughout the season, was won by Harry Miller in both 1979 and 1980, by Brian Smith in 1984 and by Ronnie Maclean in 1985.

Early successes in individual 36 hole open tournaments such as the prestigious Edward Trophy, were recorded by P.E. Soutter in 1912 and 1914 and by David Russell in 1927. Incidentally, P.E. Soutter was six times Club Champion and each of his three sons were also Club Champions. At Junior level David Jarvie was the second winner of the Lanarkshire Boys' Championship in 1951 and in the same year played for the West of Scotland Boys' team against the East. Hamilton victories have become too numerous to be recorded in full as these competitions have proliferated over the years. Nevertheless, no matter how invidious the process of selection, mention must be made of a few of our most successful competitors. For example, there are father and son, Jack and Harry Milligan: the former, in addition to his six club championship victories and three county championships, won the Arrol Cup (1951), the prestigious Tennant Cup (1959), the Lockhart Trophy (1960) and the Cadzow Challenge Cup (1965); the latter, in

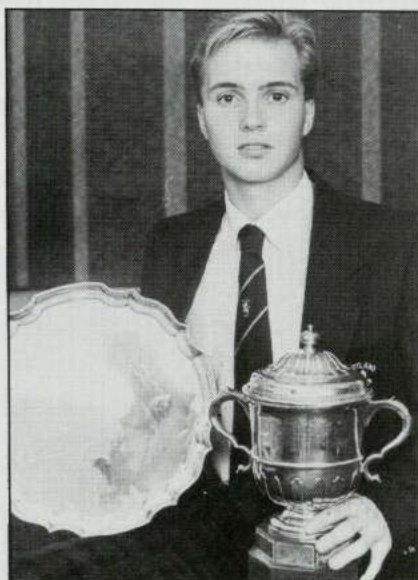


addition to his five club and two county championship successes, won the Bothwell Quaich (1977) and the Lockhart and Garnkirk trophies (both in 1984). Jim Neilan, who was Club Champion four times, won, in addition to the County match-play title, the Cadzow Challenge Cup in 1966, the Arrol Cup (1968) with a record aggregate of $68 + 64 = 132$, the Viking Krus (1971), the Garnkirk Trophy (1972) and, further afield, the Nairn Open (1973). Ronnie Maclean, as well as winning the Club championship twice, had particularly good years in 1982, when he won the Orbiston Salver at Bellshill and the Carmichael Trophy at Carluke, and in 1985, with successes in the Newlands Trophy and Drumpellier Cup. Brian Smith's list of victories is also impressive, beginning with the McLeod Cup (1974), the Lockhart Trophy (1982), the Cadzow Challenge Cup (1982 and 1987), the Baxter Trophy (1984), the Drumpellier Cup (1987) and culminating in his West of Scotland Championship win in 1990 at Grangemouth, achieved with the aid of a record-breaking 66 in the second round.

During the last decade in particular, the younger generation have continued to prove their mettle. Andrew Hannah won the Scottish Schoolboys' Championship in 1985 and the Lanarkshire Boys' Match-play Championship in 1986, and was capped at schoolboy level in both those years and at youth level two years later after winning the County Youths'



