

## Dates for the Diary

Those JBGS members in the south of England will enjoy the opportunity to see two great days of golf for free this June:

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June - WALTON HEATH

#### International Final Qualifying for the U.S. Open at Walton Heath

The U.S.G.A. has selected former Ryder Cup venue and home of James Braid for almost 50 years to host the International Qualifying for the U.S. Open over 36 holes. This promises to be an excellent day out.

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June - SUNNINGDALE

#### Final Qualifying for the 2005 Open Championship

Following the success of 2004, Sunningdale will again host the 36 hole International Final Qualifying for the Open 2005 which takes place in St. Andrews in July.

Last year saw keen competition between major names including Ian Poulter, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, Paul McGinley, Justin Rose, Jose Maria Olazabel, Jesper Parvenik and many more. The Hon Sec has promised a Pimms to any visiting JBGS member calling in. The inside tip is to take the train from Waterloo to Sunningdale and leave the car at home!

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August - CHICAGO GOLF CLUB

The Walker Cup will be played at Chicago Golf Club and will be *the* event of the US calendar in 2005.

### A MATCH FOR MacKENZIE

The Alister MacKenzie Society has invited JBGS to a friendly match between our societies in the autumn. The venue will be the fine Alister MacKenzie designed course at Sutton Coldfield and the date will be either September 30 or October 7, 2005.

The match will comprise twelve players a side in fourball format with the usual pre-round stimulants, a lunch time tee-off and a meal after hostilities. Our historian John Moreton is in charge of proceedings and assures us that the green fee will be modest, the company first class and the course a joy to behold and to play. Regular Brora attendees should have no problem dealing with the wire fences around the greens which deter the local animal grazing population. Members interested in taking part should contact John direct at his home number 0121 444 5347 to register interest and help tie down the date.

### S.O.S. Captain Alert 1

The Hon Sec has circulated an APB worldwide alert for the Captain who, recent reports indicate, has been sighted (or was it *cited*?) on a beach in Hawaii, undertaking in-depth research for a soon to be published work entitled *"Aloha! Where did it all go wrong?"*

### S.O.S. Captain Alert 2

A further alert is out for one Jim 'D.S.' Bannerman, JBGS Founder Member and Captain of Glasgow G.C. in the centenary year of its current home. The aged and somewhat psychic G.G.C. Committee (a.k.a. the Weegee Board) have lost contact with their Captain and have asked that any confirmed sightings be reported to G.G.C.H.Q.

Rumours persist that 'D.S.' is in San Diego, having abandoned the deep fried Mars bar and Buckfast for Californian fusion and Chardonnay at the invitation of Verle Millsap and will return when the thaw sets in.

### Cocktail of the Month

Paul McGinley, Ryder Cup star and *bon viveur* has invented a new cocktail – vodka and im bru – which he has christened *Scottish Pimms*.

### Kung hei fat choi

We wish a very Happy Chinese New Year to our intrepid Scottish Traveller – Mario Maciocia – who is spending considerable time at his residence in China (on a golf course, naturally) and yet still finds time to return to J.B.G.S. meetings. A Society match in China is on the cards in 2006, with possible games at Fanling (Royal) Hong Kong G.C., where members of Royal Dornoch G.C. enjoy reciprocity and access to the (R) H.K.G.C. dormy house arrangements.

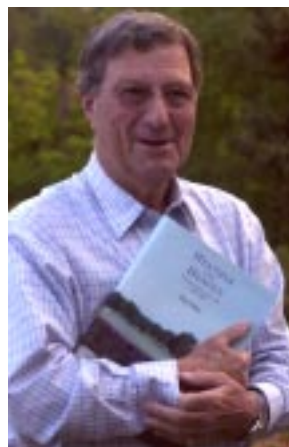
## Walton Heath

JBGS members are well aware of the long association between James Braid and Walton Heath but perhaps are not so aware of the strong affiliation between the Club and our President Peter Thomson.

