



THE GOLF SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

HISTORY

CONTENTS

Foreword

Sources of Information.

The Beginning.

The Aims and Objectives of the Society

Early Years.

Membership. Honorary Members.

Participating Clubs.

The Search for the Perfect Swing.

Financial.

Matches and Trophies.

Crisis Years and Recovery.

Membership.

Financial.

Recent Years.

Tours

Junior Master Tournaments.

Participating Clubs.

Annexes.

A. Membership from 1955.

B. List of Participating Clubs.

C. Record of Donations.

D. The Search for the Perfect Swing.

E. The Path of Financial Recovery.

F. List of Society Tours.

G. Junior Master Tournaments.

H. List of Officers.

Appendices. Technical Items from the Bulletins

I. List of Technical Reports between 1962 and 1967

II. The First of Many

III. The True Origin of Golf

FOREWORD

It was a rather rash moment when I proposed to put together a brief history of our Society. Having, during 1994, put together an album of interesting facts and figures derived mainly from the Bulletins produced by the Society between 1962 and 1971, and found that when these were shown at Society meetings, most members found many items of considerable interest, I decided that perhaps a written document would be worth producing, which could then be made available to all members of the Society.

Geoff Bennett

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A quarterly newsletter was produced during 1955 and 1956 followed by quarterly Bulletins from 1957 to 1969 and thereafter half yearly until the early 70s, after which they were discontinued.

Unfortunately the Society's records are very incomplete and only some Bulletins were available to produce this brief history. If any long-standing member has any of the missing Bulletins hidden away in his or her possession, the Society would be most grateful to have a copy.

Since so many Bulletins are missing there may be some errors and omissions in this compilation. If any reader can provide any further relevant facts that should be included, they would be gratefully received by the Secretary.

THE BEGINNING

In 1954 Aynsley Bridgland was making preparations to launch a Society which he would call 'The Golf Society of Great Britain'. The Society would 'cement golfing friendships everywhere' and 'raise funds for international events providing hospitality to visiting players'. In December of that year, Golf Illustrated carried the following announcement. It is given in its entirety as it is of considerable interest and most relevant.

Golf Society of Great Britain.

Mr A V Bridgland, the wealthy Australian who has been in this country for a long time, recently announced that he has formed the Golf Society of Great Britain, the idea behind it being that for a small annual sum golfers at home or overseas can be members of the Prince's or the Royal Cinque Ports clubs in Kent, and that part of the subscriptions they pay to the Society would go into a trust fund to help British golf generally.

In outlining his scheme, the man behind it made it clear that he was in no way trying to usurp the powers of the Royal and Ancient Club, of which he is a member, in any way at all, but that his Golf Society of Great Britain would be complimentary to the work done by the R & A or any other ruling body.

We welcome the idea because, despite the fact we have for a year or two advocated that each golfer should have a shilling or two added to his subscription for the purpose of financing British golf teams, etc, nothing has been done. We might say that one or two other golf correspondents have been on the same tack, but even with all the joint efforts we are as far away as ever from collecting the necessary money

The fundamentals of Mr Bridgland's idea are simple and straight forward, for value for money is the basis of the scheme. Members of the society pay a certain sum and for that sum they get in return the opportunity of golf on championship courses. True, some members from overseas or who live a great distance from Kent would not be able to play often, but for them the subscription would be purely nominal.

Later on it is envisaged that the idea would be extended and that other courses in various parts of the country would be brought in. It should be said here that both the Kent courses have their future assured for them, so this is no scheme to get golfers to play there for financial gain.

We think any worthwhile scheme that will be of benefit to golf is worth supporting, and we await with interest more details of the Golf Society of Great Britain, for it may well provide the answer to a lot of problems that have been occupying our attention for too long.

We can't help feeling that the Royal and Ancient Club might have really got to grips with this question of a regular income. If it is not their responsibility whose responsibility is it?

The Society was founded in May 1955. The Founding had been delayed from 1954 because of separate plans to form an International Amateur Golf Fund to support the Walker Cup matches, the Commonwealth Tournament and other international golf matches. It was at the request of the promoters of this fund that the launching of the GSGB was delayed.

The two schemes were complementary to each other for whereas the fund appeals to clubs, the Golf Society of Great Britain seeks the support of individual golfers offering them unrivalled golfing facilities in return for a small annual subscription.

It was reported that some 70,000 letters were sent out at this time to British and overseas golf clubs inviting their members to join the Golf Society of Great Britain.

The Aims of the Society.

To promote goodwill amongst golfers and to help further the interests of amateur golf in all its aspects. GSGB is a non-profit making Association, run by a properly constituted executive elected annually by its members.

The Objectives of the Society.

The Society is an unincorporated Society and has been formed for all or any of the following objects and purposes, namely:-

- To assist in any manner whatsoever the promotion or furtherance of the game of golf.
- To promote or assist, whether financially or otherwise, in the promotion or organisation of competitions, tournaments, matches and other similar activities.
- To compile, publish and circulate bulletins, magazines, or other publications concerning the Society's activities.
- To publish the aims and objectives, for the time being, of the Society and in any other manner to increase its membership and activities.
- To afford the members the privilege of playing over the golf courses of Golf Clubs with whom arrangements for the purpose may be made and to establish and maintain a scheme for this purpose comprising Golf Clubs invited by the Society and electing to participate therein, such Golf Clubs being hereinafter referred to as "The Participating Clubs" the names of which shall be set forth in a list to be appended to the Bye Laws, for the time being, of the Society.
- To raise monies by way of subscription or donation or in any other manner and make provision for grants to be applied for or towards all or any of the objectives specified in these rules.
- To provide or make available to or for the members such other advantages, facilities and conveniences as may from time to time be determined.
- To do all such other things whether of the nature hereinbefore described or not as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Society's objectives.

EARLY YEARS

The **first phase** (1955-1974) saw the rapid rise in membership to over 5,000 at the end of the 60s. International matches were arranged between teams from Sweden, Belgium, France and the BBC involving many well-known amateur players representing the GSGB. A representative team was sent to Morocco to take part in the King of Morocco Cup with other teams from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Spain and of course Morocco. Also close links were established with the American 'People to People' organisation with representatives meeting for matches both in this country and the USA. One only has to look at the list of Honorary Members elected at this time to see the prestigious nature of the Society during this period. It was also the period during which the research was undertaken for 'The Search For The Perfect Swing', a project largely sponsored and funded by Sir Aynsley Bridgland through the Aynsley Trust Limited. The image of the Society was definitely 'high profile' during this period, but of course the majority of the membership was not involved in these events. The donations made by the Society during this period are also interesting, and the amounts quite generous for those years. In addition to the Participating Clubs, The Royal and Ancient GC and the LGU were all regular beneficiaries.

Membership

The increase in membership initially from the founding of the Society in 1955 to a maximum of over 5,000 in 1969 was very rapid, and almost in a straight line. See Annex A.

Growth in overseas members was significant in the early days. In 1961 the Society had members from Chile, Nigeria, South Africa, France, New Guinea, India, New Zealand, and of course USA. In 1962 there were in addition, members from Jamaica, Denmark, Switzerland, Southern Rhodesia, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, Arabian Gulf and Australia.