Jack and Harry Milligan



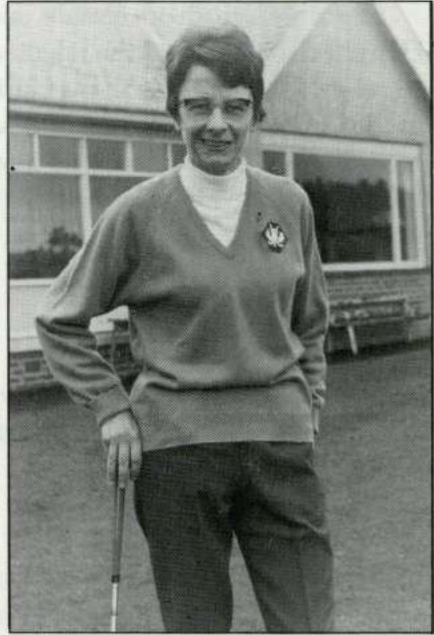
Andrew Hannah with two of his trophies



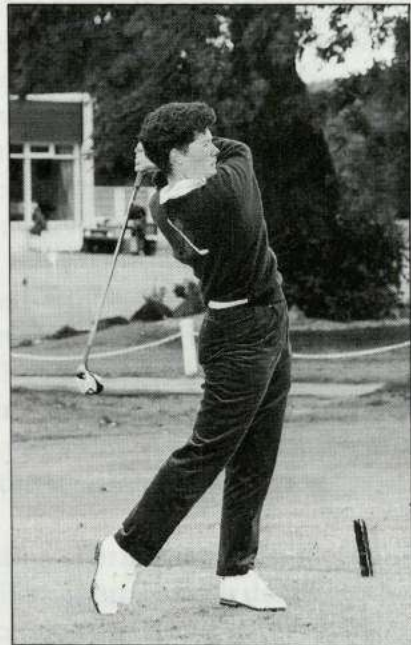
Championship in 1987. In 1985 Euan Moir, son of the club professional, won the area finals of the National Boys' Championship; and in 1986 his twin, Michael, won the Lanarkshire Boys' Stroke-play Championship.

But perhaps pride of place should go to Mrs. Joan Norris, Club Champion thirteen times. During 1966 Joan won the Lanarkshire Ladies' Championship and was runner-up in the West of Scotland Championship. International recognition came the following year, and in the matches against England, Ireland and Wales she played exceptionally well, winning all her matches, three foursomes and one single. In 1969 she reached the quarter-finals of the Scottish Championship and went on to take third place in the British Ladies' Strokeplay Championship. Joan represented Scotland until 1971, and the esteem in which she is held was evident in her appointment as non-playing Captain of the Scottish international side in 1983 and as a British international selector the following year.

Apparently following in Joan's footsteps is Alyson Hendry who, as Alyson Campbell, won international caps as a schoolgirl (1979) and youth (1982) and whose early promise bore fruit in 1990 with wins in the Lanarkshire Ladies' Strokeplay and Matchplay Championships and the West of Scotland Strokeplay Championship. Alyson has now won the Lanarkshire Ladies' Championship in three successive years, 1989, 1990 and 1991. Alyson was appointed non-playing Captain of the Scottish International Girls' team in 1991 and remains such for 1992.



Joan Norris, outstanding golfer and prizewinner and notable ambassador for the sport and the Club



Alyson Hendry (nee Campbell)



The final word on female success, however, must surely rest not with a Hamilton member but the talented Miss Wilma Aitken from Old Ranfurly when competing at Hamilton in the Ladies' Open competition, the Riccarton Rosebowl, in 1981. Wilma established two world records - male or female, amateur or professional - when she scored no fewer than eleven birdies in one round and nine of them consecutively from the third to the eleventh holes. Needless to say, she won!



15 *Social Life*



There is little doubt that from the start there were social gatherings of Club members and in 1895 the Club's first dinner was arranged. The captain proposed that the venue be the Commercial Hotel and a small committee was formed to make the arrangements.

However, the first record of a social function was made in a minute of September 1912, although there are no details as to the nature of the event! A highly successful whist drive was held in February 1914 with 92 people attending and the event was repeated one month later. Tickets were 2s and there was also music and dancing. This would appear to mark the beginning of the Club's social calendar. By late 1919 there were two lady members on the committee to discuss arrangements for social activities and in particular the Club dance, which was to be held the following year in the Town Hall. Arrangements were made for food and a dance band ("...five players with a drum...") and tickets were available at 8s for gents and 7s for lady members. Forty three double and ten single tickets were sold and twenty one dances were held. The social committee was formed officially in 1920 and over the years its numerous members have clearly been kept busy.

In the coming years a number of events were established including in 1928 a smoking concert at which Club prizes were presented. Later that year the Club's annual dance was arranged for the first time. The Salon, Hamilton, was the venue and tickets were 7s 6d. This presumably became established procedure and the dance was held at the Salon in the following year. However, in 1931, members were treated to a double event when a whist drive preceded the dance!

By 1954 it was decided to hold the presentation of prizes in the clubhouse and in 1958 this was accompanied by dinner. In 1959 an annual dinner dance was held in the Town Hall and proved to be a great success. Alterations to the clubhouse in 1958 resulted in an increased capacity for social activities and in keeping with

the greater activity within the Club, the clubhouse was extended and opened in 1975. The Duchess of Hamilton, accompanied by the Duke, performed the opening.

At the beginning of 1980, the social committee discussed the greater use of the clubhouse for social events throughout the year. It was planned to try a variety of events, including a Burns Supper, dances, discos and film nights. By 1988 the Burns Supper became an established social feature. Under the convenorship of Mr Jim Orr, the social committee had developed a regular and popular social programme for the winter and some of the summer months, including Saturday cabarets and dinners.