The Club has hosted more than 60 major amateur and professional championships in its illustrious history. The courses have been graced by the 1981 Ryder Cup, five European Open tournaments, as well as such prestigious amateur events as the Senior Open, the English Amateur, the Brabazon Trophy, the British and English Ladies Amateur, as well as the Golf Illustrated Gold Vase on no fewer than 24 occasions.

However, it is best known for its association with the British PGA Matchplay Championship or the "News of the World" as it was more affectionately known. Peter Thomson won the News of the World on no fewer than four occasions between 1954 and 1967. Last year he went back to Walton Heath on a sentimental journey to play in the JBGS Braid Cleek and in the match between our Society and the Bill Wood Select.

It was a memorable return and Walton Heath laid out the red carpet treatment for our President who spoke fondly of his previous visits and recalled the great qualities he admired in the two courses.



We were blessed with fine May weather for the two-day event and were treated royally both by the Club itself and by JBGS member Bill Wood who hosted a memorable cocktail party at his wonderful residence overlooking the Downs. Walton Heath Captain, Sir Peter Pickard, presented our President with a copy of Phil Pilley's excellent book on the history of Walton Heath "Heather & Heaven" which won the United States Golf Association international book award when it was published in the 2003, the Club's Centenary Year.

Our President arrived confident of continuing his long run of success at Walton Heath and gave notice of his intention by purchasing a new putter from professional Ken MacPherson shortly before going to the first tee. Our Captain can vouch for the determination in his step having watched the five-times Open Champion and four-time winner of the News of the World, drain the first three putts with the new blade, none of which was shorter than 20ft! Whispers were rife that more Australian marauding might be expected.

However the blade which had enjoyed such an auspicious unveiling on the practice green appeared not to travel too well beyond it!

Suffice to say that our esteemed President, although showing many flashes of the brilliance that won him his four News of the World titles, wasn't quite a match for the St Andrews marauder, Mr Colin McAllister whose 36 points total won him the Braid Cleek, by virtue of a better inward half, from James Dean.

The redoubtable Mike Beckerich from the St Andrew's Club in New York was only a point behind in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The match between the Society and the powerful Bill Wood Select was probably a tousy affair but after the post-match celebrations few have much recall and the result was declared "improbable".

# The Bunnnet

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## From Under the Captain's Bunnnet

ALOHA! Yes we are still here; the Society remains intact and in good spirits as I offer you this Spring greeting from the islands of Hawaii, for no other reason than it pervades the page with thoughts of sunshine as the Scottish weather free falls towards the coming of the new Ice Age. Global warming bedamned!

Firstly, let me advance an apology right away for the tardiness of communication between those of us charged with running the affairs of the Society and your long suffering selves who must feel by now that you have been cast into the wilderness. Several factors have contributed and I will not dwell on them here since they are adequately dealt with by the Hon Sec in his fascinating column which follows.

Despite the dearth of information that has been, or more correctly not been, flowing from JBGS HQ, our Society remains sound in body and soul and ready to tackle whatever this, the fifth year of the new millennium, has to throw at us.

It is a year that got underway with a need for some reorganisation within our administrative ranks following the departure of the Hon Sec to the depths of the Home Counties to take over the onerous, but very important and influential post as Secretary at the Sunningdale Golf Club. After steering the Secretarial ship of the JBGS with such aplomb since we set out on our voyage of discovery all those years ago, the Sunningdale slot will be a sinecure.

However, geographic reality quickly set in after Steve headed south, with attendant and obvious difficulties, so I am delighted to announce that Lachlan McIntosh has stepped into the breach – always get excited about such things – and agreed, after six days of sleep deprivation and electric shock treatment, to take on the new post of Administrative Secretary. However, it is only now I can reveal that all was in doubt until the gutsy gunner was finally 'broken' by the threat of force-feeding him TWO Stuart's pies!

Lachlan will be an invaluable asset to the Society in his new administrative role. It is a comforting thought that the skills learned in the hot spots of the world and then carefully nurtured in the cool atmosphere of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club were only the precursors of the great work that lies ahead of him. I know I speak for everyone when I say 'welcome' to Lachlan in this new role and offer all our thanks to him for the invaluable help I know he will provide.



