



Kingsbarns Kummeleers

A scene of blissful serenity outside the clubhouse at Kingsbarns belies the unmitigated chaos inside as the *Kummeleers* and Braid members took light refreshment after the battle over these mighty links during the Autumn Meeting. The result was, in the end, totally forgettable, although the day will be remembered for some time (*more easily by some than by others, me thinks, Ed*).



Held over from our last issue

In Court

The following fines were imposed on members during the course of the matches against Walton Heath and Royal Dornoch last season.

- Peter Landau: Guilty of “playing a round with a pregnant woman” at Walton Heath. Fined £5 by the Secretary. An additional fine for playing in a five-ball was waived because of Peter’s previously good behaviour. Peter partnered JBGS member Suzanne Quaintance, who delivered a bouncing baby boy by the name of Henry at the end of October. Suzanne is the wife of stalwart JBGS supporter Lee Quaintance.
- Peter Stanbrook: Fined £5 for “professionalism” for playing Walton Heath in level par.
- Nigel Hilliard and Iain Cumming: Each fined £5 for “uncouth neckwear” unbecoming of the occasion.



Good to make your Quaintance!

Baby Henry Quaintance didn't come into the world as a featherweight – nobody expected that with daddy Lee rarely displaying a sylph-like countenance – and Henry Q has already made his mark. The smiler is now in the record books as the youngest ever member of the JBGS to play Walton Heath. His mother Suzanne was his “caddie” a few weeks before young Henry actually saw the light of day! (see Peter Landau fined). Won't be long before he'll be hitting it further than his dad!



18 Holes in One

James Braid had a total of eighteen holes in one. The eighteenth was at the age of 79 and was accomplished with a No 3 iron on Walton Heath's 165 yard 5th hole. In 1912 at Hedderwick near Dunbar (now defunct) he achieved a world record of 57 for 18 holes on the 5250 yards course.

JBGS Diary Dates 2002

Spring Meeting Walton Heath

Thursday 23rd May
The Braid Cleek
Individual Stableford

Friday 24th May
Match vs the Bill Wood Select

Summer Meeting Brora

Thursday 27th June
The Curate's Egg
*incorporating
the Saint Andrew's Stableford*

Friday 28th June
Match vs the Shivas Irons Society
fourball, better-ball

Saturday 29th June
The James Braid Open
36-hole, individual strokeplay

Sunday 30th June
The Royal Marine Mixed Foursomes

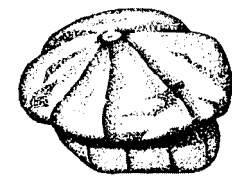
Golspie
Sunday 30th June
*The Captain's Pink Balls:
Bogey Competition*

Autumn Meeting

Lundin Links
Friday 6th September
The President's Putter
*18 hole stroke-play
followed by Presentation Dinner
at the Old Manor Hotel*

St. Andrew's Bay
Saturday 7th September
Match vs St. Andrews Kummeleers
fourball better ball

Elie
Sunday 8th September
Match vs Golf House Club
morning foursomes



The Bunnet

Issue No. 9

Winter

2002

From Under the Bunnet

A new year is yet again upon us with the prospect of a new season sustaining those of us who remain locked in by winter's chills. “Oh wind, If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?” asked Shelley, but of course he didn't live much north of the M25 corridor so perhaps he couldn't be expected to understand that not only can it, but the chances are that it certainly will.

However, there is a hint of lengthening days, even a stirring of an interest in what dark corner of the garage the ageing 255s have been hibernating these long months. It is a time of optimism for the year ahead and yet still a time to reflect on the one that has so recently departed.

For our Society, 2001 – the first year of the new millennium some still argue – was another filled with fun, good companionship and some very interesting golf. Our happy band continued to grow in numbers and JBGS tentacles continued to spread out into the golfing world, taking with them our message of preservation of the standards and valuable traditions of our great game which James Braid so epitomised..

Many countries are now represented among our ranks. Many members now meet independently of our official “meetings” in the name of the man whose name we honour, and this is just as it should be.

