



The Bunnet

Official newsletter of the
James Braid Golfing Society

President : Peter Thomson

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From Under the Bunnet

Viewed from under The Bunnet, the end of another year fast approaches with lingering astonishment at how far reaching has become our happy band. When the James Braid Golfing Society was launched upon an unsuspecting world of golf it was but a small knot of happy fellow travellers. Today we are close to 200 strong and interest in the Society continues to grow to the point where the noble souls who unstintingly give of their time to administer our affairs are increasingly stretched to hold on to level par.

Principal among them of course are Secretary Steve Toon and Vice-president Robert Powell who put together an excellent programme for 1998 and then made it all work. John Moreton did sterling work in organising matches south of the border and many others have given of their valuable time in a busy year. On behalf of our President, Peter Thomson and myself, and particularly on your behalf, we thank them sincerely for their efforts, while remaining comforted in the knowledge that they intend to continue their noble efforts as the new millennium fast approaches.

The Society has made many new and valued friends in the course of the year. We have been warmly welcomed at James Braid courses from Peterborough and North Hants south of the border, to Lundin Links and the great man's home burgh of Elie and Earlsferry, in the East Neuk of Fife. The matches against the Lundin Club and the Golf House Club at Elie are now being actively discussed as annual fixtures in our programme. James Braid would no doubt thoroughly approve.

He would also approve of our members' generous support of the junior sections of the clubs at which we had matches during the year. A total of close to £1500 was raised for these youth sections, representing a tangible expression of the Society's commitment to do what it can to help junior golf.

Overseas the Society continues to expand beyond all our expectations. The name of James Braid, and the objectives of

our Society, are being talked about around the world in a way that we could not have imagined when the idea for the Society first took shape. Already in the past year members have met in James Braid's name as far away as Mauritius in the Indian Ocean and your Captain was honoured and delighted to be entertained recently at the two courses outside of the British Isles where James Braid's name is associated.

Although he did not travel to The Saint Andrew's Golf Club at Yonkers in New York, America's oldest golf club, or to what is now the Singapore Island Golf Club, James Braid's name and work have been associated with both. It is believed that the Bukit course at the Singapore Island Golf Club was laid out from topographical maps supplied by James Braid in 1924 and some of his work, again carried out from topographical maps, can still be seen at Yonkers, despite the remodelling work of Jack Nicklaus in the 1980s.

Your Captain was also warmly welcomed at the World Golf Village in Florida where fellow member Ruffin Beckwith is the Chief Executive Officer and where of course James Braid is honoured as a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame.

It is on the home front, however, that the Society's endeavours are centred. A full programme of events has been assembled for 1999, as can be seen from the enclosed match sheet, and we look forward to welcoming many more of you at various events in the coming year.

Old friendships will be renewed and, we are certain, new ones will be forged.

You will also see elsewhere in this issue that we are planning an overseas match in the Spring in response to interest shown by several members after our unofficial match in Mauritius. While it will break with our policy of normally playing matches only on James Braid courses, the Committee feels that the enthusiasm shown by our members on the island for such a match justifies the break with convention and we hope that a good representative band of emissaries will be able to make the trip. Certainly they will be warmly welcomed.

I can safely say that on the evidence of the year now almost gone our Society is in good heart and well prepared to go forth into the last year of the millennium.

It only remains, therefore, to raise The Bunnet to the New Year and more specially to the man in whose name we will foregather to enjoy it together - James Braid.

A Guid New Year to you all.

Malcolm L. Campbell
Captain



Pictured at the JBGS match against North Hants Golf Club, from the left, Justin Rose, JBGS Captain Malcolm Campbell, Peter Alliss and North Hants Secretary, Roy Goodliffe.

See "A Rose by any other name" page 5.