JBGS Honorary Vice President  
**Peter Alliss**

Among the other exciting news we report on in this newsletter is the confirmation from Mr Peter Alliss that he has agreed to become our first Honorary Vice President. Peter is a founder member of the Society, an internationally respected figure in golf and has been the Voice of Golf for as long as most of us can remember. I know that like our President, Peter Thomson, Peter Alliss is a great admirer of James Braid, both as a player and as a course designer and we are delighted that he has accepted our invitation.

In his formal letter of acceptance Mr Alliss said he would be "delighted to become an Honorary Vice-President" but hinted that his appearances at Braid functions might be limited because of his continued heavy travel schedule. We fully understand and hope that we will hear the dulcet Alliss tones coming into our living rooms for many more years to come.

There are exciting days in prospect and dates for the diary not to be missed. As a Society we look ahead with anticipation and renewed vigour to the 2005 season and I look forward to enjoying your company somewhere along the way in this promising year before us.

Malcolm L. Campbell  
Captain



# From the Secretary's Quill

ALL THINGS MUST PASS!

The last time I put quill to parchment for the *Bunnet* I was in my office in St Andrews overlooking the Auld Grey Toon and Carnoustie across the Bay. It was a late spring evening and the sun was setting over Gleneagles in the far distance.

Tonight the Kingdom of Fife is a world away as I look out over the shadowy first tee of the Old Course, but not that of St Andrews, but of Sunningdale where I recently accepted the post of Secretary. I am sitting in the office once presided over by Harry Colt, Sunningdale's first Secretary and looking out at the work of Willie Park of Musselburgh who laid out the Old Course here in 1900. In the mid 1920's Harry Colt added the New Course to provide what may be regarded as the finest 36 holes of Championship golf in England.

On the wall of my office are a number of framed draw sheets:-

### Club v Oxford University GC

(where Colt was drawn against the O.U.G.C. Captain O.T. Falk)

### Founders Cup Singles 1903

and among others, various of the

### PGA News of the World Matchplay

My favourite is the 1907 draw – First prize £100 – where we see the semi finals recorded in elegant script:

*Ray plays Braid  
Taylor plays Vardon*

James Braid met John Henry Taylor in the final and won 4 / 3. 'Awesome', as they say today on the Golf Channel. 'Spiffing', as one says today at Sunningdale. In fact, Braid won this tournament four times in his career, twice at Walton Heath and twice at Sunningdale. Coincidentally, Peter Thomson also won it four times – three times at Walton Heath and once at St. Andrews.

There is a further Braid and Scots connection at Sunningdale in the elegant shape of one James T. Loughray, Founder Member of the J.B.G.S., stalwart of the Autumn Meeting and ever cheerful presence in the Members' Bar at Sunningdale. If the administrative burden ever steps a tad over the line separating essential attention and tedium, a quick chat to Jim in the bar is the ideal restorative.

My brief tenure here has been fascinating and while I remember my friends at the Duke's Course in St Andrews with great affection, I look forward to life at Sunningdale with great anticipation.

One consequence of my move is that I shall, unfortunately, be unable

to devote as much time to the Society as I have in the past. However, I am pleased to announce that, following years of intensive training, a Founder Member of the Society has reached such a peak of his intellectual and professional powers that we feel he is now suitably prepared to take on the ultimate challenge.

Behind him is a spectacular career as a Gunner, which included the award of a rugby cap for Canada, whose team turned up with only 14 men to play his college team and enlisted the sole spectator; O.I.C. of a Green Goddess during the fireman's strike in the 1970's and an uncanny ability to pat his head whilst rubbing his tummy after consuming 6 *kummels*.

Presented with the *Groovy Oovy Award 2003* by Mary Thomson, this smooth operator progressed from Members' Secretary of the R&A to Projects Secretary responsible for the R&A 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in 2004. Having cut his teeth on arranging a celebration of golf in St. Andrews involving around seven thousand participants from around the world; been responsible for the largest erection ever to cast a shadow over the first fairway of the Old Course and organised golfing tours across the globe, we feel he is now ready to move on to bigger and better things: Administration Secretary of the *James Braid Golfing Society*.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I am referring of course to Lachlan Murdoch McIntosh of the Kingdom, a true supporter, a gentleman and adherent of the Code (*of the Woosters*).