The Society shared Club Premises with the Golfers' Club at 40 Whitehall Court until mid-69. It is interesting to note that in 1963 this was the first West End Club to have golf nets. They were installed in the basement. Arundel Court, Arundel Street was then occupied jointly until the end of 1970, after which a further move took place to 10 Old Burlington Street which was eventually vacated in July 1976.

Some Honorary Members

1958. Selwyn Lloyd: Foreign Secretary. 1,000th Member. An important event to be celebrated. Sir Aynsley Bridgland presented Mr Selwyn Lloyd with a wedge and suggested that a body such as the GSGB would spread peace and friendship in the world. The recipient replied quoting Ian Hay as describing a certain Minister as a political niblick employed to get his party out of bad lies.

1959. Harold Macmillan. Prime Minister and a keen golfer who expressed a great interest in the Society and its objectives when accepting Honorary Life Membership.

1960. General Dwight Eisenhower. Then in his second term as President of the United States, gratified everyone by accepting Honorary membership. Always an enthusiastic golfer, describing himself as an 'eighty shooter', and a keen supporter of the 'People to People' Society in America.

1961. Duke of Norfolk. 2,000th Member. Known to the sporting fraternity as a racing man or patron of cricket, he was also a long-standing golfer who had his first lesson at the age of 12 on the Littlehampton course.

1962. Mrs Francis Smith: Captain of the Curtis Cup Team. 3,000th Member. She is the first of our five 'milestone' members whose primary claim to prominence is her skill at golf. Twice British Lady Champion, thrice English Champion, and six times a Curtis Cup player against the United States. She also possessed those attributes of diplomacy, dignity, and generalship in good measure. She was presented with the commemorative silver putter.

1966. King Leopold of the Belgians. 4,000th Member. The presentation was a regal occasion at the Dorchester Hotel in London. The Chairman, Sir Geoffrey Howard, expressed the gratification of the Society at this indication of Royal interest in the welfare and objectives of the GSGB. The King replied, welcoming the idea of an annual match between a team of Belgian golfers and the Society, and said he was extremely touched and very happy to accept the honour.

1969. Sir Harold Wernher. President of Electrolux. He became associated with the Society when he kindly presented the Electrolux Trophy for the inaugural match between the Society and the Swedish team at Djorsholm Golf Club in Sweden.

1970. Sir Ralph Stevenson. A distinguished retired Diplomat who during a long and important career remained faithful to golf as a pastime and found much desired relaxation in spare time jaunts on the links. On retirement he became very active in the Isle of Man local government and lived only a short distance from Castletown Golf Club, one of the Society's Participating Clubs.

Participating Clubs

Of the two Founder Clubs, Prince's and Royal Cinque Ports, only the former has remained a Participating Club continuously up to the present day. Royal Cinque Ports has left twice, 1970 and 1993, and later rejoined, most recently in 1994.

In 1957 five more clubs joined. These were Burnham & Borrow, Formby, Moortown, Royal West Norfolk and Woodhall Spa. In 1961 Castletown in the Isle of Man joined. By 1962 Broadstone, Formby Ladies, Gleneagles Hotel, Little Aston, Moor Park, Royal St David's and Turnberry had also joined. By 1967 Gullane, Manor House Hotel, Northamptonshire County and Northumberland were also included. The historical record of Participating Clubs joining and leaving the Society is tabulated at Annex B.

An item of interest concerning Participating Clubs was recorded in the Bulletin for Spring 1967. This refers to Prince's GC which had just increased its exclusion area for concessions to 70 miles, and was suffering some financial problems, partly due to having to give too many concessions to GSGB visitors. It reads as follows:

"Following the troubles and trials of Prince's, the Council has decided to explore the possibility of the Society forming a company through which a consortium could be created of the GSGB, other golf organisations, members of Prince's and golfers generally in order to purchase Prince's. Thence onwards to run it on a profitable basis for all members of the consortium."

This plan was dropped by the summer after a thorough investigation and taking expert advice. It was concluded that such a scheme was impracticable. The good news was that Prince's future as a golf course had already been assured through other means.

Financial.

Records on the financial state of the society prior to 1975 are not held. However the annual subscription paid by each category of member is known and recorded below.

Subscription Rates	1962		1967		1976	
	M	L	M	L	M	L
Full Members	5G	2G	5G	2G	7.35	3.15
Part Club Members	1G	1G	2G	2G	2.10	2.10
Joint General	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joint Part	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Citizens	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 25	3G	1G	3G	1G	3.15	1.05
Non-playing	2G	1G	2G	1G	2.10	1.05
Overseas (3 years)	5G	3	5G	3	15.00	7.50

G=Guineas

M=Men

L=Ladies

To meet one of its objectives, the Society gave donations to various organisations. Information on these donations for the years 1955 to 1965 are known and tabulated in Annex C.

The Search for the Perfect Swing.

This book was compiled for the Society by a team of scientists under the direction of Dr Alistair Cochran, initiated and driven by Aynsley Bridgland and took five years of research and experiments to complete. The scientific work commenced in the Autumn of 1963 and culminated in the successful publication of the book in October 1968. The production of the book was the most prestigious and major effort undertaken by the Society. It was sold for three guineas.

It has been acknowledged as the best book dealing with the mechanics, theory and practice of the game. Many leading professionals took part in the investigations which led to the conclusions fully described in the book. It is a remarkable record of the efforts of the team of scientists devoted to the study, analysing the game's human mechanics in hitting a golf ball, the ballistics of golf, interaction between the club and ball, spin, lift, and drag, theory, mental aspects of the game and many other topics.

Even today this volume is quite unique in being probably the most scientific book ever produced about golf, but written in a form that any golfer can understand. The work of presenting all the scientific data in such a readable form was entrusted to John Stobbs, and it was due to his efforts that the project was accomplished so successfully. Annex D gives more information on how the project was initiated and undertaken.

Matches and Trophies.

Mainly during the 1960s, and probably also the early 1970s, the Society played matches against various overseas clubs and teams often on an annual basis. Unfortunately the records are so incomplete it is not possible to detail every event.

The first mention of the matches against the **Chantilly Golf Club**, France, appeared in 1962 and two famous golfers, K G Thorn and H G Bentley played in the Society team. This match was drawn and in subsequent matches the honours appear fairly equally shared between the two sides. The last reference to the matches appears in 1969.

In 1964, in pursuance of the policy of supporting junior golf, the Society sponsored the annual unofficial match between the **French Junior Girls** and the **Girl's Golfing Society**. These matches could not have been played without the financial support of the GSGB. The 12th Annual Match was played in 1968 at Prince's and was won by the British girls.

In 1966, there was a visit from a group of keen golfers from America representing the Sports Committee of the '**People to People**' Society and a match involving 28 GSGB members was played at Prince's. In 1968, another visit was planned and a match was played at Moor Park hosted by the Society. The Society was captained by John Chambres and the team included 16 men and nine ladies amongst whom were William Tillman (Captain of Surrey), Nigel Paul (Surrey Amateur Champion) and Arnold Bentley (former English Amateur Champion). Unfortunately it rained so heavily during the match that it had to be abandoned without result.

Plans were then initiated for a group of GSGB golfers to make a return visit to California in Spring 1969. The Americans were thinking in terms of a group of about 35-50 golfers whereas the Society had some 250 members who wished to go. This caused some delay in obtaining firm proposals for the visit from the Americans and the visit had to be postponed for another year. The visit was finally arranged to take place in the Autumn of 1970 when 40 members left, captained by William Tillman. The Americans provided excellent hospitality and the visit was an unqualified success.

