



County & City Club

December 2011



CAPTAIN'S TABLE:

I was in Western Australia recently & took the opportunity to visit the two 'Royal' golf clubs there, The Royal Perth and The Royal Fremantle. Both clubs were very hospitable and presented me with a copy of their histories, which now reside in our library. Royal Perth was founded in 1895 (we, RPGS, gave them a Centenary Quaich in 1995) and Fremantle founded in 1905. Royal Patronage was granted to Fremantle in 1930, while Perth had to wait until 1937. We are hoping to agree reciprocity with both clubs. In addition to the Centenary Quaich, I knew from our own history we had also given Royal Perth 5 old hickory clubs in the early 1960s. (more on this topic in later pages).

Continuing the historical theme, we all know Perth WA was named after our Perth. But why & by who? The man responsible was Captain James Stirling who declared the Swan Colony in Australia a British Colony in 1829 and named the new Perth in honour of the home city of the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir George Murray.

Merry Christmas.

Bob McGowan - Captain

RePortaGes

EDITOR'S DESK:

Talking of reciprocal clubs I recently had the pleasure of visiting Royal Ottawa Golf Club. A sumptuous clubhouse, extensive wood panelling, deep leather chairs in the club bar, 'talk of the city' restaurant, high class locker rooms with two attendants on duty, and exceptionally well stocked shower rooms. Despite the late autumn visit the course was in excellent condition with lightening fast greens. A late autumn task being to blast compressed air through the underground watering system in preparation for the onset of winter, a bit disconcerting when a startlingly powerful jet of air springs up at the moment critique. The front nine is a settling experience, with the back nine increasingly enjoyable with every hole. Don't miss when in Ottawa.

On a separate occasion Moira and I were leaving a course we had just played and visited the well-stocked pro shop for a memento. As we entered a 'mature' lady member was commencing what became a prolonged 'spat' with the professional regarding a hybrid club purchased in the Spring, which was now on the Sale in the Autumn. We browsed the shop for some time, reluctant to approach the counter and disrupt the flow of the unfolding drama. Eventually we left quietly via a side door, passed the defeated husband slumped in a chair. The door closing on, '...but in the Spring I had to....'. Pure theatre, but no memento.

David Begbie - Editor

(davidbegbie@btinternet.com)



SECRETARY'S SLOT

What a wonderful turn out for the Autumn General Meeting in October. Fifty-four members, which equalled the record attendance for such meetings in the modern era. The Captain and I updated the membership on the important goings on at the Club. The subscription rates for next year were proposed and agreed. Unfortunately they showed a slight upward trend, but that is the way of the world, and still represent good value for money. The more you use the Club the more value you gain. It is a great place to have a family party. Indeed this year numbers for private members functions are nearly double those of last year, the trend is certainly catching on. Our tenants in the basement, R.S.P.B. are increasing their staffing levels and are seeking larger premises elsewhere in Perth. They have been exemplary tenants since 2000 and we shall be sorry to see them go. We shall also miss the rent! We need to find suitable new tenants for the 580sq.ft. of prime office space. Know of anyone? Please get in touch. We intend sending copies of this magazine, with its unique title, to our Reciprocal Clubs. The title was well thought out. Remarkably one member only recently realized the link between RePortaGeS and RPGS. Thank goodness RamPaGeS was not chosen. Have a Happy Festive Season and enjoy the full programme of events at the Club in 2012.

Donald McDonald (Secretary)

*Merry
Christmas*



GOLFING PURSUITS

Craigie Hill Centenary Celebration

In July Craigie Hill invited an RPGS four to attend their Centenary Golf Day, where we presented a Rose Bowl to commemorate the achievement.



Here are the RPGS four (Bill Duncan, Robert Graham, David Howie and George Beaton), who were doing well on the day - until comfortably overhauled by Dunning.



Summer Stableford at Strathmore



Winner Gordon Laing being presented with what looks suspiciously like a food parcel from Tournament Director Alan Christie.





