



The Brisbane Golf Club

Celebrating 125 Years



125 years of Brisbane golfing history

Two hundred and fifty copies of *The Brisbane Golf Club: Celebrating 125 years* are in print.

They were distributed to guests at our 125 Year Anniversary Dinner.

Limited copies were available for purchase by members.

A digital copy is publicly available on The Brisbane Golf Club website.

First published by The Brisbane Golf Club in 2021

www.brisbanegolfclub.com.au

Front Cover: Clubhouse, 2020

Inside Front Cover: The view from the 18th fairway, 1929



17th hole bridge at BGC

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PREFACE

By Club President

In the words of Martin Luther King, ‘we are not makers of history; we are made by history’.

And, as The Brisbane Golf Club celebrates its 125th Year Anniversary on Wednesday November 4, 2021, all members – past and present – should be extremely proud of this remarkable historical achievement.

The journey undertaken since that small meeting of founders took place in AMP Chambers in the heart of Brisbane city 125 years ago has been an extraordinary one. It is therefore with great pleasure that I am writing a preface to this book which contains a collection of exceptional stories surrounding the history of our great club.

When reading these stories it is clear that The Brisbane Golf Club has not only made its own history, but has also been an integral part of the history of Brisbane and Queensland. When the names of our former Club Presidents, Captains and members are perused, the significant contributions this club has made to Queensland society is quickly realised.

It also goes without saying that the club has survived through both turbulent and jubilant times in our state’s history. This represents a remarkable testament to the character traits of each and every member throughout the past 125 years.

Individual qualities such as determination, resilience, innovation and good humour is repeatedly described throughout the stories. When these qualities are combined with an overall vision for a true golfing community, it is little wonder The Brisbane Golf Club has prospered.

We have been able to excel despite the tragedies of wars, financial crises, floods and many other obstacles that have occurred over the decades. And even now, through an historic world-wide viral pandemic, the club and the world continue to battle. I am therefore confident our resilient club will continue to prosper and create more history during the next 125 years.

Finally, I would like to personally thank those members who have contributed to the stories contained within this historic book. Your time, research and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated. I hope all members enjoy the read, and find the book informative, entertaining and inspiring.

~ Mark Deuble, President

CHELMER DAYS

Early History of The Brisbane Golf Club

In The Beginning

Although the original clubhouse and course of The Brisbane Golf Club were located at Chelmer in Brisbane's west, the club was founded at a meeting in the city centre, where MacArthur Chambers stands today.

The inaugural meeting was held on Wednesday, November 4, 1896, when 11 'gentlemen' met in the Australian Mutual Provident Society chambers at the corner of Queen and Edward Streets. It was then a building of three stories and is the current redeveloped structure known as MacArthur Chambers, named after the American General who had his headquarters there during World War Two.

The club was to remain the only golf club in the Queensland capital for the next 25 years.

While it is accepted that the first known playing of golf in Australia took place in the 1820s when Alexander Reid played at 'Ratho', near Bothwell in southern Tasmania, the oldest Australian club with a continuous playing history is Royal Melbourne, which was formed on May 2, 1891. Likewise, the oldest club in New South Wales is Royal Sydney Golf Club, dating from August 2, 1893. In Queensland, the North Queensland Golf Club (later renamed Townsville) was founded on January 4, 1893, followed by Toowoomba Golf Club in August 1896.

The commencing date of November 1896 places The Brisbane Golf Club among the early clubs in Australia.

In the 1890s, Queensland was experiencing a painful period of economic readjustment. The gold rush and land boom had expired, unemployment was running at 15%, bankruptcies were at an all-time high and commodity prices for the colony's predominantly agricultural products were severely depressed.

Then, in 1893, three cyclones hit southeast Queensland causing massive flooding. Thirty-five people died, more than 1,000 homes were destroyed and the Indooroopilly and Victoria bridges were washed away. An estimated 10,000 people had to seek shelter in churches, halls, tents and similar accommodation and almost one-third of the population had to survive with handouts from a special relief fund.

If thoughts of founding a golf club in Brisbane did exist during these years, then deferral for a more auspicious time was certainly appropriate. Another flood in 1898 inundated parts of the Chelmer area where the club had set up its operations.

Queensland was a self-governing colony of Great Britain and had only been open for free settlement since 1842, 54 years after the first landing at Sydney Cove. By 1896, the population of Brisbane was only 117,000, while Queensland had 472,000 residents compared to the Australian total of 3,553,000. Sydney's population of more than 480,000 exceeded the total for Queensland.

The Rev George Horsfall Frodsham had recently arrived in Brisbane and chaired the club's foundation meeting. Some later said he was the driving force behind the founding of the club. Other claims were that John Reid Gair, the first secretary, was the impetus, while the Queensland Governor, Lord Lamington, who was a keen golfer, was thought to have also been a key influence. Lamington accepted the role of first club President.

The Chelmer area had been surveyed into small housing blocks during the 1880s after the advent of the rail line in 1875, but remained undeveloped without roads, drainage, water supply and sewerage. Only a few houses had been established and it was around these that the club laid out nine golf holes.

The tenor of the minutes of the first meeting suggests a presumption that the owners of the undeveloped allotments would have no objection to the club playing across their lands, but perhaps some had been canvassed beforehand.

State of Play

The first secretary, John Gair, had his home on this land and, perhaps, he had keenly supported the decision to choose this site. It was adjacent to the Chelmer railway station and a new rail bridge over the river from Indooroopilly had been built by 1895 to replace the one lost in the 1893 flood. Pedestrian crossings existed, but no road bridge until 1936.

The layout of nine holes covered an area between the current Honour Avenue and the Brisbane River, upstream from the bridge to Richmond Street. The par 45 course comprised three par four holes, three par fives and three par sixes. No record exists of who designed the layout.



Brisbane CBD in the 1890's when BGC was founded



The Chelmer course had only 9 holes and this was the 8th tee

With a flurry of activity, the committee set the date for the opening of the course for Saturday December 12, 1896, just five weeks and three days after the inaugural meeting. This was on bare ground with little time to provide much more than mark teeing grounds and designated putting greens.

Club president and Colonial Governor, Lord Lamington, arrived by train just before 3pm on opening day, joining members for a round of golf then enjoying tea and cakes provided by the local ladies in a large marquee. A smaller tent nearby held other drinks.

As golf was a novelty to much of the population, the weekly newspaper, The Queenslander, published a series of articles during the following weeks explaining the rules, the different clubs used, the mode of playing and scoring.

Although golf had been played in Scotland from before the 15th century, it did not

take off in England until between 1870 and 1890 when golfing institutions grew from 34 to 387.

From the late 1880s to early 1890s, an increased emigration from Great Britain occurred around the world, and the early players in Brisbane would have brought with them clubs and balls and would have been practising golf of some nature. The equipment would have been unprocurable in Brisbane at that time and the club continued to import balls from England for many years for sale to members.

Membership

By the time the first game was played, 38 members had been elected to membership including the Chief Justice of Queensland, Sir Samuel Griffiths. When Lord Lamington returned to England in 1901, Griffiths became the second President of the club. He

retired from the role in 1902 when he was appointed the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

The early membership came from government legislators and officials, judiciary, barristers, solicitors, medical practitioners, clergy, bankers, leading merchants and graziers. It was not until the 1920s that other golf clubs were formed in Brisbane to cater for a broader section of the community.

The annual subscription was set at one guinea (\$2.10), with an entrance fee – set at two guineas - waived for the first 40 members to join. Two years later, in December 1898, the subscription doubled to two guineas.

With the opening day out of the way, the committee began the serious business of running a golf club. Work started on improving the greens, and this was completed by March 1897 at a cost of £13/5/-. A ball press and a hole cutter had been purchased in February for £1/8/4, John Gair’s mower was acquired for £1 and a roller and wheel barrow for £5. (£1 = \$2)

Play was with the gutty ball - a composition of gutta-percha (latex from tree sap), ground cork, leather, metal fillings and adhesive liquid. It tended to lose shape quickly, hence the need for a ball press to return it to a spherical shape. The three-piece ball, the forerunner of the modern ball, did not come into use until the early 1900s.

Clubs had hickory shafts and most players owned about six, carried in small diameter bags. Clubs were designated by names, not numbers, and most sets comprised drivers, spoons, brasseys, cleeks, niblicks, mashies and putters.

Local youths were engaged as caddies, paid one shilling (10 cents) for 18 holes and often were required to clean the clubs after play.

A supply of whisky was purchased and kept available at the course on Saturdays. As there was no clubhouse until mid-1897, the whisky was most likely held by the secretary whose house was within the course layout and was used as a meeting place for the players. A liquor license for the club was obtained during 1898.

Clubhouse

A clubhouse, to a design by noted architect, Robin Dods, was built at a cost of £148/0/11 across the road from the Chelmer Rail Station on land

leased from a J.L. Cardno, and was opened on July 10, 1897.

It was a simple rectangular building set on high hardwood stumps. Vice President, A. Macintosh, was the General Manager of the Royal Bank of Queensland and made the funds available against a Bill of Sale over the improvements. A joint guarantee for £110 was signed by 22 members, with a limit to £5 each.

The first house rule promulgated was that ‘shouting’ between members was prohibited.

By April 1903, the club had purchased two blocks of adjoining land and the premises were moved across. The building remains today as a private residence at the corner of Honour Avenue and Hurlton Street.

Ladies and Youths

In March 1897, a sub-committee was appointed to interview ladies interested in joining the club, and to ascertain their views and requirements. The first six were elected the following September with an annual subscription of five shillings (50 cents), and no entrance fee.

By April 1898, another eight had joined and the first ladies’ committee was elected the following June, with most related to male members. It was not until May 1899 that the terminology of Associate was first used.

With the exception of public holidays, Associates were permitted to play the course on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, but were not initially allowed to use the clubhouse. However, after pressure was exerted, improvements were made to the clubhouse and by June 1899 they had their own room.

The first official Associates competition was held on Monday July 4, 1898, when all present played off scratch as a means of determining future handicaps.

The first youth elected to membership was E.L. Apperly, the son of a member, in February 1902. Eric was 12 years old and later went on to become one of the best amateur golfers in New South Wales, with five State and one Australian title to his credit.

Youths were not initially allowed to play on Saturdays or public holidays or use the club rooms – similar restrictions as placed on the Associates.

Competitions

Monthly Medal matches began in early 1897 and the names of the winners that year were inscribed on the first medal, a silver medallion. The medal is now on display in the trophy cabinet in the clubhouse.

Most early games were stroke and bogey (now known as verses par events) competitions with matches in singles, pairs and foursomes. Players were graded on a ‘bumping list’. Any player could challenge another above him to a match with the prospect of moving above him on the list.

The rules did not provide for the office of club Captain until 1906. In the meantime, the winner of the Club Championship each year was afforded the honorary title.

Interclub matches between Toowoomba and Ipswich clubs became a regular feature with the first game played against Toowoomba at Chelmer on May 24 1897.

The oldest Honour Board event is the Midwinter Medal which was presented to the club by Henry Schacht (member No. 7) in 1898. The medal is a replica of the Spring Medal won by his brother at the Royal Blackheath Golf Club in England with the original having a history dating back to 1792.

The first winner in June 1898 was George Hutton from a handicap of 11. He had a nett score of 205 for the 36 holes, 14 strokes better than the runner up. His handicap was then reduced to scratch.

Another early Honour Board event is the Lamington Cup, a men’s foursomes competition with the first final played in September 1898. Both the Medal and the Cup pre-date the Club Championship which was not played until late in September that year.

With fairway mowers nonexistent, the condition of the fairways was solely dependent upon the weather - long grass during wet summer months before a hard frost, and westerly winds gave some relief during the winter. Summer rains in early 1898 brought flooding and such a following growth of grass that the final of the 1897 Monthly Medal was not played until April the next year.

Queensland Championships

After three years of experience, the committee decided to hold an ‘Inter-Colonial’ tournament open to all amateur golfers during August 1900. This date sits alongside the start of the Australian Amateur Championship in 1894, the US Open of 1895 and the Australian Open in 1904.

Visiting golfers from Sydney and Melbourne attended and the program comprised six events including the first Amateur Golf Championships of Queensland over 36 holes for men, and 27 holes for ladies. The club sponsored the formation of the Queensland Golf Association in 1914 but continued to host the championships until the mid-1920s.

Name

The Brisbane Golf Club is the only club with the name of a state capital that does not have the Royal prefix in its title.

In early 1897, the committee resolved to ask the Governor to request the Queen to grant Letters Patent to the club for the use of the word ‘Royal’, a privilege accorded Royal Melbourne and Royal Sydney golf clubs in the south. While no record remains of the outcome of this decision, the minutes record the intention to make another approach 30 months later.

Then, in July 1899 the Governor, who was also the club President, was formally approached for the use of the prefix. Permission was refused by the Colonial Secretary in January 1900 on the basis that, in future, the prefix ‘Royal’ would only be granted to associations having ‘national or charitable objects’. There the matter rested until the club was blindsided by a later government adopting a different approach.

Also in 1899, the committee considered seeking affiliation with the Australian Golf Union which had been formed the previous year by the Royal Melbourne, Royal Sydney and Adelaide golf clubs. It was decided not to make a formal application and, as a result, Queensland golf clubs did not have a voice on the Australian Golf Union until after the First World War.

Yeerongpilly

During the late1890s/early 1900s, reticulated town water was being extended to the Chelmer area. This raised concern that residential development would force the club off the land over which it held no title except for the clubhouse block. This led, in November 1899, to a sub-committee being appointed to investigate an alternate site.

It was another four years to late 1903 before the club decided to purchase 110 acres at Yeerongpilly - this was later increased to 150 acres. The soil was of poorer quality than Chelmer but the land was gently undulating and near a railway line.

It had been cleared for agricultural purposes and had a permanent water supply from Moolabin Creek and its tributaries.

