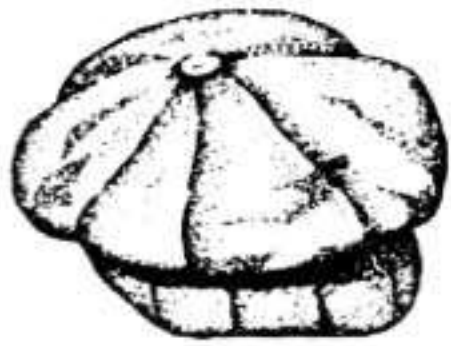




The Bunnnet

Official newsletter of the
James Braid Golfing Society

President : Peter Thomson

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From Under the Bunnnet

Youth is not a time of life . . . it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of ripe cheeks, red lips and supple knees . . . it is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigour of the emotion . . . it is a freshness of the deep springs of life.

No-one seems to know to whom this sagely pronouncement is attributed but it seems quite apposite as we gaze into the new millennium with all the hope that this new beginning brings with it.

One wonders what James Braid must be thinking about the state of the game he graced for so many years as he looks down from the celestial clubhouse at the start of another era. When the 20th century began Braid was just beginning to make his mark. Three years into that new century he took up the position of professional at the Walton Heath Golf Club when that venerable club opened, and he remained for the rest of his professional career. He was a true ambassador for the professional game, a founding member of the PGA and later its president, a position to which he took great wisdom and the voice of moderation.

There is not a shadow of doubt that the scenes witnessed at Brookline in the Ryder Cup with but a few weeks of the 20th century left to run **would have saddened him as much as it did all who value the traditions and self-imposed disciplines that have grown up over six centuries of the game.**

If there was any good to come out of the sad scenes from the Country Club at Brookline it surely must be a clear signal to everyone who genuinely cares for the game of golf to redouble efforts to preserve its dignity and defend the values that were so dear to James Braid and which he himself so rigorously espoused.

There are many of us who were not entirely surprised by what we saw on television from Boston for there has been a pervasive undercurrent running in the Ryder Cup for more than a decade and, it has to be said, it has been evident on both sides of the Atlantic. Neither is this disorderliness an entirely new syndrome.

Was it not the anticipated partisan behaviour and unruliness of the Musselburgh galleries as far back as 1899 that forced Harry Vardon to insist on a change of venue from Musselburgh to North Berwick for the second leg of his memorable home and home match against young Willie Park? Had his Great Triumvirate partner J.H. Taylor not suffered at the hands, or more correctly feet, of the Musselburgh faithful only four years earlier? And was it not the partisan behaviour of the crowds over running the course in the Open Championship at Prestwick in 1925, determined on a Macdonald Smith victory over Jim Barnes, that took Prestwick off the Open Championship rota never to return?

Brookline was not the first evidence of bad behaviour among partisan crowds at golf events but perhaps the most worrying aspect for concerned observers was the lack of respect for the game from too many of the players.

Respect for the game of golf and for its continuing influence for good in an ever more undisciplined world is at the heart of what the James Braid Golfing Society is all about. Let us all vow

to redouble our efforts to make sure that Braid's legacy of courtesy and respect for all who enjoy the game for what it truly means, continues into the new millennium.

On a much less sober note it is pleasing to report that our Society had a particularly successful year in which we met and made new friends from all over the world. Plans are in hand for a Braid Society visit to the St Andrew's Golf Club at Yonkers to which many of you have indicated interest, and February 25 to March 4 has now been confirmed for the visit of members to Mauritius.

We are delighted to report the resumption of the match against the Elie Golf House Club scheduled for the September Meeting. It had to be left in abeyance in 1999 because of a clash of dates but the Elie club's secretary, Sandy Sneddon, has confirmed a return of this popular match to the fixture list.

A GUID NEW YEAR

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Founding Committee to thank all members for their continuing support and along with our President, Peter Thomson, wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year.

Malcolm L. Campbell, *Captain*



President's Message

Just as James Braid must have done a hundred years ago, we all look forward into a new century with the same hope and anticipation he must have done. And as we look down the fairway of a new millennium let us reflect on the legacy James Braid and the Pioneers of golf left in our keeping and redouble our efforts to preserve the real values of the game

I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Peter Thomson

President James Braid Golfing Society



Bunnets and Ties

All outstanding orders for ties and bunnets should have been mailed with this newsletter. If you have ordered an item, but have not received it, please contact our Vice-president, Robert Powell on the Society fax number or on the e-mail address.