2011 PRIZEWINNERS

Spring Meeting

1st Scr. - Gold Medal Philip Anderson

2nd Scr. - Pitfour Solver Richard Hally

1st H'cap - St Martin's Cross Iain Brown

Spring Foursomes

Macduff Jug

Robert Graham and Ralph Giulianotti

Annual Outing - Lahinch

Biarritz Cup - Derek Reid

Summer Meeting

1st Scr. - Jameson Jug Philip Anderson

1st H'cap - Pullar Jug Robert Graham

Autumn Foursomes

Rev. T.D. Miller Trophy

David Howie and Robert Graham

Autumn Meeting

1st Scr. - Buccleuch Medal Richard Hally

2nd Scr - Bombay Medal Brian Alexander

1st H'cap - Atholl Cross David Begbie

2nd H'cap - Bell Jug Ewan Findlay

The Tulliebardine Cup

Best aggregate net (Spring and Autumn Meetings)

Richard Hally

The Captain's Salver

>65 year old's aggregate net (Spring and autumn

Meeting) - Brian Kitching

The Knock out Cup

Robert Graham

Scratch Winners



Scratch Winners Philip Anderson and Richard Hally with their loot at the Annual Dinner in November.



2012 GOLF EVENTS

A complete list of events for 2012 is now available but too long to feature here in detail. Suffice to say there are trips planned to North Berwick (May), Aberdeen (July) and London (Sept). The full list has been circulated to the normal suspects but if anyone who wishes a copy, and has not received one, please contact Andrew Christie.



Lisbon 2012 - Oitavis Dunes



As the snow and cold encroach ever nearer the thoughts of the lucky few turn to the Lisbon 2012 trip. The focus of the above picture of Oitavis Dunes will improve the nearer departure creeps.

Our Golf Secretary reports we have 22 confirmed travellers, two more punters would make up the party to 6 four balls. Arrangements are progressing well, which is the good news, the not so good news being that deposits may be required shortly.

The even better news for those that ducked the 2011 trip concerns a €200 compensation received from Lahinch. This will be used in the first place towards deposits. There seems to be a miss placed expectation that those who

didn't tour to Lahinch will have the benefit of this compensation, and no doubt they will remember this when drinks are being bought. (Ye're right!!)

easyjet flight times have changed since original planning. At the time of press this has triggered a round of uncertainty as to whether the trip should be increased in length as some tourists would prefer extra days to allow more golf and sightseeing. No doubt extra work for the Golf Secretary which will be resolved in short order.

PERTH LINKS (not a new Course)

The Captain referred, in his opening comments, of re-energising the links between RPGS and the Royal Clubs in Perth Australia with the objective of adding to the list of reciprocal clubs.

In addition to a Centenary Quaich being presented to the Royal Perth Golf Club (as mentioned by the Captain earlier), our history details RPGS gifting 5 old hickory clubs in the early 1960s. Our history does not record why. However, during his recent visit to Royal Perth in Australia, the Captain came across the following:



The presentation was made by The Lord Provost of Perth. He had sailed with his

wife on the Canberra to Western Australia to represent the 'Mother' City at the 1962 Empire and Commonwealth Games (as they were then called). The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh had travelled separately on the 'Britannia', clearly no bunk available for the lowly Lord Provost.

Fortunately we can add to the story as the Lord Provost's son happens to be our very own Fergus Young. The Lord Provost was not a member of the Club (probably because of his 'trade' background), but was well known to many members, and would often visit the Club.

Fergus has conducted a search of the club records held at the Perth Library uncovering the following minute of the April 1962 Club AGM. 'Newly elected Captain Lord Mansfield. It had been decided to gift the excess golf clubs to Clubs in the Commonwealth, namely New Zealand, Canada and with special preference, to Western Australia'. Fergus recalls his father and the then Lord Mansfield met frequently at that time, and the decision of the Club would be duly implemented.

It remains unclear whether the idea originated from the Club or the Town Council, or indeed whether or not any financial consideration was involved. More detail from Fergus includes the discovery of a copy of the original article in the Perthshire Advertiser of 17th October 1962, describing the trip and general list of activities.