To enable acquisition of the land, it was decided to raise £2,500 by issue to the members

of £10 debentures with interest at 4%, plus a bank loan of £1,000 over five years for the additional costs of relocating to the new site.

At the time, the club’s assets comprised the Chelmer clubhouse and £14/8/4 in the bank. While the move involved 100% borrowing, the majority of this was from the membership, which stood at 100 men and 30 women.

The 1903 season at Chelmer came to a close on November 14, 1903 and any games thereafter were for ‘exercise only’. By March 1904, the course had been reduced to six holes from housing development.

Sydney professional, Carnegie Clark, was engaged to design the Yeerongpilly course. The layout was 18 holes, and 5135 yards long. The shortest hole was 122 yards and the longest 415 yards.

First play at Yeerongpilly was on June 18, 1904 when 40 members ‘tested’ the available 16 holes.

The official opening was held on August 6, 1904 in the form of a garden party attended by 400 guests who arrived by a special train. A large marquee with refreshments was erected on the ridge between the present 19th tee and the machinery shed from where the spectators could best view the golf being played.

After seven years at Chelmer, the members had taken the bold step to acquire their own freehold property (among the earliest to do so in Australia) and lay the foundation for the work involved in developing the course and clubhouse to the standard it is today.

~ **Bruce Richter**

The view of the 6th green at Chelmer with the Brisbane River in the background and Indooroopilly on the far right





Lord Lamington teeing off from the 1st at Chelmer

OUR LORD LAMINGTON

Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Ross Cochrane-Baillie was the first President of The Brisbane Golf Club. He also hit the first drive, from the first tee, when the Chelmer Links were opened on December 12, 1896. And, not surprisingly, Mr Cochrane-Baillie – who is better known to BGC members as Lord Lamington and a former Governor of Queensland – partnering a man named Gilbert Wilson, won the very first Lamington Cup Foursomes event in 1898. And the pair won the Lamington Cup for a second time in 1900.

But in 1908, five years after relocation of BGC from Chelmer to Yeerongpilly, the club committee – either in its generosity or recklessness – returned the Lamington Cup to his Lordship in Scotland, suitably inscribed with the names of all winners to that date. Lord Lamington, however, quickly returned serve and presented the club with the second Lamington Cup which remains an annual Honour Board Foursomes event for men.

In 2016, on the occasion of the club's 120th anniversary, a concerted attempt was made to track down the original Lamington Cup, but despite some positive early hopes the quest proved fruitless.

While Vice Regal duties obviously occupied most of Lord Lamington's time while he was Queensland Governor, he was a very enthusiastic outdoors man. He displayed a keen interest in cycling, shooting and golf. The first local reference to his penchant for the ancient game is a retrospective piece in the Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser dated January 23, 1897, stating that Lord Lamington had been part of a small elite group of golfers playing the Kinellen Links on the private estate of Mr. J. Turner of New Farm.

And Lord Lamington appears to have been a player not without golfing ability. Bruce Richter records his splendid history of The Brisbane Golf Club entitled 'The Fairway is Mine', that his handicap was 13 and the Brisbane Telegraph on November 21, 1898, reports that at the opening of the new Victoria Park golf links the Governor struck the opening ceremonial tee shot a creditable 203 yards.

Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Ross Cochrane-Baillie was descended from a long prestigious line of naval 'Sea Dogs'. His great grandfather Sir Alexander Inglis Cochrane (1758-1832) rose to the rank of Admiral in the British Navy and fought in both the Napoleonic Wars and the 1812 American War of Independence. His grandfather, Sir

Thomas John Cochrane (1789 - 1872), went one better and became Admiral of the Fleet in 1865. He too served with distinction, commanding five ships and also participating in the Napoleonic Wars and the American War of Independence in 1812.

Lord Lamington's father, Alexander Dundas Ross Wishart Baillie-Cochrane (1816-1890), was a career politician representing four constituencies in the South of England and in 1859 the seat of Lanarkshire in Scotland. The tiny hamlet of Lamington lies in the south of Lanarkshire, 70 kilometres southeast of Glasgow. Alexander had a particular soft spot for Lanarkshire and Lamington as he was descended – on the maternal side – from a long line of Baillies extending back to William Baillie (1297-1356). The Baillie family owned extensive landholdings in and around Lamington, so it is not surprising that Alexander's original name of Bailie-Cochrane was later changed to Cochrane- Baillie.

As a reward for meritorious service to Queen and Country, Alexander was elevated to the House of Lords in 1880. In accordance with British custom, he elected to be known as the first Baron Lord Lamington. Lamington in the mid-1800s was regarded as no better than a backwater fit only for the purpose of 'whiskying up' for travellers on their way north. Alexander made it his life's work to elevate the village to a place of great beauty and in the process built a modest 140-room family home which was to remain the centre of village life for the next eight decades.

Early Political History

Alexander's son Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Ross was born in 1860 and was educated at Eton and Christ Church College Oxford, where he graduated with Honours. He followed in his father's political footsteps, firstly winning the seat of Bridport in southern England and later in 1886 the seat of St. Pancras North, in London.

Charles was regarded as the most charming and debonair member of the House of Commons. He worked as a private secretary to Prime Minister Lord Salisbury and it was noted in the London World and reported in the Brisbane Courier in April 1896 that 'he gave such satisfactory proof of both his industry and capacity' that he would later be rewarded with the Governorship of Queensland.

The first Baron Lamington died on February 15, 1890, whereupon Charles inherited the title as the Second Baron, causing his resignation from the House of Commons. He spent the next four to five years travelling extensively around the globe.

Acting as a 'roving ambassador' for Great Britain, he visited the United States and the Far East including China, Indochina, Vietnam and Thailand. He was tasked with the possible intention of annexing parts of southern China for the Crown, thus limiting French expansion and colonisation.

In 1895 he, like his father, he was also rewarded for meritorious service to Queen and Country and at the age of 35 Prime Minister Salisbury appointed him as the Eighth Governor of Queensland. In June that same year Charles married Mary Horton, the daughter of Sir William Wallace Hosier.

Queensland Years

Lord and Lady Lamington boarded the steamer India in Bombay en-route to Brisbane via the Torres Strait. And they were off to a flying start as their slow trip down the Queensland coast included stopovers at Thursday Island, Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville, Charters Towers, Mackay, Rockhampton and Maryborough before their arrival in Brisbane on April 9, 1896.

The new Governor and Lady Lamington were greeted with a gala procession the like of which had not previously being seen. The entourage consisted of the Supreme Court Judges, politicians, members of the clergy, military forces, mounted police and representatives of multiple community organisations. Lord Lamington was sworn in as Governor on the same day.

The Lamingtons quickly settled into the more relaxed lifestyle in Brisbane and were widely accepted and respected, and Lord lamington's devotion to duty was unparalleled. He travelled extensively throughout the state and took a keen interest in the plight

of the Aboriginal people and the native people of Guinea, then a protectorate of the colony of Queensland.

An examination of his diaries confirms that Lord Lamington corresponded frequently with Joseph Chamberlain, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies. His particular concerns were with the native peoples as indicated, and the welfare of the Queensland troops who had been committed to the Boer War in South Africa which was largely instigated by Joseph Chamberlain.

Lord Lamington was a staunch supporter of the Federation of the Australian states, and he attended the gala ceremony at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne on New Year's Day 1901. He can clearly be seen, centre stage, in the famous Tom Roberts painting which depicted the historic occasion.

During her stay in Queensland Lady Lamington gave birth to two children. Their first born (July 23, 1896) was a son, christened Victor Alexander Brisbane Wallace Cochrane-Baillie. Brisbane, naturally, was chosen as a mark of respect for the newly-adopted family place of residence. Their second child, a girl, was born on February 14, 1898, and was christened Grisell Annabella Gem. Victor served with great distinction in World War One winning a Military Cross at the battle of the Somme, and eventually succeeded his father as the third Baron Lamington. He died in 1951.



The Chelmer Clubhouse with prominent Club Members and Officers including Lord Lamington

After Queensland

Lord Lamington was farewelled by members of The Brisbane Golf Club at a gala dinner held at the Queens Hotel on June 17, 1901. The main toast to Lord Lamington was proposed by Sir Samuel Griffith, who was to succeed Lord Lamington as both President of the club and Governor of Queensland.

At the dinner he was presented with a Malacca cane walking stick with a silver mashie head suitably inscribed with his initials, and coronate. The stick was rediscovered many decades later in England and was donated back to BGC where it now holds pride of place in the trophy cabinet.

On completion of his term as Governor of Queensland - on December 19, 1901 - Lord Lamington became Governor of Bombay, a post he held until 1907. His last official appointment was that of Commissioner of the British relief unit in Syria, a position he accepted in 1919 following the end of World War One.

In his later life he maintained a keen interest in both the Indian and Islamic causes. In March 1940 he attended a political rally in The Westminster Town Hall in London, a meeting addressed by Sir Michael O'Dwyer, the former Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab.

A political activist who had an axe to grind with O'Dwyer fatally shot him at that rally and, in the process, severely injured Lord Lamington who suffered a shattered hand. Lord Lamington recovered from the injury but died six months later on September 16, 1940.

Lord Lamington Portrait

The portrait of Lord Lamington which greets members and visitors in the entrance to the BGC Clubhouse is a one-off copy of the original painting commissioned in 1895 by his mother, Lady Anabella Cochrane-Baillie, prior to her son's departure for Queensland. The commission cost 42 Guineas and was painted by society portrait artist Robert Duddington-Herdsman (1862-1922).

The portrait hung in the stately Lamington House in Lanarkshire until 1953 following which it was passed down to one of Lord Lamington's granddaughters in Suffolk. It was acquired by the State Library of Queensland in 2016 and now hangs proudly in Government House Brisbane.

- Mike O'Shea



Lord Lamington was the first President of BGC

- Notes:
- Victor Alexander, the third Baron, left no male heirs hence on his death in 1951. The Cochrane-Baillie name died out and with it the Lamington title was extinguished.
 - The stately Lamington House was demolished in 1953 and today no remains exist.
 - All three Barons Lamington are buried in the village of Lamington in Lanarkshire.
 - The famous Lamington name lives on in Queensland in the form of the Lamington National Park in the Gold Coast hinterland. Mount Lamington in Papua New Guinea is also named after the former Governor of Queensland as is a certain chocolate and coconut covered sponge cake.
 - The quest for the first Lamington Cup continues, and is ongoing.

Acknowledgements: Bruce S Richter - 'The Fairway is Mine', 1996; Dianne Byrne - Australiana, 2016.

THE LADIES OF THE BRISBANE GOLF CLUB

In September 1897, three ladies were welcomed as Associate Members of the newly-established Brisbane Golf Club. Within a year their number had increased to 25, and in April two years later these pioneers of women's golf in Queensland participated in a series of matches on the Chelmer course to determine women's handicap ratings.

In heavy, full-length billowing skirts, long-sleeved blouses tightly buttoned at the wrist and neck, petticoats and stockings and ribbon-trimmed bonnets and boaters - and in threatening April weather - the ladies duly completed their matches and pronounced the afternoon's sport 'most enjoyable'.

The admission of ladies to the membership was uncontroversial, although they had restricted access to the course and no access to the Clubhouse was permitted. According to the societal norms of the day the ladies were not expected, nor wanted, to participate in running the affairs of the club, and by the end of 1899 the number of associates had grown to 54, about half that of the male membership. Today there is a total of 343 women members at BGC.

In 1898 the club readily agreed the ladies should form their own committee to manage their own golfing program and vet prospective women members, thereby absolving the gentlemen from any involvement with their affairs. The Associates' Captain chaired their committee until 1954, when the club committed to hosting the Australian Ladies' Championships and the first Associates' President was elected at the Associates' AGM - 55 for and 32 against - to relieve the captain of administering the burgeoning social program that hosting the event would entail. Or, as it was suggested many years later, to 'take care of table napkins and flower arrangements'.

Although having no role in the club administration, from the earliest days the Associates' Committee was permitted to make submissions on matters concerning the course and Clubhouse. Indeed, in 1923 the Associates' request for representation on the house sub-committee was granted, giving them a voice in matters relating to Clubhouse facilities. Whether that voice was heard is perhaps a moot point.

The nature of the submissions from the ladies changed little over the years and even up to today, with recurring themes of restricted access to the course and limited tee times; lunch and locker room facilities; men-only areas of the Clubhouse; maintenance, mowing and irrigation of fairways on ladies' mornings; the standard of maintenance of the ladies' tees; the quality of the food and catering arrangements; repairs and cleaning of their locker room; and from time to time complaints of inappropriate language and behaviour - in early days of rude and nude caddies swimming in the waterholes, in latter years of impatient men hovering at the first tee for the Thursday morning 'shielas' to cross over.

It must be said, though, that whatever the ladies requested, they usually received - eventually. Repeated requests for permission to use the upstairs Chelmer Clubroom on Mondays was granted in 1899, albeit by a small majority and provided they 'didn't interfere with the privileges of the members'.

The lack of amenities for ladies at Chelmer was repeatedly brought to the attention of the committee and eventually a small, galvanised-iron room for their exclusive use was built underneath the Clubhouse. In return, however, the club required that all furnishings be paid for by the ladies, drawn from their accrued competition fees, and for the next 58 years or so that did not change and even today the ladies continue to furnish and provide amenities for their locker room.

When the club relocated to Yeerongpilly in 1904 the ladies were allocated a balcony in the new Clubhouse (which was later enclosed) for changing and storage and in which to gather after golf for refreshments.

Access to other Clubhouse facilities was restricted until 1975 when they were permitted full use of all facilities on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. It was not until 1991 however, that Associates were permitted to enter the Members' Bar on a Wednesday and Saturday.

The area that today is known as the Tennyson Room eventually became the exclusive domain of the Associates, and with the ladies' competition day



Inter-Club Challenge versus Indooroopilly Golf Club, 2019



Ladies playing golf, 1930s



Ladies' Opening Day, 1903



The 'Associates' Veranda was host to many special events

changing from Monday to Friday and then, in 1910, to Tuesday, gathering for 'Tuesday announcements' became a tradition which continues today, post the COVID lock-down restrictions that were enforced in 2020.