However, in the meantime, another party of 'People to People' golfers visited in Spring 1969 and were cordially welcomed at Prince's Golf Club by the Chairman, Gordon Davies. The GSGB team was again led by William Tillman. The result of the match does not seem to have been recorded, but the party and dinner after the match hosted by the Americans was a memorable occasion enjoyed by all members of both teams. There were speeches from the American Captain, Charles Seay and the Chairman, Gordon Davies.

In 1971, a year after the GSGB party had been to America, a reunion dinner was organised in London for those taking part in the matches between the Society and 'People to People' members over the years. Charles Seay was delighted to attend the reunion together with many of those Americans who had so kindly hosted the GSGB party on their visit to America. The reunion dinner was a great success and in addition golf was arranged for the visitors at The Addington Golf Club and Burnham & Berrow Golf Club with sight-seeing visits to the City of London, Stratford-on-Avon and Bath amongst others.

In 1967 a match was arranged against the BBC Golfing Society and Peter Florence of the BBC kindly presented a trophy to be contested annually thereafter. The trophy was naturally called the **Peter Florence Trophy**. The BBC made a habit of always winning their trophy and it wasn't until 1970 that the Society managed to win it. Unfortunately in 1971 the Society lost it again.

Also in 1967 the Society played a team from the **International Golf Society** at Prince's. Although the Society lost (4-3) it was a closely contested match. The Society's Captain was E A Brett with P Benka, W Tillman and E B Bridgland also in the team. The IGS Team Captain was J J F Pennick and his team included H G Bentley. A return match was planned to take place at Le Touquet in the following year.

In 1967 the Society was asked by Her Majesty's Ambassador in Brussels if a team could be sent during the British Board of Trade Week in Brussels to play a match against a Belgian team at the Royal Waterloo Golf Club. A trophy was presented by **Johnny Walker** Whisky who acted as host for both teams. The GSGB team, which included H Bentley and W Tillman, was only able to obtain a draw in the match. It was intended that the trophy be played for annually, alternately in Britain and Belgium, with the trophy held by the GSGB until the next encounter in Britain in 1968. The result of that match is not known as the

Bulletin in which it would have appeared is missing.

In 1968, during the British Board of Trade Week in Stockholm, the first match of the **Electrolux Trophy** was played against a Swedish team at Djorsholm Golf Club. The GSGB were winners of the first encounter. The return match was played at Prince's in 1969 during the so-called 'Swedish Week', when a strong national Swedish team came over. Various illustrious representatives of Swedish golf accompanied Sir Harold Wernher for a week of golf and other entertainments arranged by the Society. Again the GSGB team won.

In Spring 1969, the Society was invited by the **Golf Federation of Belgium and France** to send a team of junior (under 21) girls to play in these countries. The GSGB team included Dinah Oxley, Kathryn Phillips, Patricia Davie, Linda Denison-Pender and Beverley Huke. The British players won against Belgium 6-1 and against France 4-1. The team members went on to play in the **Nations Cup** in the French Golf Championship played at St Cloud GC. Girls from many countries enter the championship. The British girls won. Dinah, Linda and Kathryn went on to overcome their opposition to reach the semi-finals of the knockout. The final was eventually won by Dinah who beat Kathryn at the 20th hole. A memorable occasion for the British girls.

In 1970, the GSGB team competed once again in the **Nations Cup** at St Cloud and won. This time Kathryn Phillips went on to win the final of the French Championship beating her team-mate Linda Denison-Pender by one hole.

In 1969, Warren Humphrys was chosen by the Society to play in the **Junior Championship** in San Diego. He was a guest of the American 'People to People' Sports Committee and was so popular that his hosts extended his stay to give him the opportunity of playing the great courses of the Monterey peninsula.

THE CRISIS YEARS AND RECOVERY

The **second phase** (1975-1989) was initiated by the financial crisis of the mid-70s resulting in a bank overdraft in excess of £40,000. There followed the long slow recovery during which the overdraft was reduced year by year until in 1989 it was at last cleared. During this period no donations could be made and the continuing support of the Participating Clubs was particularly appreciated. All international fixtures and other matches were dropped while every effort was devoted to making economies and saving the Society. The fully manned London office was relinquished. Membership dropped to a low of only 350 members in 1984 but thereafter a strong recruitment campaign brought the numbers back to 600 by 1989. The financial problems and reduced activities of the Society during this period clearly had a serious effect on member's support.

Membership.

Between 1969 and 1976 no records exist but the decline in membership was very rapid, probably mainly after 1973, to 3,150 in 1976 and continued at the same rate to about 500 in 1983. A low point of about 350 was touched during 1984 after which there was a slow increase in membership to reach 860 in 1994.

Financial.

Between 1976 and 1988 the Society had no funds from which donations could be made, it being heavily overdrawn at the bank as Annex E shows. The bank overdraft peaked in 1977 at £20,164 and thereafter was reduced steadily to be finally cleared in 1989. There was considerable anxiety in 1976 that the Society's bankers would not allow the overdraft to continue, in which case the Society would not have been able to carry on.

By the concerted efforts of William Tillman, who became Chairman in 1977, and the members of the Executive Committee, proper control of the Society's finances was achieved, resulting in a steady reduction of the deficit. The improvement in the financial position of the Society continued under the Chairmanship of Eric Walker. The Society owes these Chairmen a great debt of gratitude for saving the Society from an early demise. Now, and since the mid-90s, with reserves of about £20,000, the financial position of the Society is secure for the future.

How did the disastrous financial situation of 1976 develop? There is a comprehensive and highly critical report in the files prepared by a firm of Chartered Accountants, dated 28th January 1977, which details the failures of the Society's Officers in controlling expenditure. A major part of the loss resulted from the ill-advised long term and onerous lease taken out on the Society's premises in London which at this time had to be vacated. Other comments in the report refer to a failure to prepare budgets and regular financial reports as laid down in the Rules of the Society. Also the accounts had not been presented to members for several years since Annual General Meetings had not been held. Overall the report indicated inadequate control over expenditure which, on account of the failure to prepare regular financial reports, meant that the financial implications were not fully realised until an extremely serious situation had already developed.

Once the high cost of the long term lease on the fully manned London office had been eliminated, and the office moved to part-time offices outside London, administration costs fell dramatically and the long haul back to get rid of the overdraft could start.

RECENT YEARS

The **third phase** covers the period after 1990 to where the Society is today. The financial position continued to improve through the 90s with reserves reaching £20,000 by 1995 and £40,000 by 2000. Following the decision to reduce and maintain the reserves at about £20,000, a more generous policy towards donations was made possible which benefits the Participating Clubs as well as other good causes such as a number of Junior Masters Tournaments sponsored by the Society.

Membership has remained stable in the mid-800s from 1990 and represents a comfortable number ensuring well attended meetings and also generating sufficient revenue from annual subscriptions. However in recent years the numbers have started to drop, and there is an ongoing requirement to recruit new members.

The two-day golf meetings held each month during the Summer are always well attended. Golf is played at a Participating Club on at least one of the days, with the second, if not held at another Participating Club in the area, then at a nearby club of good standing.

The activities which have developed considerably during this phase are the Society Tours and sponsorship of Junior Master Tournaments, both of which are very much in line with the original objectives of the Society.