(Unfortunately the quality of the scanned item restricts inclusion here). The specific paragraph of interest reads 'Included in Lord Provost Young's list is a visit to the Golfing Society of Perth, Western Australia. He will present to the Society a set of golf clubs of the early 1800's from the Royal Perth Golfing Society'.



Here are the sticks in question on display in Australia. Counting proving elusive in those days as 5 clubs were documented in the Advertiser, yet 7 appear on display.

In those times the links between the two Cities were strong. Fergus recalls two decades before there were black swans on the South Inch pond, a gift from the antipodean Perth.



WINE REPORT

Wednesday 16th November saw the final wine tasting evening of the year. Les Somerville of Enotria took 32 members and guests through the seven wines on show. Les gave sufficient background on each of the wines to be interesting - too much and the eyes could glaze over, although that could be due to too much tasting. The champagne in particular being an excellent buy. In total 284 bottles of wine were purchased, spending £2852 in the process. 48 bottles of Champagne at £15.95 per bottle, but excluding that,

reds outstripped whites by 84% v 16%. Tasty bread chunks and two cheeses keeping us going throughout until we clambered upstairs for a festive meal of Cock-a-Leekie soup followed by Turkey with all the trimmings. We then rolled downstairs for coffee and mints, all for the princely sum of £20 per head. As is usual on these evenings the noise level rose in direct proportion to the wine consumed. A most enjoyable evening and highly recommended.

The dates for next year are all Wednesdays - 11th April, 15th August and November 14th. Les Somerville will take April and November with confirmation awaited from John King for the August event.

Ian Beattie

Wine Convenor



WALKING GROUP

In 2011 we enjoyed walks in the Ochils, at Ceres, (instead of Callander), at Blairgowrie & at Auchterarder.

For 2012 four walks are proposed. In all cases the preferred meeting place is the far end of the Broxden park & ride (the east end of it) at map ref 088225 at 9.30 am to share transport.

Alternative meeting places are at the start of the walks. Partners, other friends & dogs, are welcome to join us. Bring a picnic lunch. It is recommended but not essential that you let Sandy Taylor (Tel: 01738 553354) or Alastair Cruickshank (Tel: 01738 628484) or me know that you intend to join us. (If you don't there is a small risk that nobody will be at the meeting places!)

Tuesday 7 February. (or if weather unsuitable Tuesday 14 February). Sandy Taylor will show us the new walk from Wormit to Balmerino Abbey & back. 8km. Near level. Alternative meeting place - at the parking area at the end of Bay Road, Wormit at map ref 391259 at 10.10 am.

Tuesday 3 April. Bill Gray will show us a walk along the river at Edzell. 10km. Near level. Alternative meeting place - Edzell post office at map ref 600689 at 10.35 am.

Tuesday 22 May. Callander Craig & Bracklinn Falls. 10 km. A little hilly. (There is a less hilly alternative.) When we were at the Falls in September 2010 they were building the new footbridge which was featured in New Civil Engineering magazine. There was a feeling we should see it complete! The walk was rained off in 2011 & we walked at Ceres instead where it was not raining! Alternative meeting place - the car park $\frac{1}{2}$ km NE of the centre of Callander at map ref 634082 at 10.30 am.

Tuesday 25 September. Ballathie Estate & Taymount Wood. 10km. Level. Alternative meeting place - Ballathie shop at map ref 144374 at 9.55 am.

Brian Kitching
Walking Group Convenor

BRIDGE

Formalising bridge playing in the Club is making slow progress. Less members than expected expressed an interest in playing so for now those wishing to play after lunch on a Friday are setting up tables on an informal basis. All are welcome, increased numbers may allow more formal arrangements to be made.



QUIZ NIGHT November 2011



The health of the Club's accumulated knowledge was tested at the Quiz Night on 7th November. Quizmaster Ali and Andre, 'yes that's them above impersonating RePortaGeS sub editors, put us through our paces. All is not well is an understatement.