In the past, Tuesday announcements - held promptly at 1.30pm - were always much anticipated and the entire morning field (having teed off from 8am) would attend. Winners of the daily competitions were announced, trophies presented, upcoming events flagged and, in early years, games played and quizzes on rules and etiquette conducted.

The Associates' President and Captain always changed out of golfing attire to address the ladies, and all golfers had to change out of their golf shoes to enter the Tennyson Room. Golf shoes were taboo in the Tennyson Room until 2015, and it was not until 2017 that the mandate of the Ladies' President and Captain 'frocking up' was quietly abandoned - although it was whispered by some that they should at least apply lipstick.

From the inception of their competitions, the ladies paid for their trophies and this only changed in 1957 when the club committee decided that Associates' competition fees would accrue to the club instead of their 'furnishing fund', and that the club would from then on pay for their trophies. However, the ladies continued to - and still do - donate to their own trophy fund in order to provide what they considered more worthy prizes.

The presentation of Ladies' Honour Board trophies has always occurred at the ladies' AGM and has been a highlight of the golfing year, consistently with an attendance of more than 60% of the active golfing cohort. In earlier days, the Associates' AGM received extensive coverage in Brisbane newspapers, as did coverage of opening days and guest days, although much of the detail was reserved for in-depth descriptions of the table decorations and of the fashions - the fabric colour, trimmings and accessories being worn, and by whom.

The hospitality that accompanies the Ladies' AGMs, opening days, guest and invitation days, and the hosting of Pennant competitions, has forever been a matter of great pride. Over the years the number of themed golfing days increased and today the annual Irish Day, American Foursomes, Grandmother's Day, Fun Day and Opening and Closing Days are much anticipated in the golfing calendar.

An important aspect of these occasions has been fundraising. Initially in 1898 this was for the Ladies' Golf Union and the ladies 'furnishing fund', for the war efforts in both World Wars, and from the 1980s all monies were

going in alternate years to the ladies' welfare and charity accounts. Since the early 2000s more than \$70,000 has been raised for local Brisbane charities.

Throughout the early years Associates made regular representations to the club for permission to play on Saturdays after 3pm (when the men's games concluded) and on Sundays and public holidays, but it was not until 1915 that they were finally granted access to the course after 3pm on Saturdays.

The opening of the short course at Yeerongpilly in 1930 was a game-changer, providing an alternative course for the ladies on those days when the long course was reserved exclusively for men. It was on the short course that all new golfers played until deemed sufficiently skilled and knowledgeable about the game before joining Tuesday competitions. This was obviously similar to today's Ladies, Let's Golf program which offers newcomers escorted golf while learning the rules and etiquette of the game. Since its inception in 2014, 137 ladies have progressed through this program, with 67 becoming members.

In post-World War Two decades, corresponding with the rise in women's participation in paid employment, the number of working ladies playing golf increased considerably. Associate membership rocketed from 40 in 1944 to more than 200 in 1947 and in the post-war decade women made up the majority of the club's 'ordinary membership'.

The Associates lobbied hard for greater access to the long course on Saturdays and eventually, in the mid-1950s, this was granted - provided they played the first nine on the long course from the 10th tee at 10am, with the second nine completed on the short course.

It was at this time a Saturday golfer - a 'weekender' - was nominated and elected to the Associates' Committee to represent and manage the Saturday ladies' golf and associated activities. Specific weekend Honour Board events were created, and to this day the Saturday cohort remains a strong, cohesive and tight-knit group.

The post-war decades brought considerable changes to ladies golfing attire, but at BGC the changes were adopted reluctantly and it was only in 1966, after two years of dogged persuasion - not only of the club committee but also of many Associate members - the dress regulations were changed, permitting ladies to wear tailored slacks and Bermuda shorts on the course, but not in the Clubhouse.



Top to Bottom: Social events are a huge part of Ladies' golf at BGC / The ladies fundraise every second year generally and make regular and valuable contributions to our Junior Academy

Skirts and shorts, however, had to be no more than four inches from the floor when kneeling - an edict strictly enforced by the Associate's Committee of the day which ruled 'with a rod of iron'. It was not until 2018 that the club's dress code removed any stipulation about the length of skirts and shorts. Trousers and shorts were not permitted to be worn by ladies in the clubhouse until 1970, and then only until 4pm, after which they were required to change into more formal attire - and that restriction was not eased until the mid-90s.

Submissions were regularly made by the Associates for better access to the long course, and in 1974 the ladies were finally offered the option of playing 18 holes on the long course from 8.30 am. However, when put to the Associates' AGM this was voted down because, for those ladies who worked full time, Saturday morning was the only opportunity they had for shopping. For the next five years the ladies argued among themselves and lobbied the club on the issue, and finally in 1979 they were granted 18-hole playing rights on the long course from 7.30am on Saturday. However, they were granted only a limited number of tee times, and during the following years this became a matter of some contention.

A turning point in history for the Associates came in 2012 when the club Rules of Membership were significantly overhauled and the category of Associate member was abolished. Although the option for ladies to join as a full member had existed since 1897 when the club incorporated, none had ever taken it up.

The loss of the Associate category met with fierce resistance from many of the ladies but eventually 60 took up full membership, giving them voting rights in club affairs and access to the course on a Saturdays, albeit still with limited tee times allocated. It was also at this time the first female full member was elected to the club committee in 2014.

The inequity for ladies in the full-member category soon became apparent, and many more years of protracted lobbying for more tee times ensued. With the societal changes and the legislative imperative for gender equity, in 2018 men and women were granted equal access to all-day timesheets, seven days a week, based on membership category alone rather than gender. Again, this change met with much resistance from many ladies who particularly lamented the loss of dedicated 'ladies' days'. Significantly, the

ladies were now no longer restricted to playing from the red tees. However, Tuesday and Thursday mornings remain predominately 'red' on the booking timesheet, testimony to the cohesiveness of the ladies' cohort and the fact that, for many of us, golf is not just about the game but the opportunity to socialise and connect with our golfing friends.

And 124 years after ladies were welcomed into the club membership - as long as they didn't intrude upon the men - women are now being welcomed into all areas of the club's administrative functions. Ladies' committee members now actively participate in the club's finance, course, member services and match sub-committees, and their contributions to growing a strong united club are welcomed and valued.

Indeed, in this celebratory year, the club has its first elected female Vice President, a situation impossible for the founding fathers of our beloved golf club to contemplate no doubt, but a significant milestone 124 years in the making for the ladies of The Brisbane Golf Club.

- Helen Placanica

Acknowledgment: In compiling this article reference was made to various Club records and publications including, in particular, The Fairway is Mine by Bruce Richter.

The Ladies', Let's Golf program is one of the most successful in Australia





Clubhouse, 2021

THE CLUBHOUSE HERITAGE

Such is the status of the iconic Clubhouse of The Brisbane Golf Club, it is officially recognised for its historical and social heritage significance by the Queensland Government, Brisbane City Council and Golf Digest magazine. Brisbane City Council identifies with the quintessential and elegant Queensland architecture, the Queensland Government recognises the historical significance of the Clubhouse and Golf Digest course-rating panelists consider the building to be one of the ‘25 Greatest Australian Clubhouses in Australia’ because of its character and ambiance.

To BGC members, ‘their’ Clubhouse is a pleasant meeting place for enjoying the company of fellow golfers, surrounded by valued traditions and innovations that are distinctive features of the Club.

The Clubhouse that stands today is the third building in the 125-year history of BGC. The first is still standing in Honour Avenue, Chelmer, the original site of The Brisbane Golf Club.

The second Clubhouse, built in 1904 on the highest part of the land purchased for the course at Yeerongpilly, was destroyed through an accidental fire in 1909.

Opened in 1910 and standing on the same site as the previous building and with a similar design, the current Clubhouse has architectural features characteristic of the Federation era in which the building was originally designed and constructed.

A high-set timber Queenslander composed of mitered weatherboards and a pitched roof extending across verandahs, the Clubhouse is now enclosed to extend internal areas. But its original configuration was very different to what is enjoyed today.

The Clubhouse had a central core around which wide verandahs with large doors and windows were included in the design to access breezes. The dining room was in the central part of the building with members’ locker rooms

at the northern end, above where they are located today, and associates at the southern end of the building.

On the wide verandahs, single squatters’ chairs and small tables were used to take afternoon tea. Live-in quarters for the housekeeper were where the current kitchen area is located, and maids’ bedrooms were downstairs on the western side of the building.

Within 10 years of opening, the Clubhouse was unable to cater for the increasing membership (400 members) and the first of many extensions and renovations commenced.

The exterior of the Clubhouse was originally brown, with white balustrades on the external stairs and verandahs, and the roof a shade of red.

The clock near today’s Garden room was donated in 1910 and perched on the veranda above where it is located today. From the 1960s to the 1990s it was located where the Tennyson Room Veranda is today.

Donated in 1924, the flagpole remains where it is today, near the east practice putting green.

In the 1920s locker rooms were moved from upstairs to downstairs following concreting of the area underneath the Clubhouse. With the relocation of the locker rooms, the members’ (men) lounge, dining area and bar was located on the north-eastern side of the building overlooking the Pro Shop and the first fairway. Members purchased drinks from a bar located where the main entrance to the Tennyson Room is today.

Until the 1980s, the men’s locker rooms included a tended bar on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Stories abound of members enjoying an after-game beverage together in the locker room before donning coat and tie and continuing conversations in the members’ lounge.

Associates enjoyed refreshments and companionship in a separate and dedicated area of the Clubhouse, called the Associates’ Verandah. This area was located on the south-eastern side of the building, overlooking the first fairway and 18th green, where the members’ lounge is today.

Improvements to the Associates’ Veranda during this time, which included a small dining room, made this a popular venue for club functions.

Fire in one of the maid’s bedrooms almost destroyed the clubhouse in 1936. Disaster was averted by a ground staff member who was living in a converted shed in today’s car park.

In 1942, the Australian Army requisitioned the Associates’ Verandah, dining room and locker rooms and part of the Members’ locker room, pantry, staff bathroom and kitchen garden for Camp Tennyson, the One Australian Personnel Staging Camp. When they were in camp, passing through on their way to other training centres, travelling home or on to other rest camps, troops were housed on part the former West Course (now the 11th and 12th holes). Between 1942 and 1945, more than 12,000 honorary Australian service members enjoyed the clubhouse facilities and played golf using equipment donated by members. On the departure of the Australian Army, the Clubhouse was restored to its former configuration and condition.

Further alterations were made to the Clubhouse in the 1950s, but not before another fire almost took hold of the building.

Previously the General Manager’s office was located on the northern end of the building, in the alcove area of today’s Tennyson Room. In 1956, the office was relocated to the verandah between the Members’ and Associates’ Lounges, where the office of the Chief Executive is currently located. And on more than one occasion past General Managers reported that while they were well positioned to view the first tee, they were in the firing line for wayward shots, and ducking was a regular reaction.

Other alterations of note in the 1950s was the changeover of the Members’ and Associates’ Verandahs and dining areas. Apparently, the panoramic vista in what is now the bar and lounge overlooking the first fairway and 18th green, was a much-preferred location for the ‘sacrosanct’ Members’ Lounge and Bar.

The Associates’ Lounge was relocated to the northern end of the building, where the Tennyson Room is today. The Associates made the lounge their own, adding many honour boards to the walls, and they were able to use the Associates’ Lounge on all



golf days. However, on Saturdays Associates were restricted to bar service through the small window visible today between the Tennyson Room and the Members' Bar, and that restriction lasted until 1990. Access in and out of the Associates' Lounge was via a corridor that skirted the Members' Lounge and Bar, through where today's office area is situated.

Urgent attention to the Clubhouse foundations was required in the 1960s as the wooden support stumps were rotting below ground level. The General Committee of the day made the decision to preserve the existing Clubhouse by replacing the wooden stumps (circa 1910), with concrete stumps, a pivotal decision paving the way for future generations of golfers to enjoy the Clubhouse. The multi-directional stairs on the east practice putting green side of the building were altered to make way for the extension of the verandah outside the Members' Lounge. Interestingly, the General Committee at this time considered covering the federation-style weatherboards with a brick façade, but that was not progressed.

Further significant renovations commenced in the early 1990s. The office accommodation was expanded, dining room enlarged, air conditioning installed, kitchen expanded and the roof painted green. The external stairs near the office were connected to the verandah outside the Members' Lounge.

In addition, the entrance to the Tennyson Room from the carpark was built during this time. And the Board Room was created from a former storeroom on the western side of today's Tennyson Room and was used for committee meetings until 2009 when the Tennyson Room was further renovated.

When this upgrade was completed in 1993, a commemorative dinner was hosted by BGC Club Patron, The Honourable Leneen Forde AC, 22nd Governor of Queensland, who officially named and opened the Tennyson Room.

Between 1995 and 2005 a range of projects were considered, and various improvements made throughout the Clubhouse, including the development of the Centenary Garden, positioned at the entrance to the club surrounds, in time for the Club Centenary in 1996.

Among the considerations of the General Committee was the redevelopment of the south-west corner of the Clubhouse to include a starters area, junior room and storage area while maintaining the back-stair entrance to the bar for Members and Associates, but the project did not proceed. And the feasibility of a new Clubhouse was also briefly considered during this time.

Top to Bottom: Clubhouse, 1914, 1929 and late 1930s

Movement in the clubhouse foundations continued to be of concern during this time, as was roof replacement and external painting.

The associates' locker room was remodeled in 1995, with a lounge area created, new lockers replacing older models which dated back to the 1920s, and the lending library was created. Air conditioning was added in 2006 and a security system in 2008.

A comprehensive refurbishment of the Members' locker room commenced in 2004, replacing the original lockers and reducing the room size to make way for a new room for hospitality services.

