

## The Summer Meeting

The match against Royal Dornoch was as ever a plucky affair with the course in spectacular condition. The result was in doubt right to the final green and ended in a declaration of 'total irrelevance'.

We were 'Right Royally' entertained at Royal Dornoch as ever and it was particularly pleasing to have not only the Captain of Royal Dornoch, Hugh Laughland, but also the Lady Captain, in attendance both for the match and the dinner afterwards. A presentation was made to both.

Brora was at its fiercest for the James Braid Open on the Saturday. Two rounds on a fiery links in a substantial gale of wind was a test for anyone. Glassy greens spawned thoughts not only of golf balls rolling away never to be seen again but of markers sliding off the putting surface if not pressed down with sufficient vigour! It was great stuff and a veritable eye opener for Braid members not used to classic links in high summer.

Saturday clearly took its toll for there was some reluctance to sally forth on the Sunday for the traditional Captain's Pink Balls event at Golspie. The Captain was persuaded that the Pink Balls should not be exposed to the vagaries of the Golspie weather in the aftermath of 36 hole Open and the event was held in abeyance.

### Results

#### SPRING MEETING

The Braid Cleek – **Colin McAllister** (St Andrews New) 39pts  
JBGS v The Bill Wood Select - Halved

#### SUMMER MEETING

James Braid Trophy - **Ronnie Sim** (Brora) (3rd time winner)  
The Bunnet - **Sean Ashe** (Leatherhead)  
Curate's Egg - **John McGowan** (Worcester)  
Captain's Pink Balls – Held delicately in abeyance

#### AUTUMN MEETING

President's Putter – **Jim 'driver scratcher' Bannerman** (Glasgow G.C.)

**JBGS v St Andrews Kummleers** – Can anyone remember the result?

**JBGS v Elie Golf House Club** – Humiliation!

### Provisional Dates for 2004

**May 20–21** Spring Meeting – **Walton Heath**  
**June 24–27** Summer Meeting – **Brora**  
**September 10–12** Autumn Meeting – **East Neuk of Fife**

## The Tillinghast Society

A message to the Hon Sec from Rick Wolffe – Baltusrol & Tillinghast Association – after their visit to Walton Heath.

Dear Steve,

We have been home in the U.S.A. for over a week now, and I am sorry that I have not written sooner.

Thanks so much for all you did to make two most wonderful days at Walton Heath. The memories will remain special.

As I may have mentioned, and with Mike Beckerich and Bob Trebus's support, we would like to bestow honorary membership in the Tillinghast Association to the James Braid Society. The only obligation for membership is ownership of the Tillinghast Trilogy of books, which we are shipping to your attention and we hope the James Braid Society will accept as a contribution to its library.

We have a web site at <http://www.tillinghast.net> and we are planning our next meeting for this September at Shawnee on Delaware.

Thanks for your consideration.

Rick Wolffe



Clubmaker and JBCS member, Barry Kerr, pictured here in his St Andrews workshop where he crafts the President's Putter competed for each year at the Autumn Meeting in Fife.

## All Courses Great and Small

a Golfer's Pilgrimage to England and Wales

by James W. Finegan

Published by Simon and Schuster

We are delighted to announce the final book in the trilogy of UK golf and travel books by our Society Vice-Captain and Pine Valley member, writer of note and honour, historian, collector of golf courses and raconteur, lover of St. Andrews and all things unpretentious and one of the finest strikers of the ball it will ever be your privilege to witness, Mr. James W. Finegan.

Seek out the links of both St. Enedoc and Sillioth-on-Solway. They have the Finegan stamp of approval.

Just a wee taste for you . . .

*"St. Enedoc, on the north coast of Cornwall, is not pure James Braid, but this brilliant and theatrically grand 18 holes owes most of its appeal today to his sure hand in 1907 and 1935. There is perhaps only a handful of links courses, Royal County Down, Cruden Bay, Ballybunion, Royal St. Georges, Doonbeg, that prepare us for St. Enedoc. Not only are the elevation changes extreme, but the springy fairways themselves range from merely undulating to tempestuously heaving. And to the horror of contemporary purists, there must be a dozen blind shots, with all the suspense inherent in them. If you are tempted to seek out St. Enedoc, stay in Padstow at the superlative Seafood Restaurant, which has 11 guest rooms. Ask for room 5 or 6, each with a spacious rooftop terrace that commands the harbour, the sailboat-dotted estuary beyond and the majestic sandhills of the great links."*



## In Court . . .

On the first tee at Lundin Links in the Autumn Meeting there was an excruciating noise as JIM BANNERMAN planted a size 10 on the Captain's new driver causing massive disfiguration. The resulting and inevitable fine under the heading 'footwear unbecomingly' was not for accidentally standing on the Captain's weapon but for 'wearing outrageous crampons on the first tee'.