From the Secretary's Quill

The Spring Meeting on 9th May, 1998, was a memorable day for me. It was my first game of golf in England and, remarkably, I played in a JBGS team which included Mr Bill White who, 60 years ago, in 1938, teed off against James Braid in an exhibition match to celebrate the inauguration of the Peterborough Milton Course. The quality of Mr White's game may be judged by the fact that his match against the five-times Open Champion ended all square.

The Society was honoured by the presence of Bill White, who had obviously lost none of his competitive spirit or touch around the greens.

In June, our Founding Meeting in Brora was also honoured by the presence of Mrs George Payne, the great, great granddaughter of James Braid. Mrs Payne presented prizes in the clubhouse at Brora to competitors, including the winner of the James Braid Open.

A special "Thank You" goes to a special lady from all members of The James Braid Golfing Society.

Thanks are also owed to Alistair and his gracious wife Gillian, Lord and Lady Strathnaver, who welcomed JBGS members to a cocktail party at Dunrobin Castle, seat of the Sutherland family since approximately 1150. The links at Brora and Golspie form part of the Sutherland Estates and the Society was privileged to receive a unique invitation.

The splendid evening followed our annual match against the Shivas Irons Society, based in California. The result of last year's match was declared 'AMBIVALENT'. This year it was not so clear cut.



JBGS Captain, Malcolm Campbell, presents Shivas Irons Society President, Steve Cohen, with a plaque commemorating the Societies' annual match at Brora.

To avoid confusion among those not familiar with the Stableford scoring system, your Secretary asked that cards be marked with 'the gross score only'. The instruction was interpreted a little too literally and a significant number of cards were returned bearing 'the gross score only' with no name or handicap to be found anywhere on the card. Very amusing gentlemen!

The 1998 result was therefore declared 'IRRELEVANT'. S.I.S. President Steve Cohen was awarded a cigar.

Golf, for most of us, is like The Curate's Egg: "Good in Parts", as illustrated in the 'Punch' cartoon of 1895. To celebrate the skills of the average golfer, a competition unique to the JBGS was played over the links at Golspie. Cards were returned for 18 holes, but only 9 holes would count - odd or even. This was decided over dinner by the toss of a coin with which James Braid would have been very familiar: - An Edwardian farthing. The worthy winner was Marlene Jones.

The President's Putter

J.H. Taylor wrote in *Golf: My Life's Work* of James Braid's advancement in the game which led to his first Open Golf Championship:

"James' rise to eminence in the putting game began when he first used an aluminium putter and discarded the weird and wonderful iron implements that all shaky holers-out fly to as a hoped-for correction. His success engendered a great confidence which increased until he became one of the world's finest putters."

Braid's success with the aluminium putter is evidenced by his association with the Standard Golf Company, formed by Sir William Mills. Aluminium clubs were manufactured by his company from the 1890s onwards, including one of the most popular putters of all time: The 'Braid-Mills'.

One example of these putters, c.1927, has been acquired by the Society, on behalf of our President, Peter Thomson.

Displayed in the Braid Room at The Royal Marine Hotel, Brora, the President's Putter will be engraved with the name 'George Payne', for 1998.

Played over our President's own design at St Andrews, The Duke's Course, George Payne was a worthy winner of this testing stroke play competition.



George Payne - Hcap 5
Winner: President's Putter '98

The Autumn Meeting was played in the East Neuk of Fife: A match against the fine fellows of Lundin Links; the President's Putter and a match against the Duke's Golf Club, both played over our President's own design at St. Andrews and, finally, a foursomes match against The Golf House Club over the links at Elie, birthplace of James Braid.

So, our year ended appropriately, in Elie, where a brass plaque marks the birth place of James Braid.

To end this report, it is equally appropriate to quote J. H. Taylor's tribute which summarises the values to which the James Braid Golfing Society aspires:

"Jimmy will, I know, forgive me if I attempt a little character sketch which very long years of acquaintance may warrant. I do it in very few words, because he hates verbosity. This loveable character can be summed up in three words - sincerity, trustworthiness, loyalty."