The Garden Room opened in 2006, and staff were now able to provide a halfway food and beverage service for members, speeding up the time taken to play 18 holes. Coinciding with this, sit down or takeaway service was no longer provided in the Members' Bar and Lounge. Since its opening, the viability of the Garden Room was considered by the General Committee over the years, and as a result it has alternated between a sit-down area, a 'grab-and-go' facility or a private dining room or meeting room.

In 2009, further refurbishment of the Clubhouse was initiated by the General Committee, with functionality and furnishings of the Members' Bar and Lounge area modernised to create a more inclusive atmosphere, while still preserving the historical record of past Presidents and significant Honor Boards.

The Tennyson Room was renovated to address the sloping floor, and gaps emerging between windows and the clubhouse walls - caused by errant tree roots. Members' and Associates' Honour Boards were redistributed between the Members' Bar and Lounge, locker rooms and the connecting stairwells.

Relocating the Honour Boards helped to improve the viability of the Tennyson Room as a commercial function room, while some structural repairs, better audio-visual facilities and acoustics, a lift for patrons, more fashionable carpet, lighting, paintwork, and window shutters lifted the general ambience.

In addition, the outdoor wedding and function area known as the Jacaranda Gardens was created, with the renovated Tennyson Room as well. Jacaranda Gardens opened in 2011.

In the early years of the Clubhouse, facilities were designed in keeping with societal norms. Members enjoyed superior facilities, universal access, and rarefied masculine décor, while associates had separate, dedicated

Top to Bottom: Clubhouse, late 1950s, 1960s and 1987





hospitality areas. And once universal access to the Clubhouse for Associates was approved by members in 1990, successive General Committees steadily developed a more inclusive and integrated ambience across the Clubhouse with facilities, fixtures, and furnishings more appealing to all members.

In 2021, looking out from the Clubhouse across the course is as majestic as gazing towards it from either the first, ninth or the 18th fairway. The historic and majestic building has survived two internal fires, aggressive tree roots, the deployment of The Australian Army, stretched budgets and redevelopment considerations across 111 years of the 125-year history of BGC, and has clearly withstood the trials of time.

Within the Clubhouse, the valued traditions and innovations are heard in stories shared among members and guests. These conversations are tangible reminders of the club's deep connection with the game of golf, the history of Brisbane and the custodian role played by all members past present and future.

- Debbie Kember

Acknowledgements: This history of the Brisbane Golf Club clubhouse is drawn from The Fairway is Mine, by Bruce Richter, published in time for the centenary of the club in 1996. Other sources include club publications, general committee meeting minutes and government websites.

Top to Bottom: Clubhouse, 1994, 2016 and 2019



Clubhouse, 2020



Clubhouse, 2021



COURSE DESIGNERS

More than 20 specialists, including some of the biggest names in golf-course architecture, have been involved in the varying designs over the years of The Brisbane Golf Club's Yeerongpilly course.

Golfing royalty, in the form of Carnegie Clark, Alistair McKenzie, Graham Marsh, Peter Thomson and Wayne Grady, have been among those to have had some input into the course design and layout since BGC found its new home in 1903.

Others with major input over the years include renowned Australian designers Bob Green, John Burley, Graham Papworth and Ross Watson, while former BGC Club Professional Mick Stafford and current Course Superintendent Mitch Hayes have also been involved in course-design decision making.

In October of 1903, land was purchased at Yeerongpilly for the development of a new golf course. This decision came after a motion a year earlier to extend the existing Chelmer course was defeated at the AGM.

It was at this early stage the committee was arranging for the services of Sydney professional golfer, Carnegie Clark, to design an 18-hole course layout and the following month money was forwarded to Clark's principals, Holdsworth, Macpherson Ltd, for his 18- hole course design planned for 1904.

Clark had migrated from Carnoustie, Scotland, to Sydney in 1902 as a golf professional player, teacher and designer, and was employed at Royal Sydney Golf Club. Considered the father of professional golf in Australia, he won the Australian Open in 1906, 1910 and 1911 and the Australian PGA in 1908.

His first golf course design was Leura Golf Club in the Blue Mountains, and other notables included The Australian, Royal Sydney and Royal Queensland, as well as numerous NSW and Queensland country courses including Dubbo, Tamworth, Moree, Bowral, West Wyalong, Walcha and Ipswich.

The Brisbane Golf Club was to be his first 18 holes course design in Queensland.

In these early years club professionals were, as part of their employment, anticipated to advise and improve the design and condition of their course, particularly when extra land was acquired. However, they were usually 'strongly directed' in their design by the quirks of the committee, the greenkeeper and influential club members. While the detail of this work is often infrequently noted in committee minutes, some did have much influence to the BGC course layouts.

Course Layout Designers

The original 1904 Carnegie Clark layout was changed in the next decade or so when holes eight and nine occupied the newly-purchased land south to Sherwood Road. It is believed Professionals John Hutchinson and Willie Thompson were responsible for these two holes. This meant a renumbering of many holes, plus a new hole 16 was built along Fairfield Road. Club Professional John Irving was also likely very involved in these alterations.

In 1926 Royal Melbourne Golf Club paid for Dr. Alistair Mackenzie to come to Australia to design its course and during this visit he was engaged by BGC to offer opinion on the layout. Born in Yorkshire and a member of many golf clubs, he was a doctor and wartime surgeon in Africa, but never an accomplished golfer, pursuing a career in course design with several partners before going alone.

Having charted the old course at St. Andrews, in 1915 he travelled widely around the world designing courses in four continents including Cypress Point USA, Titirangi New Zealand, The Jockey Club Uruguay, Lahinch Ireland and perhaps his jewel in the crown, Augusta National Golf Club. He designed about 19 courses in Australia including Royal Melbourne, Royal Adelaide and Victoria before submitting a layout plan to BGC Club Secretary TB Hunter in March 1927.

After much discussion the committee did use some of Mackenzie's changes but not enough to say 'this is a Mackenzie hole', although his bunker proposals were adopted and completed after he left the country. When the land west of the 10th and 14th holes was

The 8th hole was redesigned under the direction of Ross Watson in 2015

purchased, Mackenzie proposed the area be used as part of an amended layout, but this was not favoured by the members.

In the late 1920s BGC member Stanley Francis (surveyor and the former Queensland Government Architect), supervised the bunker proposals of Mackenzie and was accepted as the course architect. He had a significant impact on the course layout in his time, and was also Club Champion eight times.

In 1928 Francis altered more than half of the course, but retained the existing corridors in conjunction with the ‘straightening’ of Moolabin and Rocky Water Holes creeks, which was first proposed in 1923 by member Doug Paines, an architect who was a member of the greens committee.

In 1930 the area considered by Mackenzie west of holes 10 and 14 was developed into a third nine holes as a ‘short course’ of 1813 metres to a design by Club Professional, Mick Stafford. This later became the West Course.

Land adjacent to Fairfield Road was purchased in 1944 and holes two, seven and eight were later relocated, redesigned and opened in 1950. Changes during the next few years resulted in current holes three to six replacing the old 12, 13, 10 and 11 holes. The old second became the ninth and old holes three and nine are now the current 10 and 16. The old 14 is the current 17 and 18 remained but became the ninth, meaning the important two loops of nines back to the Clubhouse was completed by May of 1953.

These stirring course changes were made by the then committee including President Jack Land, who had much influence on the design of the course; Captain JC Trude, Tom Lemon the greenkeeper (1939 – 1949) and his replacement W.H. Mintram, and no doubt Club Professional Mick Stafford also had input. Thiess Brothers, of which two were members, were contracted for the earthworks of these changes which largely remain to this day.

In March 1963 Fairfield Road was proposed to be widened from land resumed from BGC, and renowned Sydney course architect Al Howard was engaged to advise on the effect this would have on the layout, propose and design a new layout. Howard was a Professional at several Sydney clubs but he designed many golf courses including Avondale, Belmont, Byron Bay, Chatswood,

Elanora, St. Michaels, Corowa, The Glades, Indooroopilly, St Lucia and Tasmania Golf Club. However, when the Fairfield Road-widening plan lapsed, Howard’s proposed layout was considered extreme and his services terminated.

The ‘Fifth Lake Committee’ was approved in 1972, and member Fred Greenhalgh, the Brisbane City Council Water Engineer, was appointed to design and supervise. Greenhalgh designed water to be pumped from Moolabin and Rocky Water Holes creeks into the lake, and then pumped onto the course strategically in dry spells or if the creek became toxic. While this plan had been dispensed with many years ago, it has recently been revitalised by current Course Superintendent Mitch Hayes. Twice in the 1980s toxic creek water was pumped onto the course with costly consequence.

Minutes of a committee meeting in December 1973 affirm that following a ‘very-compelling’ letter from committeeman Neil Roberts, the numbering of holes nine - finishing at the Clubhouse - and 18 - finishing adjacent the practise range – should be switched, which remains the case today.

A Course Master Plan, presented by Sydney Course Architect Robert (Bob) Green from his company Golf and Recreation Planners Pty Ltd, was agreed to in principle at the 1978 AGM. At the time Green was in Brisbane working on Indooroopilly Golf Club.

He was a founding member of the Australian Golf Architects Association - and later Life Member – an ex- Course Superintendent at Pennant Hills Golf Club and lecturer on horticulture. His course design work included Sun City Golf Club in Perth, Liverpool Golf Club, Windsor Golf Club, Flagstaff Hill in South Australia, Murwillumbah Gold Club and Indooroopilly.

Green had visited the USA to study grass varieties, which were a big problem in northern NSW and Queensland. Impressed when shown Tifdwarf and Bermuda 328 and aware of strict Australian quarantine rules, he hid live stolons in his shoes and socks through Customs on his return. Bermuda grasses subsequently revolutionised both golf and bowling greens throughout tropical Australia.



The 4th tee, which is now the 19th tee, was likely where the Committee first took Carnegie Clark to first survey the course and consider its potential

Green’s initial BGC layout plans were major, and costs high. They were to be spread over stages with much work to be done by course staff ‘in house’. However, the club struggled with the costs and Green had to come up with a low-cost plan.

This development continued from 1978 to 1981 and included altering the seventh hole from a dogleg right to a dogleg left; the eighth from a par four to a par three with the green no longer doubling with the first hole; the second from a par five to a par four with a shortened tee; and the first, ninth, and 16th holes into par fives.

For reasons unknown, communication with Green ceased or waned and in April 1981 another architect was appointed, much to the dismay of Mr

Green. In a terse letter to the President at the time, Green blamed BGC for not properly following his directions and plans, and protested his ‘unfair’ dismissal.

A second letter titled ‘The Hysterics of Bob Green’s Involvement at BGC’ followed in similar vein, where he detailed all his work with widespread distasteful comment of the committee, course staff, superintendent and influential members who ‘simply had no idea of course design and interfered with his work’. In a closing statement he avowed ‘if the club wants my services, it would be on a command basis, and no less’. It was a case of ‘goodbye Bob’.



After Green's demise, in 1982 it was decided to commit to the existing corridors of the layout and engage the services of local architect John Burley of Burley and Berndt. Initially the plan was to rebuild bunkers and greens on holes one, two, six and nine.

Then in 1984 designer Ross Watson was retained to rebuild the second and fifth greens, with the fifth moved from the fence to the lake. Course Superintendent Vern Jepson assisted.

John Burley was later re-engaged (1986-1987) to rebuild greens on holes 10, 15, 18 and tees on holes four, six 13, 14 and 17, and in 1988 the club appointed Peter McMaugh and Geoff Hatton of Greensite Corporation Pty Ltd from Sydney, after an endorsement from Jepson. Greensite worked on numerous greens and tees carrying out drainage work, and in 1998 they reconfigured hole seven to a par three and hole eight to a par four, again because errant golf balls were landing on Fairfield Road. Greensite also designed the new par three 11th hole, the par five 12th, and the par three 13th on the old West Course, where work began in 1999.

Merv Burrough, Course Chair from 1983 to 1992, was a civil contractor and was responsible for all major earthworks, creek relocations, fairway and green raising from the flood plain areas during this time. Oddly both McMaugh and Hatton had little design experience but went on to become doyens of turf management - McMaugh receiving an MBE in 2019 and Hatton, who the committee later discovered was the brother-in-law of Jepson - now running a family turf farm in west Sydney.

But there was much dissatisfaction with their work and design proposals at BGC, and in October 1997 an EGM was called to terminate their services and reconvene the Course Advisory Committee. As the motion was unconstitutional, the EGM did not proceed but a discussion was held about the matter.

However, when Course Superintendent Jepson departed suddenly in April 2000 - at Her Majesty's Pleasure - so did Greensite. Assistant Superintendent Jeff Hegadus stepped in until Brett Morris was appointed Course Superintendent in late 2001.

The new design of holes 11, 12 and 13 was a major project with massive earthworks, creek realignment, extensive ponding and, council approval needed. Many members with the relevant experience (including Drew Clarke and Graham McIlwain) were engaged to steer the club through the approval process, which took years.

Eventually the course became a par 72, the length was increased 165 metres to 6129 metres, the Australian Course Rating increased from 71 to 73 and the now three spare holes – the par three 11th, par four 12th and par three 13th - were renamed 19, 20 and 21.

In 1998, during the Greensite term, the club consulted Graham Papworth of GNP Golf Design to provide another plan for the redevelopment of the former West Course area as a guide for whoever the club might appoint to construct.

Graham Papworth started GNP in 1993 after associations with Ross Watson and Graham Marsh, designed Noosa Springs in 1995 and was associated with clubs including Southport, Maleny, Killara, Manly, Strathfield, Lynwood and Geelong, as well as working on courses in Japan, New Zealand, Fiji, South Korea and China.

In 2015 he assisted Ross Watson and Course Superintendent Mitch Hayes in some design at BGC, utilising aerial photography. None of his work had any substantial impact on the course itself and his design proposals were not used.