Former Walton Heath Captain and JBCS member, PHILIP TRUITT has been fined in his absence on the basis of photographic evidence (see elsewhere in this issue) under the heading of 'apparel unbecomingly' for constantly being seen in an ice cream vendor's coat. This in itself would not normally incur a penalty but failure to complete the ensemble with an appropriate hair net tipped the balance.

Vice-Captain JIM FINNEGAN was very summarily fined a bottle of port at the Summer Meeting under the heading of 'vagrancy'. His attendance was so short lived that the Captain felt he should fine him while he had a rare non-moving target.

# The Bunnet

Official newsletter of the  
James Braid Golfing Society

President : Peter Thomson

Issue No. 11

Winter 2003

## From Under the Captain's Bunnet

Suddenly all four majors have come and gone with a rookie winner for each and I for one am wondering where the time has gone. I was vexed to miss the match and Centenary Celebrations at Walton Heath, and I am grateful to the Hon Sec for so ably standing in. Reports from the field relayed back to me via my personal carrier pigeon – now making a comeback and currently more reliable than BT or AOL - suggested that the Hon Sec Acting Captain was languishing in something of a form slump. I was not privy as to how deep the slump was but clearly it was of some sizeable proportion because full details could not be contained within the weight limit of one pigeon leg without the creature flying in permanent circles.

However, it was clearly an ingrained and ongoing slump as I can personally testify. At the Summer Meeting the HS looked in all other regard in good form and spirits. However, when called to the first tee for the match at Royal Dornoch and while playing in the company of three ladies, he quickly put the poor form of Walton Heath behind him . . . but his ball barely in front of him. The fact that he could still read the name - if not quite the numeral - on the ball after it came to rest was an indication perhaps that his form had improved marginally from Walton Heath, but it was a close call.

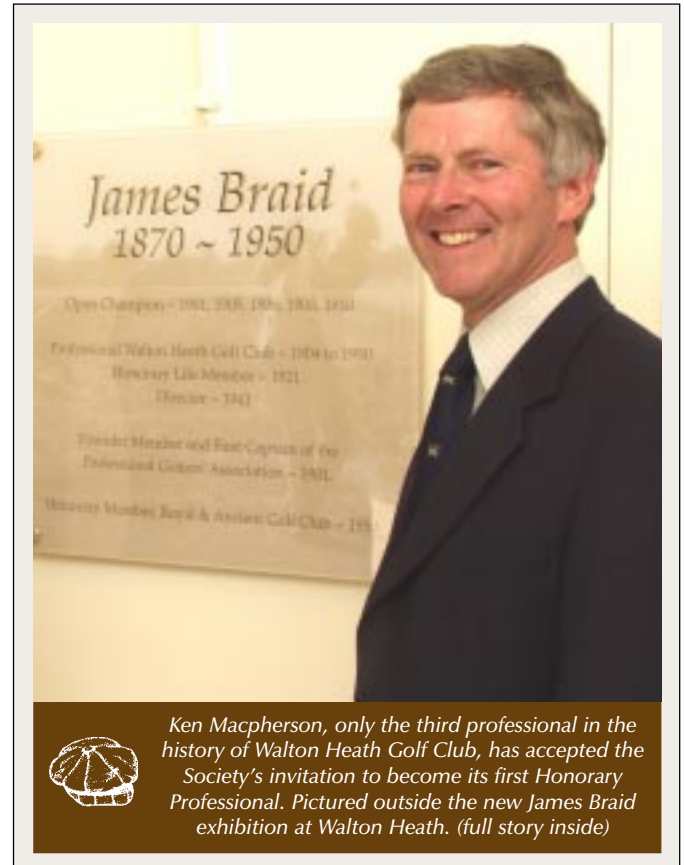
Word filtered to me a few holes ahead to the effect that having played two he was close to addressing a third before his lady partners had actually been called to tee off. Fortunately it was downwind and that, combined with a kindly bounce on the dry links, saved further blushes..

Fortunately for our Society, however, the Hon Sec's administrative powers have not suffered a similar degradation of form. He knows that the hallmark of the world's great administrators is quiet confidence, nonchalance and imperturbability when things get tense. The suggestion that he was searching among the gorse of Dornoch for all three along with his Penfold Commando (the only ball he had left after Walton Heath) was outrageous and has been passed to our legal department. I can assure you all that the Hon Sec is in administrative top form, overseeing the Society from centre cut, stalwartly supported by our Vice-President, Robert Powell.