Tours.

Tours, either abroad or in the UK, have become an important part of the Society's activities. The intention remains to run two tours each year, one in the Spring (preferably to warmer climates) and one in the Autumn. Annex F lists the tours undertaken and it can be seen that tours seek to break new ground as well as return to popular destinations. In general the tours are well supported and do much to encourage cohesion and friendship throughout the Society.

Junior Master Tournaments.

In the early 1990s the Society started to sponsor Junior Masters (JM) Tournaments. The 14 – 18 year old age group of golfers was already well catered for with competitions, and county events but for the younger age group there were few similar opportunities to play competitive golf. The Society has supported six annual Junior Masters for boys and girls aged 13 or under, all played at Participating Clubs. Annex G gives additional information on the Society's involvement with Junior Master Tournaments and also features a number of the 'star' players who have been particularly successful in these events.

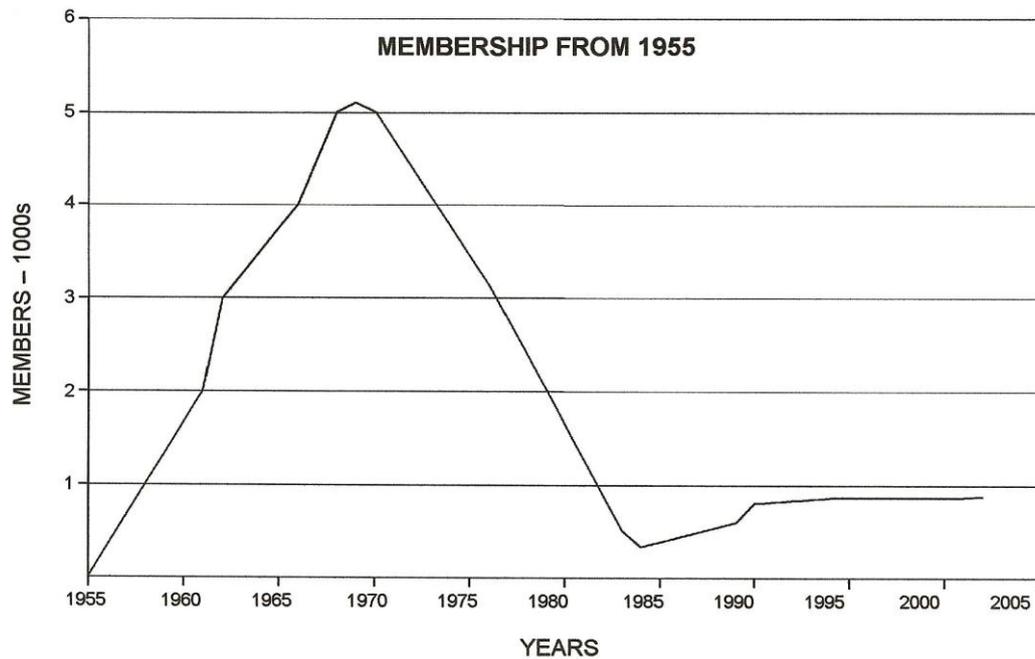
Participating Clubs.

The number of Participating Clubs has remained reasonably constant at about thirty with some clubs withdrawing and others joining. With the Society holding either five or six meetings per year, it takes about five years for each Participating Club to be visited with a full meeting. However, the reduced green fee privilege available to members should ensure that Participating Clubs are visited on a periodic basis. Although this privilege may not be used as much as might be expected from the number of members in the Society, it is nevertheless greatly appreciated by those members that do take advantage of it.

The Future

The Society is now a friendly member's Society. Its aspirations are more modest than originally set out in 1955. What it will achieve now and in future will depend on the wishes and support of its members. Ultimately, it is up to them to ensure that they continue to have an active Society.

ANNEX A



ANNEX B - PARTICIPATING CLUBS PAST AND PRESENT

Club	Year Joined	Year Left	Year Rejoined
Aldeburgh	1979		
Alnmouth	1989	1993	
Alwoodley	2000		
Bamburgh Castle	2000	2011	
Bath	1999		
Berwick (Goswick)	2011		
Blackmoor	2013		
Blackwell	2020		
Bradford	1993		
Broadstone	1962		
Burnham & Berrow	1957	2009	
Camberley Heath	2003		
Castletown	1961	1996	
Cirencester	1988		
Conway	2013		
Denham	1986	2006	
Edgbaston	2013		
Fairhaven	2016		
Formby	1957	NR	
Formby Ladies	1962	NR	
Foxhills	1979	NR	
Frinton	2000		
Gleneagles Hotel	1962	NR	
Gog Magog	1998		

Gullane	1966	NR	
Hornsea	1986		
Kenilworth	2005		
Little Aston	1962	NR	1986
Littlestone	2010		
Luffenham Heath	1998		
Lyme Regis	1989		
Manor House Hotel	1966	NR	
Middlesbrough	2002		
Moor Park	1962		
Moortown	1957		
Northants County	1966		
Northumberland	1966	1977	1979
Pannal	2002		
Prince's	1956		
Ross-on-Wye	1982		
Royal Cinque Ports	1982	1970/1993	NR/1994
Royal Cromer	1986	1990	
Royal Dornoch	1968	NR	
Royal St David's	1962		
Royal West Norfolk	1957	NR	
Saltburn	2005		
Sand Moor	2008		
Sandiway	1986		
Seascale	2018		
Southport & Ainsdale	2014		
St Mellion	2011		
The Addington	1979		
The Vale	2004		
Trentham	1998		
Turnberry	NR	NR	
West Lancashire	1979		
Woodhall Spa	1957		

Overseas Clubs

Corfu	1980	NR
Djursholm (Sweden)	1967	NR
Son Parc (Menorca)	1991	NR

NR indicates the year is not known.

[Current Participating Clubs.](#)

ANNEX C – RECORD OF DONATIONS (in £s)

1956			Ladies Golf Union	500		
1957	R&A Golf Clubs	500				
1958	R&A Golf Clubs	750	Ladies Golf Union	500	Participating Clubs	675
1959	R&A Golf Clubs	500	Ladies Golf Union	250	Participating Clubs	975
1960	R&A Golf Clubs	500	Ladies Golf Union	500	Participating Clubs	1050
1961	R&A Golf Clubs	500			Participating Clubs	1050
1962			Ladies Golf Union	500	Participating Clubs	1125
1963	R&A Golf Clubs	500	Ladies Golf Union	500	Participating Clubs	1125
1964			Ladies Golf Union	500	Participating Clubs	1875
1965	R&A Golf Clubs	500	English Golf Union	500	Participating Clubs	1875
1966 - 1975	No Records Available					
1976 - 1988	No Funds Available					
1989					Participating Clubs	750
1990	BIGGA	250	ESLGA	250	Participating Clubs	1500
1991	BIGGA	1000			Participating Clubs	1645
1992	Golf Foundation	2000	ESLGA	500	Participating Clubs	1800
1993	Golf Foundation	2000			Participating Clubs	1715
1994	Golf Foundation	2000			Participating Clubs	5000
1995	Laddie Lucas	500			Participating Clubs	2000
1996	Laddie Lucas	500			Participating Clubs	2000
1997	Laddie Lucas	700			Participating Clubs	2000
1998	Laddie Lucas	700	Moortown Juniors	2000	Participating Clubs	2000
1999	Laddie Lucas	762	Moortown Juniors	1268	Participating Clubs	2000
2000	Laddie Lucas	714	Moortown Juniors	707	Participating Clubs	2000
2001	Laddie Lucas	750	Moortown Juniors	750	Participating Clubs	3000
2002	Junior Tournaments	3500	Participating Clubs	3000		
2003						
2004						
2005						
2006						
2007	Junior Tournaments	4681	Participating Clubs	3600		
2008	Junior Tournaments	4047	Participating Clubs	3000		
2009	Junior Tournaments	3412	Participating Clubs	3000		
2010	Junior Tournaments	4135	Participating Clubs	2500		
2011	Junior Tournaments	3958	Participating Clubs	3000		
2012	Junior Tournaments	3000	Participating Clubs	2000		
2013	Junior Tournaments	3000	Participating Clubs	2000		