BGC Course Advisory Committee re-engaged Ross Watson in 2001 to submit a Course Master Plan, alongside the existing plans from Bob Green and later Wayne Grady and Peter Thomson. Watson's first course design in 1977 was Windaroo Golf Club while working for Engineers Burchill and Partners who had encouraged him to build a career in golf course design. By partnering then touring professional golfer Graham Marsh for five years, much design work was secured in Malaysia, Japan, Korea and Indonesia before he went solo in 2000.

Ross Watson designed around 50 golf courses including Magenta Shores, The Vines, Horizons, Terrey Hills, Palm Meadows, Kooindah Waters, Concord, Avondale, Bonnie Doon, Indooroopilly, Pacific Harbour and Southport.

He has supplied three master plans for BGC, a 'total bunker review' plan and numerous 'short course' designs, which included proposed drainage storage solutions. But, because of financial constraints, none of these have evolved.

But during the past 21 years Watson has continually made important alterations to the course bunkering, fairway shaping, tee and green design, drainage fixes and controlled corridor repositioning, and history will show that he has significantly impacted 16 of the 21 holes on the course.

His more recent considerable design changes were the total redesign and realigning of hole 14 (away from Brisbane Markets); the drastic shortening - by 100 metres - and total redesign of 15, adding a pond; realignment and new build of the eighth fairway including a bridge and green, plus a greenside pond; and a complete rebuild of the ninth hole. And although he is officially retired, Ross Watson continues to be engaged by BGC.

Wayne Grady Golf Design was engaged in 2002 for remedial work on the new holes 11, 12 and 13. Wayne Grady was a successful touring professional golfer winning the 1990 US PGA after agonisingly losing a playoff for the 1989 British Open. He had wins in the US, Europe, Australasia and with Peter Fowler won the 1989 World Cup for Australia. His ‘fee-free’ work at BGC was minimal but included fairway excavation on 11 and 12 and fairway levelling and removal of part left water hazard on 13, as well as a Course Master Plan.

In 2004 Thomson, Perrett Golf Course Design in Melbourne was engaged to submit a preliminary Concept Plan for the BGC for discussion. A plan was submitted in March 2004 by Peter Thomson, adopting a minimalist approach.

Thomson, the winner of five British Opens and 98 victories in his career, worked on more than 250 courses in 30 countries, many in Australia including Twin Waters, Hope Island, Hamilton Island, Alice Springs, The National, Moonah Links Legend and Open, Sorrento, Black Bull, Manly and Royal Canberra among them.

Most likely for financial reasons, his proposal for changes at BGC was never accepted.

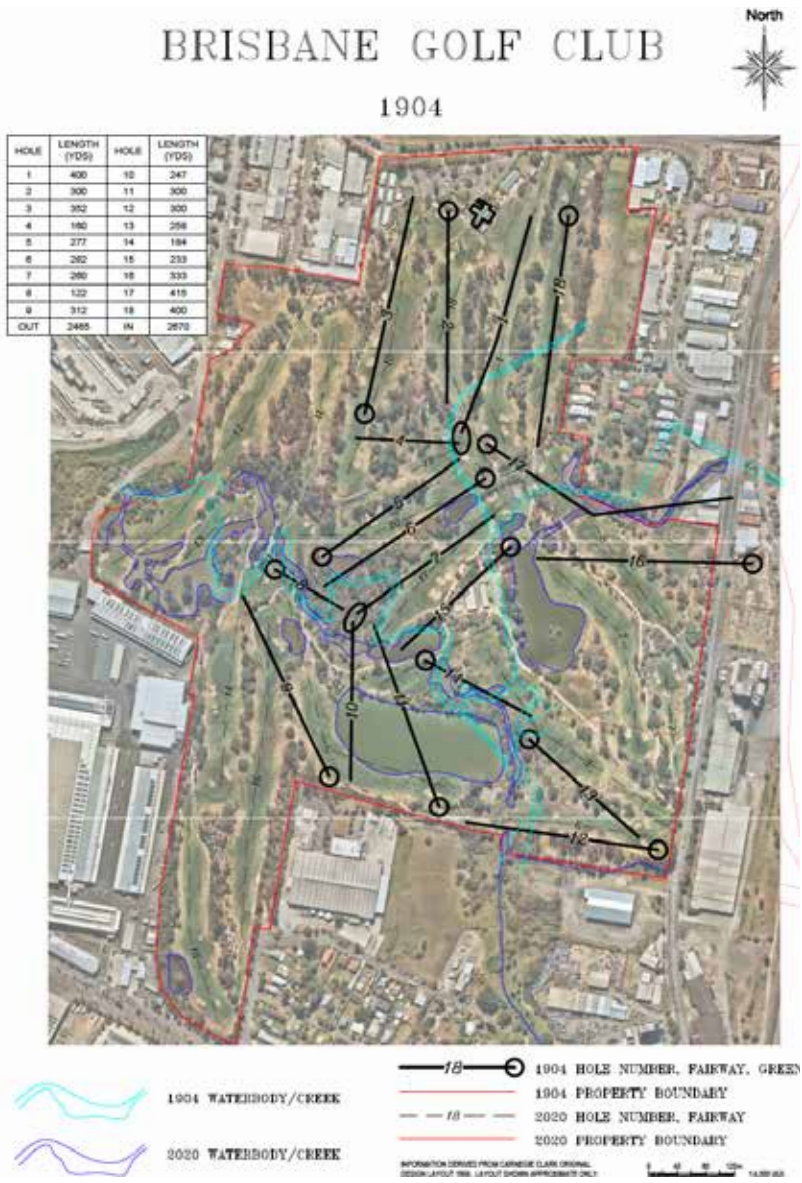
Since the 1950s the BGC course has retained generally the same corridor routing (notwithstanding 11-13) and over the past 121 years has become an evolution of alteration and serious tweaking by numerous people mentioned, and others unspecified. And for the better.

When Peter Thomson and Ross Perrett inspected the course in 2004 in preparation for their proposed Course Master Plan, former Captain and current member Ross McTaggart recalled the comment ‘this course has obviously seen an assortment of course designers over many years’.

The replacement of the entire irrigation system in 2021 - at a cost of \$1.5 million - is perhaps a statement there will be no major layout changes in the foreseeable future. Until future committees truly commit to a Master Plan of considerable change it would be too bold to attach a designer’s name to the Brisbane Golf Club in its present form.

- Lloyd Cotterill

Members interested in reading more about the changes to the course made over the years can visit www.brisbanegolfclub.com.au for further information. In addition to a more detailed explanation of the changes there are also numerous maps which can be used to reference the changes.



Top Left to Right: Dr. Alistair Mackenzie was engaged by BGC to offer opinion on our layout in 1926. He designed Augusta National in 1933. / Current course record scorecard.
Bottom Left to Right: This aerial photo was taken in 1996 and shows a very similar layout to what we see in 2021. / Ross Watson, right, pictured with Course Superintendent, Mitch Hayes has presented three master plans to BGC over the years.
Far Right: The map shows the original Carnegie Clark design in 1904 shown overlayed on the current BGC layout.

Acknowledgements:

‘The Fairway is Mine’, First 100 years of BGC, Author Bruce Richter. Not only was the content invaluable but Bruce’s knowledge, memory and willingness to assure the accuracy of this document is much respected.

‘The Boyce Family’, Author Clive Boyce 1912 – 1970s golf history of the former members of BGC.

Essential consultation with current Course Designer Ross Watson, former Captain (1970-71), Geoff Brown and current member and Captain (1988-91), Ross McTaggart, and member Helen Hudson whose extraordinary course layout memories are supported by Australian Defence aerial photography.



The Isuzu Queensland Open Final Round, 2016

THE BRISBANE GOLF CLUB ROLE IN QUEENSLAND OPEN HISTORY

On March 13, 2022, when the winner of the 80th Queensland Open Championship raises the T.B.Hunter Trophy, it is debatable whether he will be aware of the indispensable role The Brisbane Golf Club has played throughout the history of this event.

The word ‘he’ might be slightly presumptuous, as it was at BGC in 2018 that 19-year-old Becky Kay became the first female participant in the history of the Open.

Chances are that next year it will be a male who wins the famous trophy named after The Brisbane Golf Club legend Thomas Brown Hunter. But either way, from day one of the inaugural Championship in 1925 to the

introduction of women challenging the men for Queensland Open glory 93 years later, BGC has been front and centre in the evolution of this state’s most cherished golfing title.

Golf is a game of numbers and the numbers back up such a claim. Including the first three tournaments between 1925 and 1927, BGC has hosted the Open 21 times, five more than its nearest ‘rival’, Royal Queensland.

BGC’s connection with the tournament did not quite begin at the beginning. A couple of Scottish-born brothers, Francis and Alexander Ivory, struck the first golf shots in Queensland on their Eidsvold property in 1880 and while the Queensland Amateur Championship began 20 years later, another

quarter of a century passed before professionals were asked to join.

The Queensland Golf Association, today functioning as Golf Queensland, opted to play the first tournament at Brisbane’s oldest club, and the history of BGC and the Queensland Open had started.

It wasn’t then - and rarely ever since - has the tournament been about the money. In the early days the fields were small and there was scant financial return. Club members took up a collection to enhance the winner’s purse and a two and sixpence sweep added a dollop of cream should the winner draw himself.

Norman Von Nida, one of Australia’s finest players, won seven Queensland Open titles between 1935 and 1961, four of them at BGC. One of his wins earned him the princely sum of 32 pounds and he quipped at the time that only his interest in horse racing helped him survive in Australian golf.

Harry R Sinclair may not have shared Von Nida’s interest in the thoroughbreds, but he was regularly first past the post during the year of the first Open in 1925. The Sydney-based amateur won the Queensland Foursomes and Queensland Amateur titles that year and after drawing himself in the sweep, collected the extra five pounds when he took out the inaugural Queensland Open by seven shots. Sinclair beat 16-year-old ‘Young Dick’ Carr, an assistant Professional working in the BGC Pro Shop. Carr’s boss Mick Stafford, the BGC Head Professional for almost 50 years from 1921 and after whom the famed MT Stafford Trophy is named, finished fourth.

Taking out the trophy the next year, Carr became the youngest golfer in the world to win a Professional championship, a record that stood for many years. In the 1929 event at BGC, and by this time having reached the ripe old age of 20, ‘Young Dick’ almost claimed his second title but was beaten in a 36-hole playoff by fellow Queenslander Arthur Gazzard.

The Brisbane Golf Club has witnessed some extremely talented sportspersons stroll the fairways over the years, among them Davis Cup player John Millman who won the 2020 A.H. Colledge Trophy just a few months before claiming his first ATP Tour title at the Astana Open. But even Millman would be impressed by the versatility of the man who won the Queensland Open at Brisbane in 1933.

A World War One veteran who was awarded the Military Cross, Jack Radcliffe returned from the Great War to win the Queensland Open tennis title in 1921, before focussing on golf and becoming the only person to hold Queensland titles in both sports. He also found time to be a Rhodes Scholar,

Cameron Davis made his professional debut at BGC and won on the US PGA Tour in 2021



was Headmaster at The Southport School and a future BGC Club Captain.

Runner-up to Radcliffe was Brisbane member ‘One Putt’ Charlie Brown, who was defending the title after his victory at Royal Queensland in 1932. The nickname suggests the strongest part of Charlie’s game, and he made this observation about putting – ‘too often these days players spend far too long over their putts. If you miss ‘em, miss ‘em quick’.

Norman Von Nida won the next two Opens at BGC before then-amateur Jim Ferrier, nicknamed ‘The Undertaker’ because he ‘buried’ his opponents. Ferrier added the Queensland Open to his Australian Open he won at Royal Melbourne in the same year.

The following year he moved to America, turned professional, and became the first golfer from the Southern Hemisphere to win a golf major when he took out the 1947 US PGA. He was also runner-up in the 1950 US Masters.

The Brisbane Golf Club has helped send numerous golfers on a wondrous journey, but none would possibly have more affection for the Yeerongpilly layout than Sydney’s Eric Cremin. After the hiatus during World War Two BGC hosted the Queensland Open four times between 1946 and 1956, and Cremin won all four. And those who have been flogged on the course should spare a thought for those in the 1946 Open, including the runner-up, BGC legend A H Colledge. He finished second to Cremin - 19 shots adrift.

The gallery lining Brisbane’s fairways in 1959 to watch the already well-known Kel Nagle win the tournament, was given a sighter as to what was to occur 12 months later. Swap Yeerongpilly for St Andrews and the reigning BGC Queensland Open Champion beat a field that included Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Peter Thomson to win the Centenary British Open. Nagle won at least one golf tournament every year between 1949 and 1975.

Rather bizarrely, during the 1980s, the Queensland Open was played three times in New South Wales, while between 1969 and 1991, BGC hosted only four times. And in those years, renowned players such as Jack Newton and Graham Marsh tried and failed to completely conquer the layout.

Tim Woolbank (1969), Ian Stanley (1975) and American Bob Risch

(1978) were the winners, while a stellar professional career in the United States was kick started at BGC when Stuart Appleby won the 1991 title as an amateur. Appleby went on to win 20 professional events and recorded top-10 finishes in all four majors.

From the 1970s and beyond, television rights, advertising and lucrative prizemoney overseas changed the golfing landscape in Australia and tournaments such as the Queensland Open needed to fight many battles to maintain their relevance, and indeed survival.

In the 21st Century, no Queensland Open was played in the five years after 2007, until Brookwater Golf Club hosted between 2013 and 2015. Then came the chance for BGC to renew its 90-year relationship with the tournament. And it was too good an opportunity to let slip.

Peter Castrisos, current Golf Australia Board member and former President of BGC, was Chairman of Golf Queensland at the time.

“Leaving Brookwater Golf Club and bringing the Open back to the capital city, the desire of the board at the time was for the event to return to its spiritual home,” Mr Castrisos recalls. “And, the spiritual home of the Queensland Open is the Brisbane Golf Club.”