Nine teams of four competed, and one two (sigh). The average score was a meagre 46% - a gamma minus. The winning score was 60% and the lowest 27% - hardly alpha material.

The category attracting the highest marks was Geography & History with a spanking 11.67 out of 20. Next best was Arts & Literature with 11.44, and third was Sport with 10 exactly. The other two just scraped over 6 out of 20. Not a single team scored 50% or more in the category, General Knowledge. Not a single team scored 50% or more in the combined categories of Music, and People, Names & Quotes.

One member observed with some huffiness - "who cares what JK Rowling's name is, pure trivia". He would say something like that, wouldn't he - his team scored 31%! Some interesting statistics emerged - which perhaps tell more of us than the quizmasters, or should that be the other way round!

Arts & Literature - Salman Rushdie scored 100% with Satanic Verses, whereas Alexandre Dumas lagged behind with only 50% recognition for the Three Musketeers. Marie Rambert scored 100% for ballet as did Enid Blyton with the Famous Five.

Lowry and Toulouse Lautrec were clever clogs too with 100% recognition, but Pissarro was identified by one team only.

No-one recognised WH Davies (has no-one read the Autobiography of a Super Tramp?)

Music & People, Names & Quotes - Peggy Lee and Benny Goodman you would have thought would have encouraged a sing along, but no, no-one recognised them.

Woody Allen went incognito, whilst everyone knew Marilyn Monroe (groan). Everyone claimed ignorance of Victoria Beckham.

Katherine Hamnett, too, foxed everyone, and Spike Milligan is now sadly forgotten, it seems, although one team made a stab with Spike Mulligan.

Sport - What do our members do for sport? - surprisingly, the high jump and winter biathlon both scored 100%. Few watch rugby however, as only one team could name the three All Black fly-halves in the recent World Cup.

And what of native sports - only one team knew how many in a shinty team.

Geography & History -

The whole club had clearly studied the Boxer Revolution in China and also learned about (and remembered) Ring a' Ring a' Roses and the plague.

Only one team however appears to have visited Stonehenge.

On a 50/50 choice, however, we got it wrong - four teams went for the right arm and five for the left in the case of Nelson's misadventure.

General Knowledge -

Five of the General Knowledge questions met with total blanks - the manx shearwater, bloater, the Olympic sculpture of Anish Kapoor, passing the port etiquette, and poor Gillian Duffy, now forgotten for all time.

Everyone however remembers Hurricane Katrina.

The quizmasters would like to thank all who took part contributing as they did to an enjoyable, and light-hearted, evening. Congratulations also to the winners - the A Team comprising Ian & Doreen Beattie, Cameron Horne and guest Alison Smith (who must be very intelligent) - they also won the hat competition.



Well Done to Andrew Christie & Alistair Cruikshank Quizmasters (PS: keep taking the tablets.)



A Fisherman's Tale

I should know better - a casual remark to Donald McDonald - "what has happened to our fishing section?" and the next time I checked my emails I received one from the Secretary thanking me for volunteering to resurrect the section!

Fishing has been a passion of mine since my childhood and I have fished for salmon & trout ever since.

My first task is to identify the salmon & trout fishers in the club (I already know a number of them) and in the New Year I will post a notice on the board to establish who wants to take part, and from there I will propose a few outings for 2012 including a novice day with instruction to encourage the non-fishers to have a go!

John McEwan 01738 631816
Email: mounttaborhouse@hotmail.com



SNOOKER

The winner of the annual snooker competition receives the 1910 Silver Quaich plus a bottle of whisky from the Captain. This year the Captain was the winner so he had to forgo the whisky as he could not find anyone else to donate a bottle. Instead he received a cork snooker player made by the Secretary. Quite generous really as the Secretary was the runner up.



The new, and what will no doubt become coveted, Snooker Trophy. (One assumes future Captains will in addition re-establish the bottle of whisky tradition).