While the Club was developing its social committee and events, considerable time was expended on the debate regarding acquisition of a liquor licence. A number of members requested a special meeting to consider holding a plebiscite on the matter. The special general meeting was held on April 1st, 1926, and the resulting vote was in favour of the motion to register the Club for licensing purposes by a majority of 25, although 115 did not vote. Approval was given by the annual general meeting that year and the Sheriff Clerk approved the Club's registration shortly after. The bar opened for the first time on 2nd April 1927. Thereafter, it provided a useful source of revenue for the Club, although when bar proceeds exceeded subscriptions one year, one member ruefully remarked that the Club was turning into a bar! In 1938 bar stocks were considered to be excessive and the value of the stock was reduced to £20. At much the same time, members of the committee visited a neighbouring Club to inspect their installation for draught beer. The committee decided to install the same at Hamilton and it was sold initially for 7d per pint. Whisky was selling at 1s 8d per glass, but for the annual dance in 1939 diluted whisky was drunk. This was due to earlier investigations into tampered bottles which revealed foul play although no culprit is named! Having received the diluted whisky back from the suppliers, the committee sampled the drink and decided to keep it for the annual dance!

Bar prices in 1940 make mouth-watering reading nowadays and included beer at 9d per glass, cider 6d per bottle, Bass and heavy beers 8d, Blue Label 6d and Light Export 7d per bottle. Gin and whisky sold for 1s 8d per glass.

The possibility of obtaining a Sunday licence was addressed in 1961 and at the annual general meeting the necessary alterations to the Club's rules and regulations were passed unanimously. This particular opening occurred on 17th December 1961.



E. W. Soutter, Esq.,

Secretary.

Hamilton Golf Club.

We, the undersigned members of the Hamilton Golf Club, hereby request the Council of the Hamilton Golf Club to convene a Special General Meeting of the members to transact the following business:-

To decide to take a FLEISCHER of the members on the advisability of applying for a license for the Golf Clubhouse at Bickerton.

J. S. White
Alice B. Thompson

Alfred B. Thompson

W. C. C.

W. H. George

E. Brown

J. M. W. T. 1870

Young

H. Bradford

5th King

R. Korrisson

the morning

Hurry

Saithen

W. B. Bostwick

Don Black

Albert Landrum

Request from the members to hold a special general meeting for the purpose of deciding to apply for a licence at Riccarton



16 Club Patron



The Club has been very fortunate in having successive Dukes of Hamilton as Patron. At a committee meeting in 1896 it was first decided that the Duke should be approached and the invite also offered to His Grace, and any of his friends who might be staying at the palace, the privilege of playing over the course. The Duke's appointment as Patron was confirmed in January 1897. In 1940 the Duke died, and at the annual general meeting in November it was proposed that the new Duke be invited to become Patron, and this was accepted. The position of Patron was again "handed on" when in 1973 the new Duke took over after the death of his father.

Over the long association with the Club, the estate has proven most accommodating and generous, particularly with regard to land deals, when the current factor was the point of contact. This good relationship proved especially valuable when it came to negotiations to buy the High Parks course in 1978. However, the Dukes have also been generous in the donation of money, and trophies for competitions.



The Duke of Hamilton, Club Patron

17 Club Colours



As early as June 1895, a decision was taken to choose Club colours. It was decided that these should be scarlet with green facing, and members were advised to get jackets of these colours. The Club subsequently adopted the Duke of Hamilton's racing colours of cerise and French grey.

A Club tie was first mentioned many years later in 1951 and although it was decided to proceed, it was not until October 1965 that the tie became available. At that time, it sold for £1. To complete the club's 'image', a new badge was designed incorporating an oak tree and leaves with golf clubs, thus replacing the familiar "crossed golf clubs". To mark the Centenary year a special club logo has been designed.



18 *Nothing Changes!*



It is interesting to note that over the history of the Club there are certain events, situations or problems which recur-time has little effect, or *Nothing Changes*. How often this must have been spoken! It is perhaps unfortunate that not all the recurrences have been amusing or interesting, but this phenomenon seems to impinge upon all aspects of the Club.

Matters pertaining to play are understandably dominant, and complaints about parties who were not members playing over the course were first voiced in 1893! Non-members playing on the course without tickets was a grouse in 1926, and in 1930 it was suggested that a ballot should be held on Friday night for the Saturday competitions, to avoid long waiting times on Saturday afternoons.

One of the more unwelcome events, which is clearly not just a modern disease, is that of vandalism, which was reported back in 1906, 1917 and at intervals since. Rather less serious in nature, but also from that era in the Low Parks emanated the first complaints about the catering.