As for the willingness of BGCs members and committee to play host, CEO Geoff Kuehner clarifies.

“The course had improved significantly after the 2011 flood and there was a good awareness of that improvement among members, but not necessarily outside the membership,” he explained. “We thought opening up the course to an event like the Open would give us the exposure to drive our brand and strengthen our reputation as one of Queensland’s better courses and, in so doing, commercially grow our membership. And it did all that. It put BGC on the map again.”

While losing the use of the course for an entire week and tolerating the inconveniences associated with lifting the standard of the course, the vast majority of members were supportive of the venture. And now, with that most precious weapon of hindsight, it is easy to see how worthwhile those three tournaments between 2016 and 2018 were for the club, and for the players who took part.



BGC has now hosted The Queensland Open on 21 occasions



Brett Coletta made it successive amateur winners 25 years apart in 2016

It was successive amateur winners 25 years apart when Brett Coletta celebrated the Open's return to Brisbane in 2016. His financial loss was Lucas Herbert's gain as the two time European Tour winner and this year's Irish Open champion pocketed first prize money as leading professional.

And making his debut as a professional in that event was Cameron Davis, who went on to win the 2017 Australian Open and on the same day Herbert won the Irish Open in July this year, Davis claimed his first US PGA victory at the lucrative, but unromantically named, Rocket Mortgage Classic.

Perhaps the highlight though of the 2016 event was provided by the late Jarrod Lyle. A tie for 36th suggested the former US Tour player was not at his best on the course but elsewhere he was a big hit. Coaching youngsters and speaking at various functions throughout the week endeared him to all.

"Later that afternoon, while filming a story for Channel 9s coverage of the Queensland Open, I came across Jarrod one last time," recalled Nine sports reporter and keen golfer, Adam Jackson.

"He was conducting a coaching clinic for local juniors on a makeshift fairway between the 10th and 18th holes and I had to interrupt and walk across with the camera crew. As we did, Jarrod bellowed in the cheeky manner which made him adored by people all over the world: 'Don't worry kids, he's only a journo, doesn't matter if you hit him,' before strategically blading a seven iron that just skimmed past my ankles!" RIP Jarrod.

Once ranked inside the World top 35 and having being paired with Tiger Woods in the final round of the 2009 US Open, the golfing fortunes of Michael Sim had taken a dive in 2007. Hoping to start a journey back to where he once was, he arrived at Brisbane for the Queensland Open late that year with Brisbane Lions AFL star Daniel Rich on his bag and optimism in limited supply. Sim led the tournament only once - when he sunk a 12-footer on the 72nd hole to take out the Championship.

As a match referee, Peter Castrisos has no trouble recalling his favourite moment of the 2017 tournament. As a 16-year-old schoolboy, amateur Elvis Smylie, was playing in his first professional tournament and a wayward strike left him in the rough on the 17th hole. He asked for a ruling from the referee, believing the ball had moved slightly. Peter said he had not seen the ball move, but Elvis claimed it had, and believed he had caused it to move. He then called a penalty shot on himself, no doubt leaving match referee Castrisos a Smylie fan for life.

Former New Zealand Open winner Jordan Zunic claimed the 2018 title and put an end, for the time being at least, to the association of BGC with the Queensland Open. But irrespective of when and if the Championship returns, the legacy will forever remain.

Perhaps the most appropriate way to sum up the two-way connection between the Queensland Open and The Brisbane Golf Club is to recount the words of Queensland's Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, in his presentation at the completion of the inaugural tournament in 1925.

"It must not be thought to suggest that golf is not an occupation for the very young as well as an entertainment for the rather aged. The success of one of our 16-year-old players is a denial of this, and the fact that here, as in England and Scotland, the harassed statesmen of the country can meet on the golf links its athletic youth, is another advantage of the game. Youth has a chance of getting wise, while the wise get young. Certainly, interest has

been heightened by the great exhibition given in the Championship matches.

I thank them for helping on the game they so splendidly play, and I express the hope that those of them who come from other parts may soon and often find their way back to our Brisbane golf links."

- Andrew Slack

Acknowledgements: 'Yeerongpilly to Windaroo. The History of the Queensland Open Golf Championship'- By Barry Galton.



Jarrod Lyle played in the 2016 Isuzu Queensland Open



Lucas Herbert, has played in a number of Opens and is now a two-time European Tour Winner

THREE DESTRUCTIVE FLOODS

With its course on a flood plain serviced by Moolabin Creek and Rocky Waterholes Creek, The Brisbane Golf Club has endured three massive floods, resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars in damages.

The flooding of these creeks, caused mainly by backwater from the Brisbane River, led to major flooding in 1931 (February 7), 1974 (January 26) and again in 2011 (January 11), and the effect on the club and the course was each time disastrous, in both damage and cost. The small areas untouched by the floods were similar - Clubhouse, Golf Shop, parts of the former West Course adjacent to the Clubhouse (now the 10th tee and the west practice area), 10th green, higher part of the 10th fairway, the current 11th hole and high part of the current 12th hole and the third, ninth, 14th and 18th greens.

How the Presidents of the day reported these events in their Annual Reports is a contrast in style and detail:

1931

‘The flood waters in the Brisbane River early in February inundated the course and your committee have under consideration a report on this disadvantage which may lead to the lessening thereof’

1974

‘Standing on the first tee the view was water to Ipswich. I think I can fairly say that our course has now recovered from the disastrous Australia Day weekend floods. Your Committee wishes to record to all members and associates who participated in the working bee following upon the flood its profound appreciation. To those who suffered loss due to the flood our deepest sympathy’.

2011

The unexpected sometimes occurs and in the club’s case it was the long-awaited recovery from the worst drought in decades - continuous rain from October 2010. Rain that did not stop over the summer and was a precursor to the worst flooding in 37 years in the week of January 11. The course resembled an inland sea - not a lake, but a sea. For example, from the top of the first fairway I looked toward the first green and all I could see was water towards Archerfield. It was a similar experience from the top of the old 21st - water everywhere. There was no indication that a golf course was under the water.

Of further interest, the front and back covers of the 2011 Annual Report consisted of an aerial photograph of the flood-ravaged course taken by member Chris Adams. On what could be considered brighter news - other than the silt, sand and mud covering the course and the greens in 2011 - there was none of the debris as left by the 1974 flood. In 1974 a trailer load of margarine that produced a pungent odour for months was deposited near the current ladies’ fifth tee; two railway wagon loads of wheat were found on the sixth fairway and surrounds; 122 hungry head of cattle wandering throughout the course; and even a house appeared on the 16th red tee, remaining there until May.

In 2011 there were three semi-trailers in the creek on the right-hand side of the sixth hole (outside the club boundary), one with a prime mover still attached. In both floods the machinery shed was covered – in 1974 completely, and in 2011, almost.

The General Committee received the following report of the 2011 flood damage, from the General Manager and the Course Superintendent, at a special meeting on January 18, 2011 (one week after the flood), and the report provides a sense of the massive



Top Left to Right: 8th green looking back to Clubhouse, 1974 / 1st fairway, 1974

Bottom Left to Right: 12th hole, 2011 / 17th bridge, 2011



rectification work required:

Machinery Shed – went completely under. Most heavy machinery and gators were moved to high ground otherwise basically everything was destroyed. All that is left is a shell. Temporarily the course staff and equipment will be relocated to west of the 12th tee with one of the adjacent houses to be rented for use by the staff.

Pumps, control panel and satellite boxes – all destroyed, meaning no water to automatically irrigate the greens and the course for months until replaced. No hand watering using the course water until temporary pumps are in place which will take at least a week. Water tanker has been obtained but cannot be transported around the course and used for all greens etc until the course dries out.

Water supply to course – other than the lake on the fifth, the water on the course cannot be used as it contains raw sewerage, oil, diesel and other effluent. Rain is needed to flush this out of the system.

General hardware around the course – items such as sand bins, tee markers, flags etc have been washed away

Bunkers - all new bunkers came through with no damage, but the remainder will need rectification with many needing reconstruction

Course – First hole – top half fine; bottom half needs to be left so it can dry.

Second hole - tee was hosed off on Tuesday, but more is needed. The fairway where it floods off Fairfield Road could become an issue with a lot of burn. The green has progressed well with colour coming back. Sand in the new bunkers has washed away - just needs replacing.

Third hole - tee has minor issues with silt. The fairway is a major issue with the flood waters only subsiding on Tuesday, and the silt left is like axle grease, not mud. This fairway will need a lot of time hosing off once the pumps are up and going. The green is displaying good colour.

Fourth hole - tee is fine but the fairway could become a major issue with the silt left behind, also of axle grease texture. The green is displaying a green tinge and the major concern is it may not survive.

Fifth hole - tee is covered with inch-thick silt which needs to be focused on. The fairway is the wettest, but the green is showing good colour.

Sixth hole - tee is fine, but the fairway is covered with silt. The green is displaying good colour.

Seventh hole - tee has a small amount of silt on it. Both the fairway and the green are coming good.

Eighth hole - tee has a small amount of silt. The fairway gets better towards the fairway trap. The green is yellowing a little around the collar but is displaying good colour.

Ninth hole - tee is fine. The fairway down in the gully is of concern; green is fine, not flooded; rough between the Driving Range and the ninth has been hand mowed.

Tenth hole – tee is fine. Fairway has dried out well through the gully and the green is fine. Only the rough in front of the tee was flooded

Eleventh hole - tee is fine, and the fairway has dried out well. This hole was not flooded.

Twelfth hole - has major issues with silt. Over the hill, the water level was quite high and the fairway is very wet. Bridges look fine but will be checked. Significant debris has gathered around this area.

Thirteenth hole – tee has major issues with silt. Water level was quite high here and the fairway has been affected badly. Need to keep hosing to keep the sediment away. Survival of the green is second major concern.

Fourteenth hole – tee, fairway and green are fine.

Fifteenth hole – green has to be re-stolonised. Fairway is fine and the new bunkers and pond are good.



Sixteenth hole - green has to be re-stolonised, but the fairway is fine. Structurally, all is good.

Seventeenth hole – basically it is a disaster near the bridge. The ladies’ tee is covered in an inch of silt. The fairway, up to the fairway traps on the right-hand side, has not fared well. Green is not too bad and has about 60% colour.

Eighteenth hole - Tee is fine, fairway is drying out and cutting will begin when the weather permits. Green is in good condition.

Nineteenth hole - fairway is a concern regarding the silt; will need to hose the fairway when we can get water tanks close enough. Green has good colour coming through.

Twentieth hole - two fuel tanks from the Machinery Shed have come to rest on the top of the hill, and have been checked by the Fire Brigade for safety. A request has been lodged with Brisbane City Council and the Fire Brigade for assistance removing the tanks from the site, and a large military-style helicopter may be needed. The rest of the hole went under water and needs to dry out for further inspection. 20th green is good.

Twenty-first hole - tee is covered in mud, and the green is of similar concern to 17.

In both 1974 and 2011, initial estimates of months of course closure were given. However, that was certainly not taking into account the answer to the call to arms by the members. In 1974 Captain Geoff Brown and a band of helpers assisted the course staff in cleaning the worst of the mud from the greens before a big clean-up was set for the weekend of February 8 and 9. Members and Associates responded magnificently to the call for volunteers to rid the course of the rubbish left by the flood and many tons were carted away. Doctor members - Roly Ash, Brian O’Sullivan, Jim Dixon and David Forest - were out in force administering tetanus shots and rendering assistance to any injured volunteers.

In 2011 an urgent call for assistance was sent out and many members, staff and even members of other clubs who were otherwise not occupied with their own problems or those of friends and family, answered the call. Their efforts incredibly saw the golf course open for nine slippery holes on January 26, leading to 18 holes for Opening Day on February 5.

As in 1974, some volunteers suffered sickness and injury - Jenny Johnson spent several days in hospital and members such as former Captain Peter

Working on the 4th green, 2011

White suffered cuts and bruises which fortunately did not worsen. Member Dr Garth Crichton was on hand to administer the tetanus shots as a precautionary measure while another medical member, Dr Simon Locke, expertly administered first aid.

All volunteers gave their time freely and unselfishly amid hot, dangerous and humid conditions to restore our facility solely for the benefit of members, staff and guests.

For the 2011 clean-up, volunteers rallied on January 14 to start clearing the greens of debris. The majority of volunteers were on hand from 5am that following weekend, were divided into teams and assigned a variety of tasks across the whole of the course.

Tasks encompassed shovelling, scraping, pushing, raking and hosing the mud/silt from the greens as quickly as possible (on average it took 30 people 1½ hours to clear a green). Gathering rubbish on the course - from lounge suites and beds to shoes and socks - into piles which had to be loaded into small tippers then unloaded into the car park (a thousand times) was another never-ending and treacherous ordeal. And probably the most unusual mission was to catch - by hand - mullet, catfish, carp, bream and eels from many of the bunkers.

Staff and members, together with their husbands, wives, partners, sons, daughters, parents and friends, turned up to labour away tirelessly. Volunteers who had no connections with the club but saw a need, also answered the call and many brought their own equipment, from ride-on mowers, push mowers, blowers, gloves, shovels and rakes to get the job done.

This volunteer work continued for weeks afterwards, with members walk-mowing the course because it was too wet for the heavier equipment. North Lakes, Royal Queensland, Royal Adelaide, Southport, Kooyonga and Windaroo Golf Clubs supplied equipment, staff and/or donations to assist. Corinda Mowers worked overtime to repair equipment and assistance was received from Hardie, Toro, Chesterfields and John Deere.

The Brisbane Golf Club is indebted to all these volunteers - the club’s very own Mud Army.

Losses to the club in the floods of 1974 and 2011 were significant for the times. In 1974 the estimate was \$14,000, and in 2011 in excess of \$2 million. The Committees of the day resorted initially to levies from the members for help and in both instances the members approved levies - \$30 per member

in 1974, raising \$14,000.00; and a \$600 levy in 2011, payable over three years, which raised \$900,000. In these times of adversity and cost to the club, members’ dedication and loyalty was displayed to the fullest.