The Secretary's Quilling

I am privileged to work from an office in a clubhouse overlooking the Auld Grey Toun, which today has a deep covering of snow, a chill contrast to the sunny days of golf we enjoyed this year. How quickly they have passed! However, this view only stimulates anticipation for the year to come.

It was over the links of St. Andrews that our final match of the year was played against the Kummeleers, a team recruited by the ever genial Membership Secretary of the R&A, Lachlan Murdoch McIntosh. A worthy recipient of the Secretary's tie for his brave, but inevitably doomed, attempt to assist the organisational efforts of Secretary and Captain. It has to be said that of all the doomed attempts, Lachlan's has been deemed most doomed. Witnesses around the first tee likened events to a lorry load of headless chickens searching for a needle in a burning haystack. What nonsense! Once the initial excitement had passed and all bets had been placed, the match ran as smoothly as ever.

The Alzheimer's Award was instituted during the autumn meeting, inspired by Jim Bannerman who, you may recall, suffered certain lapses at Walton Heath earlier in the year. At Arbroath, during the autumn meeting, true to form, Jim had to rush off after the game over a matter of house keys.

He had either locked his wife in or, alternatively, had locked her out. He couldn't remember. The presentation could not be made during the splendid dinner at The Old Manor Hotel that evening, as the Captain forgot to bring the award with him. A further attempt to make the presentation the following evening was also unsuccessful, no-one could remember who had won it.

The Secretary's Tie Club is increasing in numbers and I take this opportunity to thank all those who have assisted in organising meetings and matches and congratulate those who have travelled great distances to participate. The latest recipient is Peter Landau, the Historian of The Saint Andrew's Club of New York, who flew over to play in the autumn meeting.

One pleasing result of the Society's activities I must report is the interest in Braid which has been stimulated by our matches and meetings, especially amongst juniors and within clubs which play over Braid designed courses. The donations by members to junior sections of both Walton Heath and the Golf House Club at Elie have been used to set up annual junior

Best of Braid

The quality and timelessness of Braid's designs was ever apparent in 1999, when both the Open (at Carnoustie) and the Walker Cup (at Nairn) were played over the best of Braid's work.

The Society would like to send a special message of congratulation to Nairn for the staging, immaculate in every respect, of the Walker Cup.

In contrast to the Ryder Cup, nowhere was the true spirit of golf more evident than at Nairn this autumn, where players, spectators and officials alike shone as outstanding ambassadors of the game.

Brora Number One

The Society was delighted to note that the links at Brora was recently voted "Number One Course in the U.K." by readers of Today's Golfer magazine for all-round quality and value for money.

Many times described as a "hidden gem", Brora remains a gem, but is perhaps no longer hidden.

competitions for a Braid Trophy. In both cases the winner will be invited to guest for the Society in our matches at these venues.

Recently I was privileged to be invited to speak on the subject of The James Braid Golfing Society at the prize giving dinner of Lundin Ladies' G.C. The 9 hole lay out by Braid at Lundin Ladies is a real gem and remains untouched. The renewed interest in Braid within the members may, we hope, lead to stronger links between the Society and this unique club, which is the oldest "Ladies only" club in existence.

My special wishes for the New Year and I look forward to the commencement of Millennium hostilities at Walton Heath in May.

Stephen Toon

Secretary



Unsteady, Miss Kummelpenny!

Our final match of the 1999 season was fought - some felt rather unsteadily - against a team of R & A Kummeleers recruited by the R & A's Membership Secretary and JBGS member Lachlan McIntosh. The Kummeleers, so named because of their known and regular proximity to large quantities of the clear Dutch liqueur of that name, were led by none other than 007 himself, Mr Sean Connery.

The result was a victory for JBGS, who clearly caught the gentlemen of the R & A slightly off-guard over the New Course at St Andrews after a decent lunch and a couple of glasses of the clear stuff. Details naturally remain hazy but Mr Connery was certainly seen to sportingly concede a putt of at least four feet for a half match with your Captain and Mr McIntosh on the last, a gesture he would surely not have made had a Mr Goldfinger been on the opposing team and the match at Stoke Poges. A return match is scheduled for September. Among those who played for JBGS were Peter Landau, historian of the St Andrew's Golf Club at Yonkers and Lee Quaintance also a member of the St Andrew's Club who flew over from the States specially to play in the September Meeting.

Our photograph shows Sean Connery with our Captain on his right, Lachlan McIntosh on his left and the Braid Putter, which was the trophy for the event.