ANNEX D – THE SEARCH FOR THE PERFECT SWING

How did the study come to be undertaken? The Society's first President and Founder, Sir Aynsley Bridgland was the driving force who initiated the investigations. He believed that scientists could help sportsmen to improve their games and that if there were any secrets they would be discovered in terms of mechanical engineering principles. He was a keen golfer, engineer and mathematician. He was firmly convinced that such a study would benefit the game world-wide.

The story of this Research Project is given in great detail in Appendix III of the 'The Search for the Perfect Swing'. An extract headed 'The Scientists Meet Each Other' is worth quoting in full as it details the first meeting of the key scientists and Society officials who were initially involved.

'On the 21st June 1961 the scientists sat down to lunch at the Savoy Hotel, London, with Sir Aynsley Bridgland and Sir Geoffrey Howard. The scientists were Christopherson, Cochran, Lewis, Whitney and Wilkie.'

Christopherson was Professor of Applied Science and FRS, and had written a paper for the Institute of Mechanical Engineers on the mathematical implications of the strike in baseball. He later contributed three articles to the Society's Bulletins on the 'Science of the Swing'.

Continuing the Quotation:

'Dr Alistair Cochran, then at the Atomic Energy Establishment, Winfrith, had been invited because he had shown interest in this work some years before, when teaching at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. In May 1957, scheduled to give a 'popular lecture', he chose for his talk 'the ballistic aspects of golf. There had not been many hard facts to go on, but he did get some basic data on golf balls by visiting Dunlop. Cochran was then a handicap one golfer and played for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxford. It was at an inter-county match that he got talking to John Stobbs, his Hertfordshire opponent, who suggested that he expand his lecture into a series in Golfing Magazine which Stobbs then edited, Cochran devised some student experiments with golf balls in the wind tunnel, and with Bertie Daish, Head of the Ballistics Branch set up teaching demonstrations showing the effect of impact on the ball.'

The group continued to meet every few months for further discussions and preparing plans for the start of the investigations that would be required to progress the study. In order for the work to proceed, for the three to five years it was expected the study would require, funds needed to be available. Sir Aynsley Bridgland undertook to find the necessary money. By mid-1962 the Society had provided £6,000 to enable the work to commence. In Bulletin No 26 for Autumn 1963 under 'Science and the Society' the following was written in a Report given to the press by Sir Aynsley:-

Science and The Society by Victor Gordon-Lennox

Prior to the AGM, the President gave to the Press a report on the progress made by the Society in its various activities. Notable among these is the investigation being undertaken by the Scientific Panel, guided and co-ordinated by Dr A J Cochran, until recently working with the Atomic Energy Authority.

Since Sir Aynsley personally inspired this investigation it was natural that he should devote a substantial part of his remarks to this theme, which is arousing world-wide interest. He prefaced his remarks with the question. 'How, indeed, should a man or woman golfer try to deliver a blow with a driver on a golf ball equivalent to one ton moving at some 160 mph at impact, which is what happens when a pro drives a ball some 270 yards?'

Sir Aynsley was naturally anxious not to anticipate the final conclusions at which the scientists may arrive. They still have a long way to go in the correlation of the tests they are making through a wide variant of scientific media. But in order to give some idea of the progress made Sir Aynsley said he would give his own speculations 'not as a scientist, but as a golfer' on some of the results which he thinks likely to emerge.

1. It is extremely doubtful that the emphasis on the arms and hands as the principal source of power will be

confirmed. By measurements taken by electrical apparatus, it is becoming clear that the body and leg muscles produce most of the power.

2. We hope to give all golfers some simple method of checking their grips so that the proper muscles can be brought into action. It is possible that the position of the hands may vary with each person if they want to get the maximum effort into their swing.

3. Transference of weight is a process much more complicated than has been generally recognised. The reasons for this complicated movement are under study at the present time, and will, we hope, in due course be given in simple language.

4. Is the 'square method' a sound practice to adopt? So far it is not by any means certain, since the movement necessary to hold the club face square may introduce errors more serious than those it seeks to eliminate.

'I have given these pointers' added Sir Aynsley, 'to illustrate what is being done, but as I have already said, we are by no means through all the investigations needed to make authoritative statements. Even now we cannot begin to discuss the psychological factors, although we hope to have something interesting to say on this aspect later in our studies.'

'Other experiments are being carried out on the design and construction of golf clubs. Allowance is being made for the differing sizes and shapes of players; the physical handicaps from which some may suffer; the relationship between the mind, force output and accuracy. We have also been studying the performances of different sized golf balls under varying conditions of play.

'The more our scientists delve into these matters the more new factors come up for consideration in the final analysis. When this is completed we shall be able, I feel sure, to present the first fully documented book on how to become a good player of this game which is enjoyed by millions all around the world.'

It soon became apparent that the ultimate pre-publication costs of *The Search for the Perfect Swing* would be very much greater than the £6,000 originally contemplated. In April 1963 the President agreed that further expenses would be met by the Aynsley Trust. It was also agreed, during 1963, that it would be expedient to form a limited company to deal with the project and on 26th June 1964 GS Publications was formed. The whole of the share capital was held by Trustees on behalf of the GSGB, and the Directors nominated by the Council were G O Davies, N MacPhail and J Chambres.

It was agreed that all profits from the sale of the book should be divided equally between the GSGB and the Aynsley Trust Limited until such time as the current debt of £6,000 to the GSGB had been discharged. Thereafter the whole of the profits would go to the Aynsley Trust until that debt was liquidated, after which all profits would revert to GSGB. Final production costs were £6,000 from GSGB and £56,000 from the Aynsley Trust. There seemed little likelihood that the latter debt would ever be discharged,

Royalties from the book were very disappointing and in 1973 the two debts still stood at £2,952 and £54,540 respectively. Following further discussions between the Executive Committee of the GSGB and the Aynsley Trust it was agreed that the GSGB should purchase the debt of £54,540 from the Aynsley Trust for £2,000. This would enable the Trust to establish a tax loss of £52,540 and enable the GSGB to have the whole of the income from the book in the future.

By 1984 the loss carried by GS Publications Limited had been reduced to £43,024 through sales of the book. Royalties up to May 1972 amounted to £7,037 but only a further £1,516 had been received by 1984. In 1985 'Booklegger' from California arranged reprinting of 5000 copies for payment of \$3500. This was followed by a further reprint of 5000 copies in 1989 for \$6000, and 3000 copies in 1994 for \$2500. There has also been a translation into Japanese with the 1st printing of a 1,000 copies taking place in 1992 for payment of \$7,220.