The resilience and optimism of BGC members knows no bounds and perhaps is best described by this anecdote. In 2011 one member turned up in the car park on the Saturday following the flood replete in golf gear and took his clubs out of the boot looking for a game - optimism at its best.

- David Prince

Acknowledgment: *In compiling this article reference was made to various Club records and publications including, in particular, The Fairway is Mine by Bruce Richter.*



Volunteers, 2011



BGC has over 120 junior members in 2021 and is very proud of it's Junior Academy

THE BRISBANE GOLF CLUB PROFESSIONALS

Club Professionals have played a defining role in the development and culture of The Brisbane Golf Club since the first appointee, Willie Thompson, started his employment at Yeerongpilly in 1905.

A talented golfer who competed in a number of Australian Open and PGA events, Willie was indentured on a retainer of 20 shillings per week and gave lessons to members for three shillings an hour. In addition to teaching, his duties included making and repairing clubs for members, returning lost golf balls to their owners and supervision of the golf links. Only 14 Head Professionals have been employed at BCG in the club's 125-year history and, as would be expected, many have been highly skilled.

Perhaps the most famous was Joe Kirkwood, who held the post briefly in 1916, but is widely acknowledged as Australia's first international golfing star. He won both the Australian Open and New Zealand Open in 1920 before playing in England and Europe, defeating golfing greats like Harry Vardon. Joe went on to the US where he became the first Australian to win on the US PGA tour. He won 13 PGA events in the US and then travelled around the globe with the great Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen, playing golfing exhibitions. Credited with 29 holes-in-one during his career, the trophy for the Australian PGA Championships bears his name.

The club's longest-serving Club Professional was Michael (Mick) Stafford, who started in 1921, after returning from service at Gallipoli and Europe in

World War One. Originally contracted for a term of 12 months, Mick held the role for a remarkable 49 years and three months before retiring in 1970 due to ill health.

A talented golfer, he was reported to have hit a golf ball 325 yards with a hickory shafted club and current members recall him with fondness and respect. Greg Adams, a BCG member since 1958, remembers taking lessons from Mick. "Everyone worshipped him as an instructor. He had quite a name," said Greg. "He was very easy to get on with, but he had very firm views on how to tackle the golf swing."

Julie Cockburn, a member since 1956, described Stafford as 'everybody's friend and an excellent coach.' Reputedly, one of his students was legendary Australian cricketer, Don Bradman, who was a keen golfer.

Life Member Helen Hudson, a BGC member since 1952, described Mick as a 'dapper, kind and wonderful man'. "When I joined in 1952, the course was like a cow paddock and I loved that because I was a country girl. Mick gave me 12 lessons before I was allowed on the golf course and I can still recall his mantra: 'Tum in, bum out chum. Swing like a pendulum'," she said.

His status and contribution were formally recognised by the club in 1954 when he was made an Honorary Life Member, and since 1962 his name has been immortalised on the honour board event – the MT Stafford Trophy.

The role and status of the Club Professional has changed significantly over the decades. Initially, the class distinction between the club members and the Professional was deeply entrenched, with the Professional's role regarded strictly as one of servitude. The Professional was not permitted to set foot inside the Clubhouse and, when Mick Stafford started, there was some dismay when it was discovered that he was a Roman Catholic. The faux pas was apparently overlooked due to his charm and because he was a decorated veteran of both world wars.

Thankfully, social mores have evolved and the role of the Club Professional today is highly respected and acknowledged as integral to the success of any golf club. Whereas in the early 1900s the Professional operated essentially as a one-man band, working

from under the clubhouse or in a shed near the stables, the Director of Golf today has a vastly expanded role and responsibilities, managing 12 staff plus casuals in a Pro Shop business with annual retail sales of approximately \$700,000.

The BGC Professional in 2021, Joe Janison, is another accomplished golfer who started in 2008 as the first Director of Golf. Joe had previously been Assistant Professional from 2005. His role as Director of Golf differs from that of his predecessors. Previously operation of the Pro Shop had been sub-contracted to the Professional, but from 2008 the club resumed ownership of the retail business. This decision was made following the rapid growth in golf shop revenues experienced during boom eras of Greg Norman and Tiger Woods.

The role of Director of Golf includes teaching, managing the Pro Shop, managing the club's fleet of carts, assisting members with equipment, mentoring trainee professionals, course setup, managing member tours and co-ordinating corporate days and golfing events such as the Queensland Open, which has been held at the club numerous times over the years.

In many ways the Club Professional today is the face of the club for most members, providing the most frequent point of interaction between members and the club administration. "The role today, in every way, is trying to give members a great experience at the club," Joe explained. "That experience can be either in lessons, merely interacting with the Pro Shop, providing advice on suitable equipment or simply in their golfing experience more generally."

As far as managing the Pro Shop is concerned, the goal is to provide an appropriate financial return to the club, while also providing value to the member customers through competitive pricing and quality merchandise.

Under the directorship of Joe, BGC has taken an active role in advancing the participation of women in golf, employing women trainees where possible and undertaking very successful golf lesson programs for women. The club also has very successfully developed and implemented The Brisbane Golf Club Junior Academy, which has resulted in a 70% increase in the junior membership since 2018. The Academy now has 60 junior members attending weekly training sessions, and an important new relationship has

been developed with Ambrose Treacy College at Indooroopilly to introduce the College students to the game on a weekly basis.

Junior membership has grown exponentially as a direct result of these initiatives, which augurs well for the future of the Club. “The demand has been huge,” said Joe. “And we have deliberately designed the program to deliver very personalised coaching to small groups.”

BGC hosted the Brisbane Junior Golf Championships in 2021, reflecting the leadership role the club is playing in growing the game at the grass roots level in Queensland.

“The Brisbane Golf Club has now become one of the pre-eminent clubs for juniors in Brisbane as a direct result of these initiatives, and it is a pleasing outcome for us”.

“We are now working to accommodate this growth into the future, which is a great problem to have,” he said.

One of the biggest challenges for the club today is sustaining the remarkable growth the game has enjoyed during 2020 and 2021, fuelled largely by the COVID-19 pandemic. Annual number of rounds at BGC have increased by 40% in 2021, compared with 2020.

“New memberships have also increased and we need to work hard to service, manage and retain those new relationships,” Joe explained. “The club has changed and adapted with the game over the years. Dress standards have evolved. The game has become more athletic and equipment has changed, but this course and club remains one of the best and most challenging in Brisbane. And, I’m proud to say, we have consistently risen to the challenge”.

Joe says the most enjoyable part of his role at BGC is the interaction with members.

“It’s all about seeing people enjoy their golf and become better players. And it is the members who make this place special,” he said.

- Joe Dowling

Following is a list of the Head Club Professionals at BGC from 1904:

- 1904 - James Hutchinson
- 1905 - Willie Thompson
- 1908 - Bert Anderson
- 1911 - Charles Campbell
- 1912 - John Irving
- 1916 - Joe Kirkwood
- 1917 - John Irving
- 1919 - John (Jock) Young
- 1921 - Michael (Mick) Stafford
- 1970 - Errol Hartvigsen
- 1987 - Hugh Dolan
- 1999 - Greg Coulter
- 2003 - Murray Lott
- 2008 - Joe Janison

***NOTE:** Bert Anderson (1908) was employed for 28 months. He was dismissed for buying members lost golf balls from caddies and reselling them back to the members. Back then golf balls carried distinguishing marks and remained the property of the owner forever.*



Top Left to Right: Golf Shop, 1965 / Golf Shop, 2021 / Inside the Golf Shop, 2021.

Bottom Left to Right: Joe Kirkwood was the Club's professional in 1916. The trophy for the Australian PGA today bears his name. / Mick Stafford, centre with his assistants in 1929.

Far Right: The Club's current Head Professional is Joe Janison. The title for this role is now Director of Golf.



AUSTRALIA'S ONLY CHAMPION GREENS COURSE

In a period of just over three-and-a-half years from 2012 to 2015, The Brisbane Golf Club course was drastically transformed, proudly revealing 21 new greens grassed with a revolutionary strain of Ultradwarf Bermudagrass called Champion, which was unique to Australia.

The Greens Replacement Program (GRP) was undertaken utilising planning advice at each stage from course architect, Ross Watson, who prepared the current BGC Course Master Plan.

Each green was restored to its original size and approximately the same dimensions, and where possible the original green contours were maintained. However, several greens, which were considered too steep and unfair with the faster green speeds expected on the Champion surfaces, were flattened slightly to make holding the green a fairer proposition. This was also designed to allow more pin positions near the front of the greens and improved hole playability. Subtle slope variations were introduced by adding a spine or two into some greens, making them more challenging and adding interest.

Most greens were prepared using the 'strip and replace' method. This meant effective removal of the existing decomposed organic matter in the green surface and replacing it with fresh USGA-specification rootzone mix, a special blend of sand designed to encourage better and even grass growth. Sprigs of rootstock - or stolens - from the Champion nurseries, were then planted on each green.

On certain greens a multitude of issues became apparent during the preparation and an extensive renovation of those greens was required.

That the BGC course staff managed to complete the Greens Replacement Program in such a short period, with little outside assistance, is recognised as quite an outstanding achievement.

This was accomplished initially under Course Superintendent Brett Morris and, to a much larger extent, under the supervision of Mitch Hayes, the current Course Superintendent.

And many BGC committee members were also critically responsible for these important initiatives, in particular Terry Campbell who, as Course Chair from 2010 to 2016, was the driving force behind the Greens Replacement Program and the conversion of all greens to Champion Grass.

The 'Champion Story' at BGC starts with Brett Morris, who was Course Superintendent from 2001 to 2004.

Brett was very interested in improving the quality of greens at BGC - which at that time were Bermuda 328 - and began looking at finer-leafed Bermudagrass hybrid varieties which he considered were suitable for south-east Queensland's warm weather conditions and would potentially provide a smoother putting surface. In this period Brett conducted experiments with five different cultivars of Bermudagrass.

After the departure of Brett to study for a PhD in Turf Science at the University of Sydney, further experiments were conducted with four of the ultra-dwarf cultivars. By and large, these tests were highly successful and indicated that the new Bermudagrass varieties were appropriate for the BGC course.

However, there was no interest in proceeding with green replacement at that time, so these experiments were not acted upon.

Fast forward to August 2011, when Dr Brett Morris was appointed Course Superintendent, and it was not long before he was again involved in selecting an appropriate new cultivar for the greens. After the earlier tests, Brett was still interested in the Champion hybrid and located a small quantity at the Department of Primary

Industries’ Redland Research Station, the only material in Australia. Champion grass was no longer of any interest to DPI and was no longer protected by United States Plant Patent.

Brett carefully managed to acquire from DPI about six square metres of the grass which was carefully replanted and nurtured on the 21st green at BGC. With the resultant high-shoot density and canopy - one of the characteristics of Champion grass which made it so appealing – in late 2011 the critical decision was made by the BGC committee to move forward with Champion Ultradwarf Bermudagrass and potentially to replace the existing greens.

The BGC committee agreed that Champion grass would first be laid on green 21 on a trial basis and potentially for wider implementation if the trial was successful. Dr Morris prepared the green in the way he had previously ascertained from his studies was best and, in February 2012, stolens were planted on the entire surface of green 21.

The growing results were extremely satisfying and six months later, in August 2012, hole 21 was ready, and opened for play. The newly-planted green held up well during the 2012 winter period prompting a move to the next trial stage of the GRP.

In late September 2012, a Champion nursery was established on the practice fairway, and as belief steadily grew within the BGC committee, a second large nursery was started in early November on the right-hand side of the eighth fairway to provide adequate material for further green replacements.

In October 2012, the next trial stage of the GRP began on hole 13, followed by hole six and hole 11. BGC course designer, Ross Watson, gave guidance on the final plans for work on all three holes.

As with hole 21, the existing green surface for each hole was removed, green drainage checked and replaced if required, and Champion grass planted using stolons harvested from green 21 and the new nurseries. Green 13 was planted with stolons in November, followed three weeks later by green six and then a further three weeks by green 11, in mid-December.

For the first time, each green was provided with a protective strip around the perimeter to prevent encroachment of fairway grasses into the green surface. The grass strain chosen for this ‘collar’ was a warm-season grass variety with the botanical name Zoysia Matrella.

In January 2013, green 21 - having been heavily scarified twice during the past two months to provide root stock for greens 13 and six - was still in

excellent condition and rolling beautifully. Course Superintendent Morris then decided to take one final ‘light collection’ of stolons from green 21 to further develop the new Champion nursery adjacent to the eighth hole.

At that time, the BGC committee acknowledged that the green on hole 21 would go down in history as the ‘mother of our new greens’.

In November 2012, it was announced that depending on the result of the GRP trial stage on holes six, 11 and 13, the club intended to replace all green surfaces on the course. The next greens replacement program was planned for the following summer period in 2013/2014 and temporary greens were to be prepared for use during the off season.

Clearly, the committee was so pleased with the progress of greens six, 11 and 13 during the previous summer that, as soon as these greens were back in play, the GRP was brought forward and replacement of greens four, 19 and 20 started in April of 2013. And this was the first attempt to stolonise greens with Champion in late autumn for growth in winter.

Following the departure of Brett Morris in July 2013, Mitch Hayes assumed full responsibility for the Greens Replacement Program, initially as Acting Course Superintendent, and then as Course Superintendent a few months later.

During winter of 2013, Mitch and his team added a layer of black-dyed sand to the green surfaces and covered them with black netting to assist the greens in absorbing more radiant heat, thus raising the surface temperature and encouraging growth rates. This proved an excellent initiative and in just under six months these greens were back in play.

The next stage of the GRP was to replace greens five, 10 and 15, in the summer of 2013/2014, and this was accomplished with outstanding results between November and February, bringing to 10 the number of new greens then available for play.