Over the years the membership has achieved a very great deal, including the purchase of the course and numerous other developments such as the continuous improvement of buildings and facilities. It will therefore come as no surprise to learn that when the committee, in 1924, were discussing ways of financing the new clubhouse at the High Parks, the choices were a levy, an overdraft or loans from the members.

One thing that will hopefully never change is the eccentric nature of folk, so if, in the near future, the committee is approached by a lady member with "...a request to take her Pomeranian dog with her on the course in the forenoon..." perhaps they will also grant her request "...with reservations". Or if the adjutant

of the 6th Scottish Rifles, or its modern equivalent, seeks permission to conduct signalling operations on the course perhaps they too will be given permission "... providing they do not interfere with the golfers". These events happened in 1908, but nothing really changes, does it?

List of Club Championships	
Year	Winner
1908	Mr John Brown
1909	Mr John Brown
1910	Mr John Brown
1911	Mr John Brown
1912	Mr John Brown
1913	Mr John Brown
1914	Mr John Brown
1915	Mr John Brown
1916	Mr John Brown
1917	Mr John Brown
1918	Mr John Brown
1919	Mr John Brown
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1925	Mr John Brown
1926	Mr John Brown
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2035	Mr John Brown
2036	Mr John Brown
2037	Mr John Brown
2038	Mr John Brown
2039	Mr John Brown
2040	Mr John Brown
2041	Mr John Brown
2042	Mr John Brown
2043	Mr John Brown
2044	Mr John Brown
2045	Mr John Brown
2046	Mr John Brown
2047	Mr John Brown
2048	Mr John Brown
2049	Mr John Brown
2050	Mr John Brown





List of Club Competitions

Trophy	Year donated	Presented by
Dunlop Medal	1892	Mr Colin Dunlop Jr.
Challenge Cup	1892	Lord Newlands
(Ladies') Medal	1893	Colonel Clark Forrester
Medal	1893	Major Neilson
Watson Medal	1893	Mr Watson of Earnock
President's Cup	1893	Sir William Wallace Hozier
Long Driving Competition	1894	Mr McHale
Holing Out Competition	1894	Mr Naismith
Castlehill Cup	1903	Mr Robin
Colville Cup	1903	donated by Motherwell Golf Club upon
Dalziel Cup	1903	amalgamation with Hamilton
Club Championship Trophy	1912	Duke of Hamilton
Nelson Shield	1926	Mr R.F.W.R.Nelson
Thankerton Trophy	1927	Mr A.B.Lang
Shanks Cup	1927/8	Widow of W.M.Shanks
Dr Adam Trophy	1950	Widow of Dr Adam
The Clyde Cup	1950	Mr D.McGill
The Silver Grouse	1950	Mr D.McGill
Cadzow Jug	1953/4	Dr W.Wilkie
Eliot Soutter		
Memorial Trophy	1953	P.E.Soutter and family
Coronation Trophy	1953	Dr Collins
Marshall Trophy	1953	Formerly a Challenge Cup presented by Lord Newlands in 1892 was won outright by Dr Marshall in 1901 and re-donated by his family
Dalserf Bowl	1955/6	Mr A.E.Coghill
Cadzow Challenge Cup	1965	Duke of Hamilton
Branks Wilson Trophy	1966	Mr Branks Wilson
Alex Coghill		
Memorial Trophy	1967	Mrs Coghill
Ladies' Open, called		
The Riccarton Rose Bowl	1970	Mrs Jan Smellie
Trophy for medal winners	1970	Mr T.M.Dickson
Junior Champion Trophy	1970	Mr A.Baird
Clark Edgar Trophy	1970	Mr John Burns

Henderson Trophy	1971	J.B.Henderson
Jubilee Quaich	1974	Mr G.M.Smellie
Joe Daly Memorial Trophy	1976	Family of Mr Joe Daly
Grant Milligan Trophy	1981	Mr Grant & Mr Milligan
James Orr Trophy	1981	Mr Jim Orr
Duncan Bell Trophy	1983	Family of Mr Duncan Bell
Hopetoun Salver	1984	Mr J.R.Christie
McGregor Trophy	1984	Mr J.McGregor
Tenovus Putter	1986	Mr Daly, a replacement for the lost Tenovus Trophy
Soutter Punch Bowl	1987	Mr P.E.Soutter
Robert A.Rennie Trophy	1987	Mrs. Helen Rennie
Dr. James Wyper Trophy	1991	Mrs. M.L. Wyper



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