Stephen Toon
Secretary





"Very few golfers take any wind that may be blowing sufficiently into their consideration when putting"

James Braid

So that's what's wrong! Ed.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

Although they did not perhaps fully realise it at the time, JBGS members were present when another little bit of golfing history was made at North Hants Golf Club a couple of weeks before the Open Championship. Young Justin Rose, hero of Royal Birkdale, played for his club in the match against JBGS partnered by club secretary, Roy Goodliffe, in what turned out to be one of his last appearances as an amateur player. (See photograph - front cover)

Your Captain, partnered by no less a personage than Mr. Peter Alliss, brought what little they could to bear by way of Society opposition to the North Hants opening partnership. The young master offered a consideration of six strokes to your Captain and, some of us felt almost disrespectfully, five strokes to golf's favourite commentator and former Ryder Cup star.

However, the young buck proceeded to birdie the opening three holes, including driving the green at the par 4 first hole, and had it not been for a slight lapse around the middle of the round when he slumped to a few consecutive par figures, could easily have holed out on the North Hants course in 58! Our losing margin of only 5 & 4 in that particular match was a tribute to some wonderfully stern rearguard play by Mr. Alliss, who was seen to be limping at the end of hostilities either through trying to get within visible distance of Master Rose's drives or, just as likely, by the weight of your Captain upon his back.

Thanks to the valiant efforts of other JBGS team members, including the youngest ever winner of the Amateur Championship and now Captain of the R & A, John Beharrell, other pairings fared slightly better in what was generally hailed as a very entertaining match against a very hospitable North Hants side. The overall result was an honourable draw.

M.L.C



Founder JBGS member, Dudley Warner III (left) and colleague Phil Shazam, modelling Brora's bunnet couture.



Charleston, SC - Birthplace of American Golf



By Dove Jones

It is a little known fact that over a century before the formation of the first North American golf club, the Royal Montreal Golf Club in 1873, there was a chartered golf society located in the Carolina Lowcountry.

The South Carolina Golf Club, apparently founded in September 29, 1786, by a group of aristocratic Carolina Coast rice planters, ministers and newly arrived Scottish and British merchants, played their golf on Harleston's Green in Charleston until 1799 when there is no further record of the club.

The club's first president, Dr Henry Purcell, was also the rector of St Michael's Episcopal Church whose spires could be seen in the distance from Harleston's Green. Dr Purcell had even bought, in 1778, lot number 103 on the Green, well ahead of his time in the golf course real estate trend! Although Harleston's Green has long been overgrown by the city, it was a natural place for golf as it was the furthestmost expanse of open space within the city's early fortifications and laid out along the shore, reminiscent of St. Andrews.

The South Carolina Golf Club still exists today having been recognised in 1968 and rechartered by the state of South Carolina. Included among the prominent members of the coastal golfing community signing the reorganisation papers were Jack Nicklaus and Reverend Coleman, the then rector of St Michael's Church in Charleston. The club now has a permanent home at the Harbour Town clubhouse in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The archives of the club are there, as well as an excellent museum quality display of early golf clubs put together by Laurie Auchterlonie, master club maker and, until his death, honorary professional to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. The collection begins with a James McCarran play club from the 1770's, and includes clubs from Willie and Jamie Dunn, Charlie Hunter, Old Tom Morris and others. The Heritage Room on the second floor also contains many other artefacts and books as well as portraits of past tournament winners.

This is also the site of the PGA Tour's MCI Classic - the Heritage of Golf Classic dating back to 1969. All the traditions of this unique tournament from the starting cannon to the tartan jacket for the winner are tributes to the founding Scottish fathers of the game of golf. It is only fitting that the PGA Tour's tournament heralding the history of the game is held here in the Carolina Lowcountry where golf in North America really began.



JBGS President, Peter Thomson, welcoming H.R.H. The Duke of York, Prince Andrew, to the inauguration of his design at St Andrews: The Duke's Course, 1998 venue for the JBGS 'President's Putter'.