The sales of *The Search for the Perfect Swing* are still significant in the USA and more recently Japan. It has been reported by 'Booklegger' that almost every professional in the USA has a copy. It is a great pity that the

book has never achieved such popularity in this country. The scientific findings are as valid today as when originally researched. It is written in a style that is easy for the average golfer to understand without being highly technical. It should appeal to any golfer who wants to know what happens when he attempts to hit a golf ball. It might even benefit his game.

In 1995 'Triumph Books' of Chicago took over the printing and publishing from 'Booklegger'. They gave the book a new and more arresting cover and started on an active publicity drive to improve sales. This was quite successful and Royalties received by the Society improved significantly initially. However, they have subsequently declined somewhat, although Royalties continued to be paid to the Society on a regular basis.

ANNEX E – THE PATH OF FINANCIAL RECOVERY

The fight back to preserve the future of the Society had taken twelve long years (1977 - 1989) and has been well worth the effort put into the recovery by the Chairmen, Officers and Members of the Executive Committee who served the Society during this difficult period.

Details of the fight back are given in the figures below:

Year	Net Assets £	Bank O/D £	Subscriptions £	
1975	(4,935)	(15,742)	12,093	
1976	(20,972)	(19,109)	12,967	
1977	(19,416)	(20,164)	17,294	
1978	(19,120)	(17,008)	13,187	
1979	(14,614)	(14,713)	9,104	
1980	(13,453)	(13,714)	8,712	
1981	(9,336)	(10,430)	8,979	(Sub increase)
1982	(8,057)	(9,914)	5,732	
1983	(6,685)	(7,912)	4,835	
1984	(5,752)	(6,728)	4,343	
1985	(4,668)	(6,389)	4,347	
1986	(1,917)	(3,279)	5,341	
1987	(2,376)	(3,261)	4,106	
1988	(439)	(2,007)	5,524	
1989	314	0	6,702	
1990	5,532	0	8,491	(Sub increase)
1991	8,560	0	8,923	
1992	16,714	0	11,996	
1993	18,119	0	12,631	
1994	18,584	0	13,400	
1995	20,500	0	13,706	
1996	21,154	0	13,355	
1997	24,017	0	13,316	
1998	28,747	0	13,475	
1999	32,959	0	13,771	
2000	40,288	0	13,800	
2001	41,948	0	13,846	
2002	42,806	0	14,384	

ANNEX F – LIST OF SOCIETY TOURS

1977	Greece	Corfu
1987	Greece	Corfu
1989	France	Le Touquet
1992	France	Le Touquet
1994	France	Le Touquet, Hardelot
1995	Ireland	Killarney
	Scotland	Dumfries and Galloway, Portpatrick
1996	Portugal	Madeira
	Northern Ireland	Portrush
1997	Morocco	Marrakesh, Quarzazate, Agadir
	France	Deauville
	Scotland	East Lothian
1998	Zimbabwe	Harare, Victoria Falls, Kariba, Mutare
	England	Isle of Man
1999	Morocco	Rabat, Fes, El Jadida
	Ireland	Dublin
2000	Portugal	Vale do Lobo
	Scotland	Fife
2001	S Africa	Cape Town, Hermanus, Fancourt, Sun City
	England	Cornwall
2002	Turkey	Belek
	France	La Baule
2003	Tunisia	Hammamat, Port el Kantaoui, Tabarka
	Northern Ireland	Limavady
2004	Argentina	Buenos Aires, Iguazu, Cordoba, Bariloche
	France	Dinard
2005	Morocco	Marakesh, Agadir.
	England	Yorkshire. Harrogate
2006	S Africa	Durban, Drakensberg
	Wales	Glamorgan
2007	United States	Arizona, Scottsdale Region
	Belgium	Waterloo
2008	Argentina/Chile	Buenos Aires, Santiago, Maitencillo, Vina del Mar
	France	Tours
2009	Morocco	Marrakesh, Agadir
	Eire	Sligo
2010	Turkey	Belek
	Italy	Desenzano del Garda
2011	Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang
	Austria	Salzburg
2012	Kenya	Nairobi, Great Rift Valley
	Scotland	East Lothian
2013	Spain	Costa Brava, Emporda
	Bulgaria	Varna
2014	Thailand	Chiang Mai, Hua Hin
	Mauritius	
2015	South Africa	Franschhoek, Durban
	France (1)	Chantilly
	France (2)	Brittany
2016	South Africa	Fancourt
	Sicily	Donnafugata (2 trips)
2017	Belgium	Waterloo
	Tenerife	
2018	South Wales	Cowbridge
2019	South Africa	Pretoria, Kruger
2020	Ireland,	North Dublin (Cancelled Covid-19)
	France	Bordeaux, Biarritz (Cancelled Covid-19)

ANNEX G – JUNIOR MASTER TOURNAMENTS

The History of the Tournaments

GSGB sponsorship grew gradually. The Laddie Lucas Spoon was first. Sponsorship of this started in 1994; then came the Moortown JM in 2000, the Gogs and Wessex (Bath) JMs in 2001, Little Aston JM in 2002, and Sandiway JM in 2006. Events were also sponsored at Bamburgh and Royal St David's, but these did not get established and fell by the wayside. Little Aston dropped out and was replaced in 2009 by Kenilworth, which got off to a flying start with over 50 entrants. Prince's had already been running the Laddie Lucas Spoon since 1989 and GSGB adopted their format.

The Laddie Lucas Spoon

The Laddie Lucas Spoon has a unique history. Laddie Lucas was born in the old Prince's Club House in 1915, his father being co-founder and first secretary of the club. At the age of 6(!) he won an event for children aged 13 and under at the North Foreland club. The trophy was a little hickory shafted spoon (3 wood) made for him by the North Foreland club maker. At the age of 9, he got a hole in one with this club. Laddie donated the spoon to Prince's, where it is the trophy in the event that the GSGB now sponsors. He went on to become reputedly the world's best left-handed golfer, representing Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup competitions of 1936, 1947 and 1949 and captaining the team in 1949.

During the 2nd World War, Laddie became a Spitfire ace. In one sortie his plane was damaged over the Channel by a Messerschmitt. Not fancying bailing out over the Channel, he decided to crash land and chose the Prince's golf course, since he knew the terrain like the back of his hand. He crashed upside down and out of bounds and received a telegram from Henry Longhurst, the golf correspondent saying 'Out of bounds again, Laddie'!

Notes on Past Winners

Jonathan Bell (Royal Blackheath) was the most prolific winner of GSGB JM events. He first came on the scene at Bath in 2001, when, aged 9, he was runner up in the scratch competition. He won the Laddie Lucas Spoon, the Little Aston and the Gogs JMs and was again runner up at Bath in 2003. In 2004 and 2005 he successfully defended his Laddie Lucas title. Jonathan was one of four talented youngsters in the winning English team in the Honda Junior Championship in Japan. In his debut in the Boys Home Internationals in 2008, Bell lost only one of his six matches. In 2009 he was in the English Under-18 Squad along with **Adam Myers** winner at the Gogs in 2004 and **Scott Campbell** winner at Little Aston also in 2004. In November 2009 Jonathan won the Faldo Series Championship in Rio de Janeiro.