Some members will know that our Society is very strongly represented on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius and I had the great pleasure of attending the official opening of the new clubhouse at Le Paradis Golf Club on the island in December. JBGS members compete annually there for the JBGS Captain's Putter and a section of the splendid new clubhouse has been set aside as the James Braid “room” where the artefacts of our “Indian Ocean Division” are proudly displayed for all visitors to see.

The highlight of the year gone by was undoubtedly the presence of our President, Peter Thomson, at several of the functions at the Autumn Meeting.

Not only did he attend but he brought along his clubs to

the President's Putter at Lundin Links and laid on a majestic display of shotmaking – and particularly putting - through one of the worst gales of the year. His delightful ball striking proved that he has lost little of the skill that one him five Open Championships. It was an interesting juxtaposition with the truly prodigious hitting of former Scotland and British Lions rugby captain, Gavin Hastings who played in the fourball with your Captain and JBGS member Alan Stuart, then Captain of Lundin Golf Club, which hosted the event.

Among the four there was no threat to the winner of the Putter, Douglas McNair from the Prestbury Golf Club, but the conjunctural fourball was a dour battle to the finish with our President's birdie, birdie run at the 16th and 17th enough to give the unusual combination of the former Open Champion and the former World Pie-Making Champion victory over the rugby legend and the former golf magazine editor now known as Malcolm X.

It was a great day, too, for young Tommy Braid from the Lundin Club who carried for Peter during his round and entirely fitting that it should have been a “Braid” taking care of the five-times Open Champion's clubs.

Our President presented the prizes at the dinner in the Old Manor Hotel and then made an unscheduled visit to Elie for the lunch following our match against the Golf House Club. Peter presented Robert Burns, Captain of the Elie club's victorious team, with a 1920s driver made by local clubmaker A.H. Scott, as a memento of the occasion.

Your Captain was heard to murmur into a glass of clear liquid that he “wisshed the Presshident had appeared a little earlier conssshiderring the form he wasssh in” obviously empathising with the unfortunate Scotland football boss Craig Brown, who also at that time was no stranger to resounding defeat on the field of play.

We all look forward to a great year ahead and on a personal note I look forward to meeting up with as many of our expanding band of members as possible in the season ahead.

Best wishes for 2002.

Malcolm L. Campbell,
Captain



President Peter Thomson delighted everyone when he arrived unannounced to attend the post-match celebrations after the Society went down faster than the Titanic at Elie against the Golf House Club. The Captain of the Golf House Club, Robert Burns, led his men to a solid victory in the foursomes matches prompting our Captain to express his concern that only Craig Brown, the Scotland soccer manager had had a worse record than he in 2001. To mark the occasion President Peter Thomson presented Mr Burns with a driver, dating from the 1920's, made by the Elie clubmaker, A.H. Scott to add to the Elie Golf House Club collection.

From the Secretary's Quill

First, a question: *What connects Frank Pennink, Dennis Bethune and Lorne Rubenstein to our Captain's Pink Balls?* None of you will have the foggiest idea, nor, I expect, any great interest, so I better quickly explain.

Published in 1962, Frank Pennink's *Golfer's Companion* (Cassell & Co Ltd), describes his top 128 courses in G.B. & Ireland, a list that remains eminently valid today. S.S.S. and bogey are listed for each course but the term par does not feature at all. Pennink takes trouble in his introduction to note:

"Throughout the counties, districts and clubs, there is much variance in the interpretation and meaning of the terms par and bogey.

"I have taken bogey to mean the figures shown on the card; though in many cases the Standard Scratch Score is different."

He describes S.S.S. as: The potential score of a scratch golfer in spring and autumn conditions. So – what is par?

Pennink says: "Par is the figure, a variable one with the conditions of the day, which a scratch player or professional should obtain."

Confusing or what? Now you know why the Scots prefer matchplay!

It is my considered opinion that one of the most enjoyable matchplay formats is the Bogey Competition - but more of this later.