As the Society continues to grow, the demands of administration become ever more burdensome and to both we owe an ever expanding debt of gratitude.

Our Society is becoming ever more widely known. As I travel around I hear it mentioned and I am often quizzed about it. This is extremely encouraging and suggests that we are succeeding in our principle aim to keep the James Braid name and his huge contribution to the game as player and course designer alive, while encouraging the great principles and traditions of golf for which he so steadfastly stood.

There was no better illustration that our game is still a shining example, not only to other sports but to many other aspects of life,



Ken Macpherson, only the third professional in the history of Walton Heath Golf Club, has accepted the Society's invitation to become its first Honorary Professional. Pictured outside the new James Braid exhibition at Walton Heath. (full story inside)

than Mark Roe's acceptance of the cruel fate that befell him during the Open Championship at Royal St George's.

"It was my own fault and I am no bigger than the game," he said, in the immediate aftermath of his sad disqualification for the card mix up with Jesper Parnevik. It was a severe penalty for nothing more than a simple clerical error that didn't alter his score and could have had no effect on the outcome.

Roe to his credit did not recall the precedent of a waved Rules transgression which gave Bobby Locke victory in the Open at St Andrews in 1957 when he – like Roe – accidentally committed a technical breach of the Rules. Locke failed to correctly replace his marker on the last green after having been asked to move it but the R & A Championship Committee decided that, with a three stroke lead, "in equity and in the spirit of the game" it did not affect the outcome and he was crowned champion.

Our President Peter Thomson accepted that ruling in the same spirit that Mark Roe did. Of course if Locke had been disqualified – which he might have been – Peter Thomson, who finished second on his own, would have been the winner and equalled Harry Vardon's record of six Open victories.

There are no finer examples of the "Essential Distinction".

Malcolm L. Campbell  
Captain



# From the Secretary's Quill

Strange as it may seem, the image that remains is the beatific face of Lachlan Murdoch McIntosh, smiling and clutching a farting gnome to his breast while listening to Mary Thomson recite poetry. But more of our Autumn Meeting later...

It was an honour and a privilege to be invited to Captain the Society for the Spring Meeting 2003 at Walton Heath in this, its Centenary Year. It was a very special occasion indeed. A warm and heartfelt "Thank you" to Bill Wood for inviting us once again. For the first time the Society was defending. At last year's post-match tea, Bill appeared to place responsibility for defeat on his team of past Captains. We heard on the grape-vine that he had given the assembled Centenary Select an Alex Ferguson style "half-time talk" and that they were suitably fired up and ready to do battle.

I am pleased to up-date the results sheet which now reads:

Played : regularly  
 Won : one (2002)  
 Halved : one (2003)  
 Lost : the rest

The 2003 half seemed a very appropriate result in Walton Heath Centenary year and I feel I can honestly take full credit for it.

Professor Lynsey Symon once again made himself available for selection, despite suffering serious brick-bats last year, as is customary on these occasions. He attempted to withdraw his entry when he discovered he was paired with the Hon Sec Acting Captain, citing incompatibility and sustained mental cruelty. His spineless action was over-ruled and he put a brave face on it. His apprehension proved justified as the Hon Sec Acting Captain failed to come in on a solitary hole. Single-handed, the Prof held off the stalking, wolf-like Wood and his selected hatchetman, Stanley, for well over 3 hours before falling under their combined attack within sight of the clubhouse.

The Prof has suggested that if he is given the same pairing in future it would be infinitely more useful should Toon act as caddy and not make any attempt to play.

The Captain ingratiatingly expressed sympathy with this view.

The appearance at Walton Heath of a couple of new members from Baltusrol and the Tillinghast Association – Bob Trebus and Rick Wolffe - was warmly applauded. We were delighted to learn that they had published a wonderful history of Baltusrol and they presented a copy for the Society's library. Subsequently, Rick Wolffe bestowed upon the James Braid Golfing Society honorary membership of the Tillinghast Association (cf below).

Also presented by Philip Truitt, on behalf of Walton Heath, was a copy of the magnificent Walton Heath Centenary book. This is a truly impressive publication and I would urge all members to contact Walton Heath and purchase a copy. On behalf of the membership may I give a grateful "thank you" to both Rick and Bob and also to Philip, for their generous donations. The Society library will benefit from the addition of these two great works.

But I digress. Back to the farting gnome.

The presentation of the annual and most prestigious Groovy Oovy award took place at the Old Manor Hotel during the pre-Award Dinner champagne celebration.