Presidents Cup

The following letter has been sent on behalf of all our members to President Peter Thomson who is Captain of the International Select side in the Presidents Cup matches against the United States at Royal Melbourne in December.

Dear Peter,

On behalf of all your fellow members of the James Braid Golfing Society good luck and best wishes when you Captain your team against the United States in the Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne at the beginning of December.

Our thoughts will be with you when you try to reverse the narrow result of 1996. We know that the International Select could not have a finer or more highly respected Captain to lead them.

We will all be following events closely.

With best regards,

Malcolm L. Campbell, Captain

On behalf of the members of the James Braid Golfing Society



THE CODE OF THE WOOSTERS

In golf, as in life, there is a code, often referred to as 'The Code of the Woosters'.

This code is designed to deal with unsavoury antics like - scratching from the team sheet, often referred to as 'premature withdrawal', and, being unavailable for selection by way of the limp excuse of having a bad leg. (One does not need to illustrate further)

For such gross misdemeanours, a fine of a bottle of port or malt has been adjudicated.

Those guilty among you (and you know who you are) are requested to present such bottles at a Society meeting within 12 months of the infringement of the Code.

Slainte mhat!

The Braid Quaich

Peterborough Milton - 9 June 1998

Bill White, retired professional from Coxmoor Golf Club, demonstrated to JBGS members just how the golf club should be swung in our first meeting south of the border - The Braid Quaich. The sprightly 85-year-old, accompanied by his wife Dorothea, re-enacted his role in the Coxmoor's opening exhibition, when he took on James Braid, 60 years before almost to the day.

In strong winds and driving rain Bill demonstrated shot making skills that most golfers can only dream of. Partnered by the club's professional, Mike Gallagher, Bill saw off the home opposition, founder members Bert Gill and Martin Bains. He proved a most entertaining after-dinner speaker in a brief account of that historic encounter with the great man.

The Coxmoor club presented Bill with a beautifully lettered scroll describing the history of the club. The scroll was the work of Mrs. Gunn, wife of Past Captain Charles Gunn, who played in the top match.

The Society's most sincere thanks must be accorded to Tony Thorpe who persuaded his old friend Bill to make the trip. Tony told me that he had never seen Bill so animated in conversation and we should all feel pleased that we gave this fine gentleman the opportunity to relive the past and demonstrate his skills and experience. It remains to be seen if the 'stars' of today will shine so brightly in their 86th year.

John Moreton, Historian.



Bill White passes on the benefit of 70 years professional experience.

MATCH AND COMPETITION RESULTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Result/Winner</u>
Friday	3 Apr	The Captain's Putter	Club Paradiso Mauritius	Mario Desvaux
Tuesday	9 May	Spring Meeting - The Braid Quaich Match vs. Peterborough Milton GC	Peterborough Milton GC	Peterborough Milton GC
Friday	26 Jun	Founding Meeting: - Match vs. The Shivas Irons Society	Brora	Irrelevant
Saturday	27 Jun	The James Braid Open (Scratch)	Brora	Neil Hampton
Saturday	27 Jun	The Captain's Bunnet (Handicap)	Brora	Stephen Toon
Saturday	27 Jun	The Curate's Egg	Golspie	Marlene Jones
Sunday	28 Jun	The Captain's Pink Balls	Golspie	John Moreton/Stuart Gibb George Payne/Tim Walton
Thursday	2 Jul	Match vs. North Hants GC	Northants	Halved
Friday	4 Sep	Match vs. Lundin GC	Lundin Links	JBGS
Saturday	5 Sep	President's Putter	Duke's Course St Andrews	George Payne
Saturday	5 Sep	The Thornton Mashie Niblick	Duke's Course St Andrews	Duke's GC
Sunday	6 Sep	Match vs. Golf House Club	Elie	Halved