Moving 40 years back in time, we look up Royal Dornoch in the *Golfer's Companion* and see that the club telephone number is listed as *Dornoch 19*. The Professional, H. Donaldson, had no phone, but was available to collect the fees of six shillings for the day. The Professional course record of 69 was held by one Eric C. Brown, whose victories included the Irish and Italian Opens and the British Masters

and who was a four-time Ryder Cup player, 1953 – 1959 and Ryder Cup Captain in 1969 and 1971. However, he could not equal the amateur course record of 68 held by a Dornoch man, Dennis Bethune, a record that stood for more than ten years until overtaken by a sparkling round from Brora's Jim Miller.

Fifteen years later, Lorne Rubenstein played his first round over Dornoch links accompanied by Dennis Bethune and one Willie Skinner, the Butch Cassidy and Sundance Kid of Royal Dornoch, with Pipey Matheson riding shotgun. This round inspired Lorne to a lifelong love of Dornoch, its golf course and its people. He returned to spend the summer of 2000 in Dornoch and write a book of his experiences: *A Season in Dornoch*.

A member of the Braid Society, Lorne participated in the JBGS Summer Meeting 2000 and an account of his play in the Braid Society matches & competitions is included in the book in the chapter entitled *The Captain's Pink Balls*.

The Captain's Pink Balls are a couple of hand-hammered gutties, fashioned by Barry Kerr, Braid Society member and clubmaker, based in St. Andrews. They are painted pink as a reminder of the days long since gone when sterner souls braved the ice and snow of winter in staunch pursuit of matters royal and ancient and had to be able to find their missiles. Today they function as the trophy for the Braid Society competition customarily played over Golspie Links on the Sunday of the Summer Meeting.

The format is a *Bogey Competition*, a form of matchplay against the card. Lorne was so impressed by this format that he assured us he would export it to Canada and other parts of his golfing universe!

The book is not yet published in the U.K., but is available in Canada and the U.S. It may also be purchased from Dornoch Bookshop, the Quarto bookshop in St. Andrews and www.amazon.com