Named in honour of film producer and JBGS member "Groovy" Uwe (pronounced Oovy) Kersken, who never sets foot on the links without cravat and spats, the Groovy Oovy, a far superior and



President's wife, Mrs Mary Thomson, making the presentation of the Groovy Oovy award to the worthy recipient, Mr Lachlan McIntosh (not in the red hat).

This tiny man has travelled far  
 12,000 miles by plane and car  
 He's come to Scotland due to rumour  
 This winner has a sense of humour

Along the way he's gorged on beans  
 And we all know just what that means  
 He's prone to "noises" not polite  
 When you walk past and he takes fright

He's here to help you. Be your prop  
 When things go wrong and putts won't drop  
 He's here to make you laugh – not cry  
 When winning scores just pass you by

But not this time. It's not the case  
 For you have truly won this race  
 The Groovy Oovy prize you've won  
 And other Braidians outdone

Congratulations are your due  
 From all of us and Gnomie too  
 So take him home and play your part  
 Just switch him on and hear him fart!

I thank you and Goodnight!

Autoregally, but discreetly held by our President

exclusive award to the common Uncle Oscar, is bestowed for examples depicting the triumph of style over substance.

2002 was a special year for several reasons. First, the award itself plumbed new depths of vulgarity, previously considered impossible. Second, it was awarded to Lachlan Murdoch McIntosh, a man many times bridesmaid, but never the bride (thankfully a habit he indulges behind closed doors); last, but certainly not least, the award was purchased and personally presented by Mrs. Mary Thomson, who lugged the dreadful thing all the way from Melbourne to Lundin Links.

We are privileged to be in possession of a transcript of her presentation speech to Lachlan (see above) and are pleased to share it with you all here.

Stephen Toon  
 Secretary



## Strange, but True . . .

Only one Braid Society member has ever been fined for both 'late entry' and 'premature withdrawal'.

That distinction belongs to **Lachlan Murdoch McIntosh**.



## Being John Moreton

It's not easy being John Moreton: You get fined for pipe smoking; you get fined for not speaking only when spoken to and, most recently, for just BEING John Moreton. Luckily, John has unlimited patience and, hopefully, endless bottles of port.

But who is John Moreton?

The question has been asked many times. John is the quiet one at the back, pondering on life, the universe and everything, while puffing on a mixture of old socks and liquorice.

His support has been invaluable in the formation of the Society and it's time we introduced him to the membership and answered the question:

Who is John Moreton?

HELLO BUNNET HELLO BUNNET HELLO BUNNET HELLO BUNNET

## John Moreton - who are you?

The pipe major lays bare his briar and reveals all in this exclusive interview with Hello Bunnet

"After twenty-eight years at the chalk-face, my sentence was commuted and I was sent off into the real world to amuse myself with a bronze handshake from Birmingham Education Committee.

"As it is not practical to play golf once night falls, I had to find something to occupy my evenings and settled upon becoming a golf historian. My first mission was to catalogue the golf courses of James Braid and in 1996 the book was published. The compilation of this volume took me to many fine golf courses and introduced me to many fellow Braid enthusiasts.

"The next ventures included invitations to research and write club histories and magazines profiles of such people as Bernard Gallacher, Mickey Walker and Peter McEvoy. An opportunity to visit Pinehurst enabled me to study the work of Dornoch's most famous son, Donald Ross and in the Tufts Archive in Pinehurst Library I found a copy of "The Golf Courses of James Braid".

"While writing the Braid book I received invaluable advice from the late Fred Hawtree. This great gentleman invited me to lecture to the students of the (then) British Institute of Golf Course Architects on Braid's achievements. One of the students came from Slovenia and issued an invitation to visit. The powerful Green Party needed convincing that golf IS good for the environment and I seem to have convinced them. I also gave advice on junior golf and was thrilled to

see sixty Slovene boys and girls playing on the country's finest course, Bled, ON A SUNDAY MORNING.

"My first visit to Brora was in 1997 at the invitation of Robert Powell and Stephen Toon. I finally got to grips with the classic Braid course last year when I finished second in Division Two of the James Braid Open. I couldn't believe that it was Braid himself who played the first nine holes.

"Current projects include the much awaited revised, expanded catalogue of the Braid courses. The total approaches 350 courses. Braid's granddaughter, Marjorie Mackie, has been very supportive and I often stay in her delightful B&B in Cardross. The village course there was remodelled and extended by her grandfather and is a memorable treat.

"Finally, the most recent Braid publication is Bob Macalindin's biography of Braid's early years, which I edited. This contains, thanks to meticulous research, details of every championship, tournament and exhibition match in which Braid competed and contains previously unpublished photographs from the Marjorie Mackie collection.