Hannah Coles (Maxstoke Park) is the only girl to have had an outright scratch win in a JM event (Little Aston 2002). Now at University in Virginia, she claimed her first outright victory on the US women's college circuit, in the 2008 Lady Herd Fall Classic in Huntington, West Virginia. Also in 2008 she tied for first place in the Charleston Southern Invitational, losing in an all British play-off to Olivia Jordan-Higgins of Royal Jersey.

Sam Connor (Sandiway) was runner up at Moortown in 2001 at the age of 9 and won at Little Aston in 2005. Connor, who has been handling a golf club since he could stand, joined Alsager at the age of five and was, reportedly, described as a bit of a "boy wonder" by Ernie Els when the two met at Wentworth a couple of years later. Connor now plays off plus one and, apparently, is being eyed by England.

Oliver Fisher (Chigwell) was the Laddie Lucas Spoon winner in 2001. He won the Lagonda Trophy at the age of 15 and went on to become the youngest player ever to contest a Walker Cup match. He missed out on an historic European Tour win when he lost in a play-off to Thomas Levet at the Andalucia Open in March 2008. The two were tied on 16 under before the play-off. After a year in the wilderness in 2009, Oliver was making a comeback in 2010 and has recorded 5 successive top ten finishes.

Tommy Fleetwood (Formby) only featured in one top two Junior Masters finishes (Moortown in 2002). In July 2008 he played as a member of the English team in the European Team Championships in Slovenia and represented GB and Ireland in the 2009 Walker Cup. However, his greatest achievement so far has been to become the English Amateur Champion at Little Aston in July 2010. Tommy has now turned professional.

Jack Hiluta (Chelmsford) won the Gogs event in 2002. He went on in 2007 to Captain the GB and Ireland team in the Jacques Leglise Trophy. Jack is now on a sports scholarship at South Alabama University where he has had 3 top ten finishes which included a five-under-par 67 on the second day of the Sun Belt Championships.

Mikhail Ishaq (Bondhay) had back-to-back wins at Moortown in 2004 and 2005, was runner up at the Gogs in 2004 and won that event in 2005. In July 2008 he fired a stunning five under par opening round of 65 in the First Point USA Scottish Boys Under-16s championship at Glen GC in North Berwick. Mikhail had seven birdies in a breath-taking first round. He followed this by a second round 70 to take the title by 3 shots.

Chris Lloyd (Kendleshire) won the Moortown Junior Masters in 2002. In 2008, he won the Ernie Els World Junior Championship in South Africa and in November 2009 won the Abu Dhabi Junior Championship. In 2010, he joined the EGU under 18 squad.

Kiran Matharu (Cookridge Hall) won the girl's scratch prize at Moortown in 2001. By 2004, at the age of 15 her handicap was down to +2. She went on, aged 18, to become the youngest ever winner of the English Ladies Amateur Open in 2006 and played in that year's Curtis Cup. She joined the European Tour in 2007.

Chris Wood (Long Ashton) won the Wessex Junior Masters in 2001. In 2007, he won the Welsh and Russian amateur titles, but burst onto the major scene when he finished joint fifth in the 2008 Open at Birkdale, winning the Amateurs' Silver Medal, after which he joined the professional ranks. In 2009, Chris tied for third place in the Open at Turnberry, missing out on a chance for the title by just one shot.

Four to watch for the future, Will Cooper (Woburn), Mark Collins (Chart Hills), Delon Hau (Vale of Glamorgan) and Tomas Bayliss (Birchwood Park). Aged 13 in 2008, both Will Cooper and Mark Collins recorded 3 top two finishes in GSGB Junior Masters events. Mark at the age of 12 won the Gogs event in 2007 with a stunning 3 under par 69 and Will was runner up. (Mark was 5 under standing on the 18th tee, but double bogied that hole). In 2008 the roles at the Gogs were reversed with Will pipping Mark by one shot (one and two over respectively). Will was runner up at Bath in 2008 and Mark was runner up at the Gogs in 2006. Delon Hau recorded back to back wins in the Wessex Junior Masters in 2007 and 2008 and represents Wales in the boys internationals. Whilst Tom Bayliss did not win any of the scratch prizes, he won many age group prizes. The reason for mentioning him here is firstly, because he was such a regular player. He played at the Gogs in 2001, winning the 7 year old age group prize, and in every one of the six following years until he ceased to be eligible. Other age group prizes were 9 year-old at Wessex, 10, 11 and 13 year-old at the Gogs and 2nd handicap prizes at the Gogs in 2002 and Little Aston in 2003. The second reason for mentioning Tom is that he is having a fantastic year in 2010. In June, aged 15, he broke the course record at his home club by 3 shots, with a score of 63. Also in June 2010 Tom came second in the US Kids European Championships at Gullane with a 54 hole aggregate score of 214. He is also quite good at keepy-ups. For a laugh, have a look at <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=1361096314482>.

ANNEX H - OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

PRESIDENTS:	1955 -66	Sir Aynsley Bridgland
	1966	Sir Geoffrey Howard
	1969-70	Lady Bridgland Gordon Davies
	1989-93	Neil Hotchkin
	1993-96	Roland Parker
	1996-2000	Eric Galbraith
	2000-05	Geoff Bennett
	2005-09	Peter St Quinton
	2009-14	James Hunter
	2014-19	Nigel Dickson
	2019-21	Alan Golborn
CHAIRMEN:	1955-66	Sir Geoffrey Howard
	1966-77	Gordon Davies William
	1977-85	Bill Tillman
	1985-93	Eric Walker
	1993-96	Geoffrey Bennett
	1996-99	Peter St Quinton
	1999-2001	John Wilson
	2001-04	James Hunter
	2004-07	Nigel Dickson
	2007-09	Peter Batty
	2009-12	Alan Golbourn
	2012-15	Linda Hill
	2015-18	Robin Moser
2018-	Giles Hinchcliffe	
TREASURERS:	1966-	John Chambers M MacPhail
	-85	George McLelland
	1985-89	Geoffrey Morley
	1989-94	Eric Galbraith
	1994-99	John Wilson
	1999-2001	James Hunter
	2001-07	William Price
	2007-08	Gordon Rycroft
	2008-15	Robin Moser
	2015-18	Giles Hinchcliffe
	2018-	Robin Moser
SECRETARIES:	1955-58	Clifford Giles
	1958-64	E S Harris
	1964-65	R A Sangster
	1966-67	M Ker
	1967-69	F Mallinson
	1970-72	D Bryon
	1972-79	M Clark
	1979-95	Joyce Drummond
	1995-99	Elizabeth Mountain
	1999-2009	Jacqueline Hesketh
	2009-	Brian Ward

APPENDIX I

TECHNICAL REPORTS FROM THE BULLETINS

To list all the technical reports that have appeared in the Bulletins which are held, is not justified, but the following titles give an idea of the range of subjects covered. Two of particular interest are reproduced in Appendices II and III exactly as they first appeared.

1962.

'The Importance of Backspin.' by a Scientist.

'A Dissertation on Spin.' by G Cousins.

'The Grip Strength of Golfers.' by D T Noble.

1963.

'Clubhead Weight Analysed.' by B Daish.

'Science and Craftsmanship.' by G Cousins.

'The First of Many – 17th Century Golf Tips.' (See Appendix II).