Stephen Toon
Secretary



What Lorne Rubenstein says about his new book

A Season in Dornoch

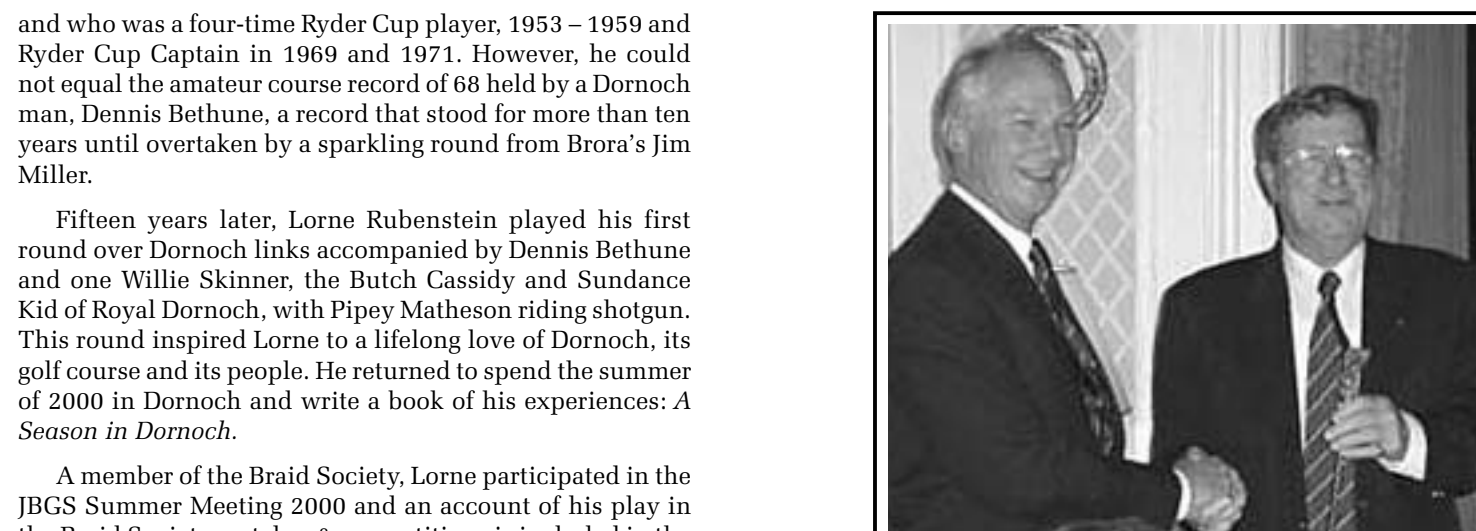
Golf and Life in the Scottish Highlands

is about the summer of 2000 that my wife Nell and I spent in this remarkable golfing village. It's an account of our experiences and a view of the game as I encountered it there and, in some instances, at other courses in the Highlands. The book is also an account of my experiences in trying to recapture the pure joy I once took in the game, but that had gradually diminished over the years. I wanted to spend a summer in one of golf's glorious places where the game was central to the lives lived in a quiet, remote place. "Yet I found so much more than golf, and so I weave a tale that incorporates the haunting history of the Highlands Clearances, the empty, vast landscapes, and a simple love of the land that informs Highlanders.

"The book is also a look at the ways in which we make golf an obsession, and in so doing lose our feelings for just being out in the open land and hitting shots alone or with friends. I felt good when a reviewer wrote that *A Season in Dornoch* is 'a book of considerable charm that will delight more than just golf fans.' Another reviewer wrote, 'Like the town, this tale is about much more than golf, but the game is always close by and provides the basis for far-reaching insights.'"

A Season in Dornoch is published by McClelland & Stewart in Canada and Simon & Schuster in the U.S. Publication in the U.K. is still pending.

Lorne
Rubenstein
Pic.



President's Putter

Left: Douglas McNair from the Prestbury Golf Club receives the President's Putter from the President himself after victory in the gale-swept Autumn Meeting at Lundin Links.

Above: J.B.G.S. member, Gavin Hastings, former Scottish and British Lions Rugby Captain (pictured with wife Dianne) partnered President Peter Thomson, Alan Stuart, Captain of Lundin Links and JBGS Captain, Malcolm Campbell, in the President's Putter at Lundin Links in the Autumn Meeting



J.B.G.S. at The Golf House Club

Mario Maciocia, was the winner of the individual stableford at Elie and fittingly received a suggestion book from the President as his prize. It is rumoured that there were several interesting entries made before it was handed over- suspicion in regard to one in particular hangs heavily over the head of a certain medical gentleman known to wear size twelve rubber gloves!



Lachlan McIntosh, Alec Beveridge & Barry Kerr – a half back line of formidable proportions – took the runners-up spot behind Mario Maciocia, which clearly astonished our President. (quite understandably, Ed)



Still on books . . .

The Encyclopedia of Golf

A completely revised 3rd edition of JBGS Captain Malcolm Campbell's best-selling *The Encyclopedia of Golf* has just been published worldwide by Dorling Kindersley. Our Captain reports that he was delighted and honoured that former US President George Bush wrote the Foreword to the new edition.

Brora on the bookshelf

Brora Links is featured in a new book by Paul Daley entitled *Links Golf, the Inside Story*, which features a forward by JBGS President, Peter Thomson. Past Club President, Hootie Baillie worked closely with the author to provide all the information on the James Braid redesigned course. The book features in the USGA mail order catalogue.

Thank You Rand

Thanks to Rand Jerris, Librarian of the U.S.G.A. Museum and Archives, a copy of each edition of our *Bunnet* is now safely lodged in the Archive of the U.S.G.A.

Rand, who has undertaken this task, has invited any member of the J.B.G.S. to visit the U.S.G.A. Golf House in New Jersey. Open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at week-ends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., directions may be obtained by dialling (908) 234 2300 and ask for extension 1544.

Thanks too, to everyone who has contributed over the past years to our modest journal. Your words and wisdom are now stored in perpetuity for the generations of golfers to come!