"Members' indulgence is craved for a few more months as the final details of the revised golf course book are assembled. It will be worth the wait. Honestly!"

So there you have him!

John Moreton, just being John Moreton . . . bottle of port?



President Peter Thomson pictured with what might best be described as his Elie 'harem' at the Autumn Meeting. On the far right is Mrs Marjorie Mackie, granddaughter of James Braid, whom the Society was delighted to welcome to her first meeting. To her right is her daughter Fiona who played with the JBGS ladies attending the event.



# Walton Heath

## Centenary Special Celebration

WALTON HEATH is believed to be unique in that the club has employed only 3 professionals in 100 years:

James Braid : 1904 – 1950

Harry Busson : 1950 – 1977

Ken Macpherson : 1977 – present

JBCS Professional Ken Macpherson has been a supporter and Founder Member of the Society and carries on the legacy of Braid with affection and commitment. The President and Founding Committee wished to recognise Ken's personal achievements and his contribution to maintaining the memory of Braid. It did this during the Spring Meeting at Walton Heath by inviting Ken to become the Society's Honorary Professional and we are truly delighted to report that Ken accepted.

For those members who have not had the privilege of meeting him, this letter from Ken to the Hon Secretary provides some insight.

Dear Steve,

*It was a great surprise and an even greater honour to be invited to become the Honorary Professional to the James Braid Golfing Society.*

*Unlike our President Peter Thomson C.B.E. and our beloved James Braid, I do not have five Open Championship medals to place on my mantelpiece. I am, however, a great admirer of Braid and as a Professional at Walton Heath I benefit greatly from the forty six years of service which he provided for the Members.*

*I also watched our President win his Open Championship at St. Andrews and his second win at Royal Birkdale. This, at least, gives me some small claim to be worthy of my new title!*

*As I live and work over six hundred miles from Brora, my visits may be few and far between. However, I shall consider myself to be a missionary for the Society, spreading the gospel in the South.*

Thank you for this honour.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Macpherson.

## The Wonder of Walton Heath

Our President, Peter Thomson, has a special fondness for Walton Heath and the News of the World Matchplay. In common with Braid, he won it four times.

A brief extract from his contribution to the WHGC Centenary brochure gives an insight into his feelings about the course.

*"The ferocity of it put the fear into me as I stood on the tees. One false swing was worth a hole deficit, but in the end I always thoroughly enjoyed it. A good classic course has always an element of dread attached. Walton Heath had it in good measure"*



Above: JBCS member, Philip Truitt (left), a Past Captain of Walton Heath, pictured with John Whitmore, then Captain of the R & A, at the official inauguration of the James Braid Exhibition at Walton Heath.

Below: JBCS Secretary, Steve Toon (seated centre left) cemented the association between the Society and Walton Heath when he was the guest of the club at the Centenary Dinner in June. The dinner coincided with the official opening of the James Braid Exhibition, which commemorated Braid's 46-year association with the Club.



## Spring Meeting

The following strange and disjointed reports via wireless telephone were received by the Captain from the depths of the Surrey wilderness where the Hon Sec Acting Captain had been abandoned in the clutches of the English:

*1st Report : Beckerich has defected to Baltusrol and will be arriving Walter Hagen style direct off the red-eye from NYC with a couple of side-kicks in tow under the unlikely aliases of Trebus and Wolffe. I have no idea who they really are. We believe Beckerich still has the Captain's Pink Balls, but a dose of anti biotics should fix it. Sec.*

*2nd Report: Lachlan Murdoch McIntosh is attending a regimental golfing society re-union match and dinner during the Spring Meeting. His dinner invitation was confirmed, but he failed the selection criterion for golf. He has not yet divulged exactly what the criterion is, but we believe it has something to do with the basic ability to hit a cow's backside with a banjo. In making himself available for selection for the Spring Meeting he obviously believes he will be in the company of fellow banjo swingers. Sec.*

Will anyone who knows the current whereabouts of the Hon Sec. please sober him up and return him to St. Andrews. The Captain would like a word.



Then Captain of the R & A, John Whitmore, cuts the ribbon to officially open the James Braid Exhibition. Also in the photograph (right) is Simon ???????? who installed what is believed to be the only hickory floor in existence in the exhibition room. Simon sourced the hickory in the United States and specified the wood, which is not only perfect for golf club shafts but is so durable it allows players to enter the exhibition from the course in their golf shoes.



The Exhibition depicts the life of James Braid and his immense contribution to the game as both player and golf course architect.