'Dissecting the Golf Swing – The GSGB Panel at Work.' by G Cousins.

'Seeking the Secret of Power.' by G Cousins.

1964.

'True or False?' by Dr A J Cochran. 'No man, living or dead, ever hit an acceptable drive with topspin. In *all* golf shots, backspin is imparted to the ball.'

1965.

'True or False?' by Dr A J Cochran. 'Clean, sharp grooves on the face of the club are essential for good iron shots.'

'True or False?' by Dr A J Cochran. 'Keep your eye on the ball.'

'True or False?' by Dr A J Cochran. 'In matchplay three-quarters of the difference in handicap is a fair allowance.'

1967.

'The True Origin of Golf.' by G Cousins. (See Appendix III)

'Take Time at the Top.' by T Scott.

APPENDIX II

THE FIRST OF THE MANY — 17th Century Golf Tips

Many millions of words have been written about the method of executing the golf stroke, but every book which comes off the Press, be it written by a star professional, a gifted amateur or an earnest theorist, is merely a variation on a well-worn theme. One of the earliest treatises on golf was written not for gain but for the mere pleasure of passing on information to kindred souls.

Thomas Kincaid was a keen golfer, a young man of means and leisure in Edinburgh who, on a January day nearly three hundred years ago, was moved to put on paper his thoughts on how to play the game. These were published in the history of the old Edinburgh Club in 1687 and the following extracts, converted into modern language, make interesting comparison with the instructional articles of the present day.

"Stand as you do at fencing with the small sword, bending your legs a little and holding the muscles of your legs and back and arms exceedingly bent, or fixed or stiff..

The ball must be straight before your breast, a little towards the left foot. Your left foot must stand but a little before the right, or rather it must be even with it and a convenient distance from it. You must lean most to the right foot.

All the turning about of your body must be only upon your legs, held together as stiff as you can.

Then you must incline your body a little forward from the small of your back and upwards; for, seeing that all the strength of the stroke is from the swing of the body in turning about, then certainly the further forward you incline your body and shoulders, they must have the greatest swing and so consequently give the greatest stroke. But you must not incline so far forward as to make your stance unsteady and cause you to waver in bringing down the club.

You must keep your body in this posture all the time, both in bringing back the club and forward; that is, you must neither raise your body straighter in bringing back the club, nor incline it further in bringing down the club. But you must bring back the club by turning yourself about to the right hand as it were upon a centre, without moving your body out of place... so that you cast the weight of your body off the one leg on to the other in the time you are bringing back the club. Neither must you in the least turn down your left shoulder and up your right, thinking thereby to give the club a larger swing for this is a very unsettled motion whereby you will very often miss the ball and almost never hit it exactly.

Your arms must move very little; all the motion must be performed with the turning of your body about. The arms serve only to guide the club... Therefore you must never begin with the motion of the arms first — their motion must be only towards the end of the (back) stroke.

All motions of the arms must be at the shoulders, and all the motions of the legs at the uppermost joint of the loins. You must make no halt or rest — which is slackening the muscles of the back — between the bringing back of the club and bringing it forward; instead, bring it about with that swiftness that the natural swing of the club requires, holding it pretty fast in your hands."

Thomas Kincaid did not claim to be either a 'roller' or a 'square'. But he was an addict keen enough to study the game and put his conclusions into words for posterity.

APPENDIX III

THE TRUE ORIGIN OF GOLF by Geoffrey Cousins

My old friend Bob Hudson of Oregon, past Ryder Cup sponsor and staunch friend of professional golf on both sides of the Atlantic, has sent me a massive book, costing the dollar equivalent of seven guineas. And in the opening sentences the author has done me the honour of culling, from my own book "Golfers at Law", my story of how golf began.

It described how an ancient Briton holed-out in a cauldron of soup outside his cave on the South Downs, while hitting a pebble with his flint-studded club, and then challenged his friends to a trial of skill. And the American author, Will Grimsley, describes this as implausible. But is it any more implausible than any of the other stories served up by past researchers? My own view, having studied the matter a little further, is that I was perhaps nearer the truth than anyone has ever been.

We have been told at various times about:

The Dutch game of **kolf**. This was played on ice or a hard floor with a flat missile like an ice-hockey puck. It wasn't golf.

The Belgian game of **chole**. This was played across country with opponents hitting the missile in the opposite direction. It might have been the progenitor of hockey but it certainly wasn't golf.

The French game of **pell melt**. This was played up and down the road with what passed in those days for a tennis racket. It wasn't golf.

Now the Scots of those days played a game with a round ball and a crooked club over heather and sand dunes. This was actually called **golf** and the question is, how did they come to play this game? They didn't get it from the Dutch, the Belgians, or the French, in my opinion. No, sir. They got it from the English. And before I shelter from the whistling claymores of outraged Scots and stop my ears against their outlandish imprecations let me offer a simple and logical explanation.

The early Scots golfers used a ball stuffed with feathers — something, you see, that neither the Dutch, the Belgians nor the French employed in their respective games. Now it is known that the Romans played a game called **paganica** in which a feather-stuffed ball was struck with a crook-ended stick.

Using this well established fact as a starting point, I have worked out the sequence of events.

The Roman legions brought their game to Britain. When they departed for good around 400 AD, they left feather-stuffed balls in the lockers of their gymnasia and scattered over the landscape, and these were gathered and used by the British chiefs, who were taught the game by the serfs who had caddied for the Romans. When the Saxons came to Britain they were introduced to the game and, in fact, became great enthusiasts. Alfred the Great used to play a lot around Winchester, and it is not generally known that when he allowed the cakes to burn on the hearth of the swineherd's but he was busy thinking out a new method of putting (down the Danes). But in the end golf brought about the downfall of the Anglo-Saxons. Alfred, being dedicated to the art of war, played golf only when he wasn't fighting the Danes; but his successors refused to let war interfere with their pleasures. Why was Ethelred called the Unready? Because every time there should have been a battle with

the Danes he was up on the Downs playing a fourball. So eventually the Danes took over England and, in their turn succumbed to the seductive pleasures of this strange game, to the extent that the English neglected practice with arms and were easy meat for William the Conqueror.

Now William was a very strong man. He didn't know golf. He didn't like golf when it was explained to him. He thought golf a waste of time. So he banned it.

This didn't please certain people who had been very badly bitten by the bug. Hereward the Wake, a noted champion of East Anglia, hid himself in the Fens with his favourite baffle and a few floaters and defied William's men for months and many Englishmen, resigned to losing their land and possessions, put their blackthorn sticks into bundles, filled their rucksacks with all the balls they could find, and trekked northwards to be welcomed with open arms by the Scots, as fellow-rebels against authority.

And that is how the game came to Scotland and also how the English archers won the battles of Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt. For since golf was not allowed in England there was nothing a man could do except learn to shoot straight. It was the ability of the English Bowman to split a willow wand at fifty paces which made English archers the terror of Europe. Meanwhile, the Scots neglected archery but perfected the art of holing six foot putts to such an extent that they won the first twenty-nine Open Championships. They might have gone on winning the Open if their keenness on the export trade had not brought about their downfall. Not content with sending whisky to America they allowed a New York Scot named Reid to import clubs and balls from St Andrews. But for that who would ever have heard of Hagen and Jones, Hogan and Snead, Palmer and Nicklaus.