A New Lease of Life

Being no longer in that first flush of youth, and playing as it were, the back nine of my golfing life, I have found myself once again engaging the services of a caddie after a decent interval of toting my own bag.

In James Braid's time propriety demanded an "aide de camp" even for amateur players, for appearances sake if nothing else, but as we stare into a new millennium very few of us still retain the services of a caddie. The fold down contraption and those whirring monsters with three wheels and a battery are the new Boswells.

This is a pity for there is nothing quite the same as playing with someone by one's side to advise, cajole or be quite overtly rude about one's progress. This is why I have embarked on a caddie renaissance.

As I cast my mind back on what can only be described as a short but spectacularly unsuccessful amateur tournament career I always insisted on someone "on the bag". However, I was always a modest golfer with, as great aunt Mildrid was always quick to point out, much to be modest about. In fact so unsuccessful was this career that 3rd place on count back in the Outer Hebrides Biannual Mixed Foursomes playing with the old buffer herself springs too readily to mind as possibly the high point.

My caddie in those days was, however, worth recall. A lithesome young lady who played much better than I did and had that sort of Figoni & Falaschi body work which snaps heads around as if on elastic. It perhaps goes without saying that she was selected not entirely for her ability with the yardage chart but in any case, in those days long since gone, I had not, nor have I since, any idea how far I flight a suppressed No 6 iron let alone in which direction it is likely to travel. But that was not the point, she invariably knew which club to give me to miss with.

Indeed it could be said, although I urge you not to place upon it the wrong interpretation, that she would probably have "out-Fannied" Miss Sounesson by some distance had she had in any way a competent employer to swing the clubs she so elegantly

proffered. Alas her carrying career faded in direct proportion to her employer's inability to make the cut.

Like the legendary Bobby Jones I quit tournament golf with no more worlds to conquer. The fact that, unlike Jones, I had not conquered any in the first place did not in any way detract from that feeling of release which sweeps over the tournament player when he takes the decision to quit. I was at one with the great man.

However, as I have already said I am moving into the new millennium determined to encourage the revival of the caddie, and in the belief that female caddies make by far the best confidantes on the course - despite the Faldo/Sounesson split - I have once more embarked on that course.

In something of a very minor renaissance in my tournament career I have been extremely fortunate to retain the services of a young filly in every way as becoming as the original. If I tell you that her lines do for the female of the species what the Type 35 Bugatti did for the automobile you will catch my drift.

In keeping with my tournament revival, and in an effort to spruce up the look of the golf bag, I am now sporting two rather racy head covers for driver and spoon respectively, one a handsome royal blue affair and the other a friendly, furry animal type after the fashion of Disney's "Goofy" which I carry as a reminder of one of my old publishing friends and which I can seriously abuse without the slightest feeling of remorse.

I am pleased to report that my new caddie viewed both with approbation on the first tee of our opening outing as a team. It was a short but tight Par 4 clearly requiring a spoon to keep the ball in play. Knowing, however, that my new caddie was as yet somewhat inexperienced in matters of club selection, and rather than having her take the responsibility, I suggested the No 3 wood as the opening gambit.

"Would that be the bluey or the Goofy?" came the instant reply. I knew she would be a worthy successor.

Malcolm L. Campbell



Lundin Ladies' Golf Club

Lundin Links is renowned for the quality of the fine links remodelled by James Braid in the early 1900s and the home of the Lundin Golf Club which generously hosts what has become an annual match against JBGS in September.



However, the village is home to another Braid course which is rather overshadowed by its more famous sister across the main Leven to Lundin Links road

The nine holes of the Lundin Ladies Golf Club is a delightful layout and the home of the oldest "ladies only" club in the world. It is a genuine hidden gem and remains just as Braid laid it out when the ladies moved to their own course after sharing the links with the men for some years.

The clubhouse is strictly ladies only, although men are welcome to play the interesting inland course with its ancient standing stones a memorable feature on the 2nd hole. The "honesty box" is still a feature at this historic club and in use when the starter is not available to take green fees.

Our secretary, Steve Toon, forged links with this relatively unknown Braid course when he was asked to speak at the Lundin Ladies' Club annual prize giving dinner.

Golf in Slovenia

Our intrepid Historian, John Moreton was recently invited to address a Congress of golf course architects and superintendents in Slovenia. His theme was the origin and tradition of golf course design, with particular emphasis on the work of James Braid.