Lachlan, thank you so much for your offer of assistance. On behalf of the membership I welcome your professional guidance and give you this word of warning: you really don't know what you are letting yourself into!

In closing, may I beg forgiveness for this past year's communications (or lack of them). The reasons for this have been principally my own move to the opposite end of the island and all that entailed. Other reasons of note are that the Captain has doubled his travel schedule and now circumnavigates the globe three times in as many months. On top of this our foundation stone in the Society, Robert Powell, without whom all would fall into chaos and eventually oblivion, has had one or two other matters on his mind. First, designing and building himself a wonderful house with spectacular and panoramic views across Brora links to the sea and the mountains behind; second, knocking down his Links Hotel in preparation to construct a select number of apartments overlooking the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway at Brora and third, organising the marriage celebrations of his son Iain. So, just another average year then, Robert!

Well, that is my round up for tonight. My dream ambition for the year ahead is to emulate Bobby Jones, Honorary Member of Sunningdale G.C., who recorded a near perfect 66 in 1927 over the Old Course here during final qualifying for the Open. He noted 33 shots and 33 putts, missing only one green at the short 13<sup>th</sup>, but he played out of the greenside bunker and holed the putt for par. In reality I shall probably make a Bobby Jones and a half – 99!

Time for a pint of Pimms!

Yours aye,

Stephen Toon  
Secretary



### Visible from Space

It was only a matter of time! JBGS' answer to Michael Palin, the intrepid 'Groovy' Uwe Kitsken pictured on the Great Wall of China, presumably looking for the ball he sliced off the 7th at Brora in the Summer Meeting. It was a long way to go but good Warwicks are hard to find these days.

### Due Homage

Mr Colin McAllister in casual mood at Bill Wood's memorable reception during the Walton Heath meeting. It was clearly the perfect training gallop for the marauder from the Auld Grey Toon who returned 36 pts to win the Braid Cleek the following day. Mr Peter Landau from the St Andrews's Club in New York pays due homage.

### Beach Party

Revved up and ready to go. A band of post-lunch Kummeleers ready for anything on the 1st tee at Brora during the Summer Meeting.

### In the Pink Corner

President's wife Mary Thomson, radiant as ever, leads the way in the pink corner. Honorary Professional, Ken Macpherson and his wife look on. The Captain looks . . . ? (answers on a postcard but fines will be swift and punitive!)



### Well Tied, Sir!

Our President, Peter Thomson, receives a copy of *Heather and Heaven* from Walton Heath Captain, Sir Peter Pickard at a reception hosted by the onlooking and splendidly betied, Bill Wood.



## President's Golden Open Return

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our President Peter Thomson's victory in the Open Championship at St Andrews in 1955 and it will be a very special moment for him when he arrives in the Auld Grey Toon on his annual pilgrimage.

Peter Thomson and Bobby Locke dominated the Open in the 1950s and when our President arrived in St Andrews in 1955 he was defending the title he had won the year before at Royal Birkdale.

Qualifying rounds were on the Old and the New Courses. Peter qualified comfortably but behind Frank Jowle whose 63 on the day before the Open was no fewer than 22 shots better than Hugh Kirkaldy's course record of 85 set on the day after the Open 60 years earlier, in 1895!

Scottish hopes were centred on the 'Brown Bomber' Eric Brown who tied with Peter at the half way stage, but our President eased away from the field over the final two rounds to win comfortably with an aggregate of 281 breaking the long standing Open Championship record at St Andrews set by Bobby Jones in 1927, by four strokes. His cheque for £1000 was the first four-figure purse in Open Championship history and his victory prompted Bernard Darwin to write of our President: "It is impossible to imagine a better temperament, marked by unruffled composure, courage and common sense."

The following year Peter made it three in a row when he won at Royal Birkdale in an astonishing decade in which he finished, in seven consecutive years, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>.



Our President, Peter Thomson chatting to Henry Cotton prior to the start of his successful defence of the 1955 Open Championship.