CURLING

New players are keenly sought for the Curling Group. Currently there are 9 or 10 regular curlers, clearly a challenge when arranging events and matches.

The 2012 match against The New Club is scheduled for 21st March at the Dewars Centre in Perth and, as normal, will be followed by lunch in the Club.

Lack of numbers forced the cancellation of the points competition scheduled for November. The intention is to find a suitable date in the New Year.

Hamish Milne
Curling Convenor

Sunday Lunches and Private Dining

Many members support the Sunday Lunches, but many more could. It makes for an excellent outing, particularly on Winter Sundays, whether you come as a party or individually. Guests are welcome and June will ensure you can either sit as part of your party or making up a larger table.



The Sweet Table - best in Perth?

Earlier this year I had reason to celebrate a small family occasion, (just 7 adults and 4 small grandchildren). I asked June whether the Club would do a party of this size. The outcome was outstanding, and I have to say highly recommended. We collected in the lounge (with June kindly providing extra toys...for the children) and then up to the Dining Room to tables arranged in a large square. Excellent. Any members looking for similar I assure you cannot go far wrong at the Club.

Editor

Welcome to New (and not so New) Members:



Jack Harley

Nominated by Iain McLeod. Lives in Western Edge Perth.

Jack brings new meaning to the word versatile: a qualified Chemist as Chemist in Charge of the Maryfield Laboratory, and later as Quality Control Chemist at Northfield Quarry. Here he qualified and became a Fellow of The Institute of Quarrying later becoming Regional Quarry Manager in charge of both Collace and Boysack Quarries. Another turn here as Jack qualified and became a Member of the Institute of Explosive Engineers. So, in short, when seeking how to analyse something, bury it or blow it up...Jack's your man.

Jack is a Past Captain of Murrayshall Golf Club where he also ensured the smooth running of the Gents Section with tireless hours as Match Secretary. From experience I can tell you he is a competitive match player. Now a member of Blairgowrie Golf Club.

Jack, who has lived most of his life in the Perthshire/Tayside area, is married to Muriel, and they have three married children and 3 grandchildren. Other interests include WW2, and gardening - to Muriel's instruction.

Peter Peebles

Peter was nominated by Charlie Gallagher. He is Perth born and bred although he now lives at Piperdam, Fowlis near Dundee. He is General Manager of a Potato Company. Married to Carol he enjoys walking, cycling, skiing, shooting and of course golf. He is a member of Blairgowrie Golf Club.

Alan Hunter

Alan has rejoined us. He first joined the Club as a comparatively young man in 1978 when he was a partner in McCash & Hunter, Solicitors, Perth. He participated in the golfing events and also played bridge in the Club. He left us in 2006 but is now back in our fold, we shall no doubt see him on the golf course and at the bridge table ere long. He lived for very many years in Kinnoull, Perth but has just flitted to Bridge of Earn with his wife Jo.

Roger Ward

Roger is another returning exile whom we welcome back. He joined in 2000 and was a keen member (non golfing) for a number of years until he took up residence in Cape Town. He still lives there with his wife Mareli, so is a Country member. He visits Glasgow Road, Perth from time to time where his daughter lives. His visits to our Club premises to meet with old friends are sure to be lively affairs.

Continued from previous edition: THE ROUND (Allan Osborne)

No patience lad, it's oot o' reach
An iron sweetly hit
Is better than a duffed three wid
Lets take it bit by bit
The third oan, no' very close
Two putts will dae us fine
Tae leave the fifth under par
Is a feelin' so divine.

The sixth wi' tricky plateau green
Demands a decent drive
A short iron tae the green ye want
Tae keep yer hopes alive
Noo is it a widge or is it an eight
Is that wind doon shot or noo
If ye wait too lang, ye'll lose yer nerve
Go on man, huv a go.

Ah picked the nine and got it clean
Ah thought that shot Ah'll tak'
Get up, come doon, Aw please be right
It bounced right ower the back
We found it way doon in the rough
Twa hacks and then a dunt
My God they cried, yiv hit the pin
And then gone aff the front.