John enjoyed a tremendous welcome and hospitality and heartily recommends a visit to the country, not only for the excellence of the courses there, but also the cuisine and fine wines to be found both in clubhouses and in local restaurants.

This new relationship between the Society and Slovenia was cemented when John invited one of his gracious hosts, golf architect Mrs. Alenka Ivancic-Felicijan, to join our international fellowship. The enthusiasm generated by John's presentation was such that Alenka, her husband and four fellow members from Ljubljana G.C. visited the Royal Marine Hotel for a week in August and played Brora, Dornoch, Tain and the northerly Durness. They reported that their favourite course by far was Brora, one of Braid's best.

Mauritius Visit

There has been a good response from members interested in travelling to Mauritius in the spring to meet with the very active membership JBGS has on the Indian Ocean island. A trip to coincide with the Fourth Annual Paradis Amateur Golf Trophy at Le Paradis Hotel has been arranged. The dates are February 25 to March 4, 2000, and there is the prospect of some excellent sport.

Members travelling will take part in the Paradis Amateur Golf Trophy, which attracts players from all over the world, and there will be separate competitions within the event for James Braid members, following the same format as the annual Founder Meeting at Brora.

The cost of the trip for golfers is £1478, which includes flights to the island, local transfers and seven nights at the famous Paradis Resort on a half board basis. Three days of golf including the Mauritian Scramble and two days of tournament golf are included along with various cocktail parties and a grand gala dinner to end the week.

Non-golfing partners will find plenty to do on this paradise island which has been nominated the "greatest resort in the Indian Ocean". There are two squash courts, five floodlit tennis courts, two swimming pools, a health centre and every water sport imaginable. All water sports are free to Le Paradis residents with the exception of sub aqua and big game fishing.

For further details or to make a reservation contact Paul Bedford at Beachcomber Tel: 01483 533008 mentioning the JBGS. Members intending to travel to the island for the event, please indicate on the accompanying insert.

Welcome Ronan

The Society is pleased to welcome its newest member, Mr. Ronan Rafferty, who, in addition to Ryder Cup and Dunhill Cup honours, is a great enthusiast of both links golf and fine wines, a combination which the Society roundly applauds.



James Braid makes good contact recovering from the rough at Walton Heath in 1922. Note the flight of the ball at the right hand centre of the picture.

From "Golf - A Pictorial History" by Henry Cotton

Dates for 2000

Mauritius: February 15 - March 4.

Spring Meeting:

- The Longhurst Tandem, West Surrey, Wednesday, 24th May. Four ball better ball.
- Match v the Bill Wood Select at Walton Heath, Thursday 25th May. Four ball, better ball.

Founding Meeting:

- Match v Shivas Irons Society at Brora, Friday 23rd June. Team stableford
- The James Braid Open, Brora, Saturday 24th June. 36 hole strokeplay
- The Curate's Egg, Golspie, Saturday 24th June. 18 hole stableford.
- The Captain's Pink Balls, Sunday, 25th June. Complicated.

Autumn Meeting:

- Match v Lundin G.C. at Lundin Links, Friday 1st September. Four ball, better ball.
- President's Putter at Scotsraig, Saturday 2nd September. 18 hole stroke play.
- Match v Golf House Club at Elie Sunday 3rd September. Foursomes.

Results 1999

Winner(s)

Spring Meeting:

Match v Walton Heath
Match v Tyrrell's Wood

JBGS
Tyrrell's Wood G.C.

Founding Meeting:

Match v Shivas Irons Society
James Braid Trophy:
Captain's Bunnet:
Curate's Egg:
Captains Pink Balls:

declared "mellow".
John Hunter
George Sutherland
Jean Hall
declared "rather humid".

Autumn Meeting:

Lundin Links:
Arbroath: President's Putter
St. Andrews: Match v Kummeleers

declared "outshtanding".
Graham Watson.
JBGS SHHH . . .

Putter for Shivas Irons

Once again, a great welcome was given to our old friends from the Shivas Irons Society when they deserted the oasis of California and pitched tents in Brora for our annual match. SIS members came bearing gifts for all of Michael Murphy's best seller, *Golf in the Kingdom*.

President Steve Cohen was presented with a Braid-Mills putter by Captain Malcolm Campbell, which Steve promised to use to great effect on the greens of Pebble Beach and Cypress Point. When he returns to Brora in June, we shall expect a full report on the effectiveness of a 1915 Braid-Mills in the hands of a contemporary master.