In a huge effort during 2014, nine greens were replaced in a nine-month period. Greens one, seven, 14 and 18 were taken out of play in mid-February and, following preparation using the ‘strip and replace’ method, all four holes were back in play by late June.

After a short winter pause, holes three, nine, 12, 16, and 17 were taken out of play in early August. New green surfaces were prepared on holes three, 12, 16 and 17, again using the strip and replace method.

A major renovation was required on the ninth green, where the surface layer was completely removed and replaced with fresh USGA specification rootzone mix.

In another big effort by Mitch and his dedicated team, greens three, nine, 12, 16, and 17 were replanted with Champion in the first week of October 2014. Stolons for these holes were taken from very clean nurseries resulting in very little foreign grass in the new surface and much less patching than had been the case on previous new greens.

Luckily, weather conditions were perfect, the stolons struck extremely well and the greens were top dressed for the first time on October 31.

Interestingly, much wider Zoysia collars of 1.2 metres were laid around these five greens on a trial basis, to ascertain whether this would better prevent green couch encroachment. Hence, over the course of time in the GRP, the Zoysia protection perimeter increased from one turf row wide (400mm) to two rows wide (800mm) and then to three rows wide (1.2m), which is the current standard.

All holes were back in play in early January of 2015, just over 13 weeks after the greens were planted - an amazing achievement by Mitch and his team. By this time, 19 BGC greens had been converted to Champion grass, with only holes two and eight remaining. And, after some re-routing of holes, BGC was back to a regular golf course.

In December of 2014, after a considerable planning period and advice from course architect, Ross Watson, the BGC general committee approved works on holes two and eight. Major construction and engineering work was required on these fairways, both of which had problems with low-lying areas, and significant work was also required on the bunkers and greens. This was the reason for work on these holes being scheduled to follow the completion of work on all other holes.

Finally, in August of 2015, members were advised that the GRP was complete, although holes two and eight were not yet available for play. Then, in October, the re-opening of The Yeerongpilly Course was celebrated with special events organised to coincide with this special week in the history of The Brisbane Golf Club.

More than 700 courses in the US have now been converted to Champion Greens, including Atlanta Athletic Club, which was the venue for the 2011 USPGA championship; Pinehurst No. 2, venue for the 2014 US Open and now the first US Open Anchor Site and host for the US Open again in 2024;



Terry Campbell, left, in his role as Course Chair from 2010 - 2016, was the driving force behind the Club's move to Champion grass.

Quail Hollow Country Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, venue for the 2021 Wells Fargo Championship and the 2022 Presidents Cup; TPC Southwind in Memphis, Tennessee, venue for the 2021 WGC Invitational; and Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina, venue for the 2021 Wyndham Championship.



The 17th green was converted to Champion grass in 2014



The 21st green was the trial green over a 9 month period but the first green replaced with Champion greens was the 13th

Why has this occurred? It is partly because no other grass has a growth pattern quite like Champion and no other Bermuda grass hybrid is able to produce the exceptional and true putting surface of a Champion Ultradwarf green.

As shown by stimpmeter tests, a well-maintained Champion green can produce smoother, faster and more consistent ball roll than other Ultradwarf varieties. Champion greens also have an attractive, dark green colour and much reduced grain.

There are many other significant benefits to Champion greens and Ultradwarf varieties in general. The density and long growing season of the Ultradwarf greens means overseeding is not required for winter green management, reducing the buildup of organic matter in the rootzone. This in turn leads to easier maintenance of the greens, less sand application required in the upper rootzone, saving time and money for the club.

Fittingly, Course Superintendent Mitch Hayes says the best barometer for the success of the Greens Replacement Program was the positive reaction of BGC members.

~ Alastair Haydock

Go to www.brisbanegolfclub.com.au to read the full history of Champion Greens.

THE LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

“The course should have beautiful surroundings and all the artificial features should have so natural an appearance that a stranger is unable to distinguish them from nature itself”.

Words of wisdom from world-renowned golf course architect Alistair Mackenzie which aptly sum up the continuing vision for the landscape at The Brisbane Golf Club.

Is it possible that a golf course property can not only have a high-quality course, but can be a total environment that becomes an exemplar model and showpiece? Is it also possible that the successful implementation of a Landscape Master Plan (LMP) can not only deliver multiple benefits and cost savings to a club, but also provide tremendous enhancement to the experience and enjoyment of its members as they regularly play? Yes. These are the goals being pursued with the Landscape Master Plan at BGC. This is a fruitful story to tell and is something of which all club members can be truly proud.

Why the Landscape Master Plan?

In conjunction with a range of course-improvement planning initiatives that were ongoing in the few years leading up to 2012, and through discussions with Course Superintendent Brett Morris, a real need to consider the quality and management of the entire club property was evident.

By taking a holistic view to the thinking behind the course-planning strategies and the LMP, it was clear that through an integrated and parallel approach to both course and landscape together, there was a tremendous opportunity to achieve broader, meaningful environmental enhancements, and significant cost efficiencies.

In creating a vision for LMP it was envisaged that not only could we substantially improve a wide range of the landscape presentation and amenity aspects for our course and the health of its total surrounds, but we could also achieve substantial maintenance-

cost savings and efficiencies - a ‘multi-benefit’ outcome.

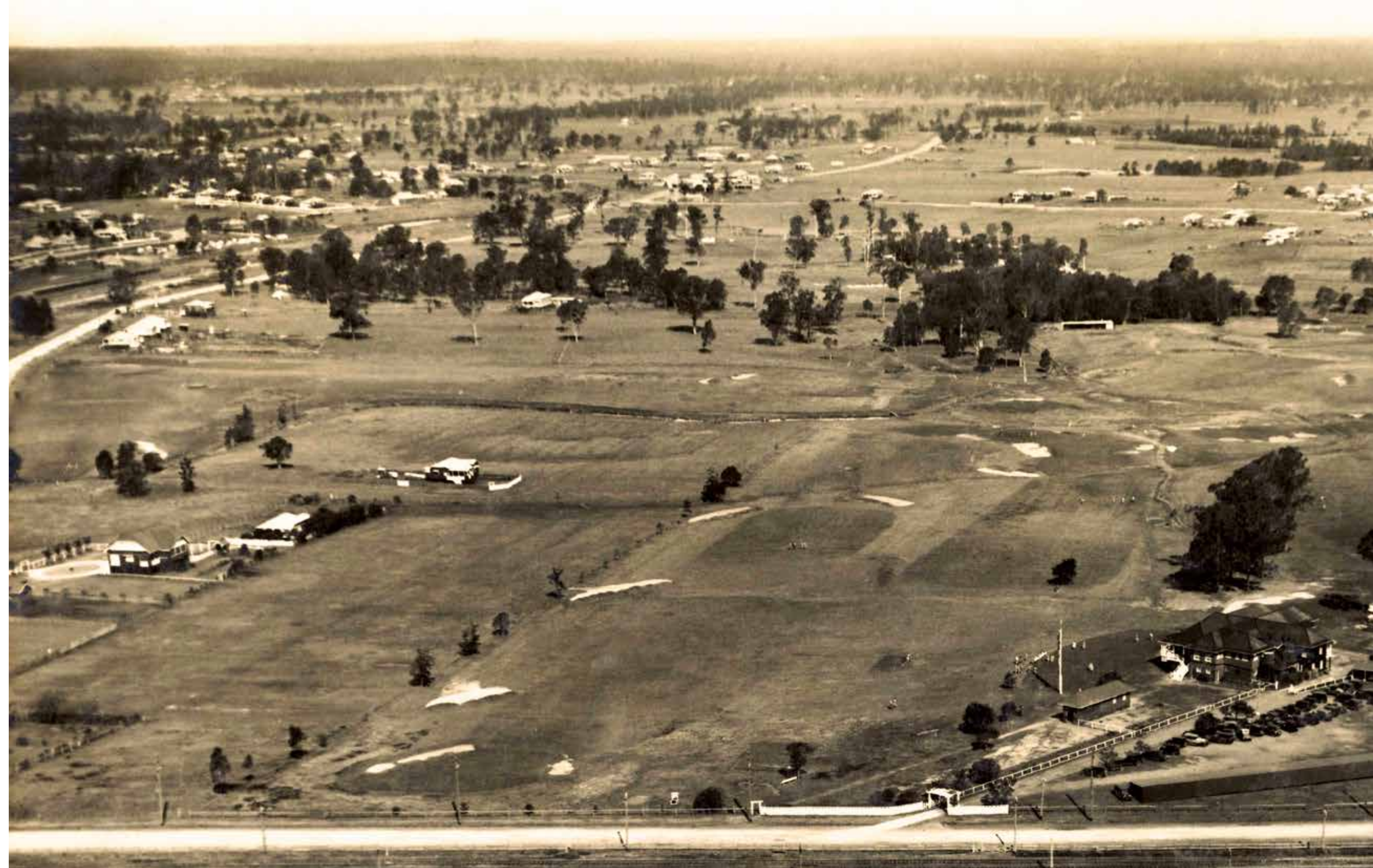
As a fundamental principle of the plan, we saw a great need and opportunity to return vast out-of-play rough mown grass areas to a more natural and sustainable vegetated landscape condition.

The key objectives and goals of the LMP vision are to:

- Reduce the mown and irrigated areas, thereby reducing water use, fertiliser, chemicals, pesticides, labour and machinery, and hence reduce all capital maintenance costs.
- Have planting strategies that draw upon local context and use of predominantly local native species to achieve a natural look and appearance – a landscape that is responsive and appropriate to the site.
- Improve presentation, quality of experience and amenity of the entrance and Clubhouse and Pro-Shop precinct, functions spaces, carpark and practice facility surrounds.
- Utilise plantings in ways that enhances the strategy of Ulay, improves presentation, accentuates natural assets and highlights points of interest, provides privacy by screening boundaries and separation of holes, frames desirable longer views and defines lines of play.
- Manage the reduction of weed and pest species.
- Create locally appropriate vegetation communities and habitats that increase biodiversity and promote maximised habitat connectivity and ecological linkages for local fauna. This all translates to a healthier environment.
- Protect and enhance waterways as a natural asset and feature of the Course.
- Provide an appropriately designed quality and cohesive suite of hard landscape elements that suits the Course; the suite of tee markers and signage, stone walling and steps, stone and timber furnishings; seats and bins, and the range of directional and wayfinding signage.

All these LMP elements combined ensure an enhanced condition and experience of our club.

This photograph taken in 1929 shows the limited landscaping on the course at the time





What was here before?

However, to master plan a landscape strategy forwards, we first need to look back historically. When the founders of the club arrived to inspect the Yeerongpilly land as the prospective site for the relocated course, they saw undulating land that was primarily cleared open grassland for grazing and agriculture. Only sparse scattered stands of mature trees and wooded areas stood, most of this lining the creeks, watercourses and pools.

Further to this though, and in order to establish the basis for preparing a Landscape Master Plan that is truly site appropriate and will have values of integrity sustaining into the future, we needed to look even further back, to examine what was originally on the site.

Within this context and to achieve the vision, the LMP must be very strongly guided by the underlying geology, soils, and the local endemic native flora and fauna that naturally existed.

The BGC land is fortunate to consist of a range of varied landscape character types and zones, and these must dictate our master planning to ensure a sound and site-appropriate design approach. The northern area of the course includes the elevated areas of drier acid clay soils that are moderately well drained. These areas contained vegetation communities - an open forest of mainly Ironbarks, Brush Box and Queensland Blue Gum.

Throughout the core central and southern parts of the course are the lower lying areas with their heavier, generally poorer-drained acid clay soils throughout the creek flat floodplain areas. In these areas, the predominant vegetation communities are open forest and woodlands consisting mainly of Broadleaf Paperbark, Swamp Box, Queensland Blue Gum and She Oaks.

By widening our focus and looking at our land in its context of occupying a large holding on the confluence of two creeks - both with substantial size catchments - it is clear the club has the opportunity to play an important role and function in the broader local ecological network.

As these creeks have open space corridors, reaching eastward to Toohey Forest Park and west to Oxley Creek and the Brisbane River, benefits can be gained by increasing the natural landscape and habitat areas of the golf course.

If we widen our focus to the regional, national and even worldwide context, there is an ever-growing concern and expectation that golf courses are leaders in environmental management and exhibit best practice. The golf industry

has a responsibility to embrace sustainability, to maximise positive benefits and minimise impacts and effects on both society and the environment.

The 2012 LMP

During the process of the 2012 Landscape Master Plan development, initial drafts prepared by Richard Garnham were co-ordinated closely with Golf Course Architect, Ross Watson, to ensure that the landscape initiatives would achieve a seamless and fully integrated outcome throughout the entire course.

It was deemed important to not unfairly impact play on the course, but more importantly that the proposed vegetation and other hardscape elements in the Landscape Master Plan would provide considerable enhancements to the strategy and character of each hole, the quality of visual presentation, and the golfer enjoyment and experience of play throughout the course.

Draft versions of the LMP were presented to the committee as part of the collaborative process, and as native revegetation is such a key part of the plan, touring other local large-scale planting project sites to view and assess their performance was valuable. This provided assurance that the strategy being formulated for BGC is both achievable and agreed as sound and appropriate.

The original 2012 Landscape Master Plan was always intended to be an enduring document. It must be a consistent guide for future club committees in the management of the Course and stand the test of time for many decades to come.

It is a sound strategy for the Club to have to have the masterplan as a tool to ensure 'a do it right the first time' mechanism. As a golf course is a living, evolving organism, it was envisaged and is acknowledged that there was always going to be the need for adaptability and flexibility.

However, future development and works continually delivered through a master-planned process is the best methodology for improvement.

Original thinking was focussed on what priorities could be achieved in the initial 10 years of a dedicated ongoing LMP program, but it was fully acknowledged that implementation of the total plan would be an ongoing commitment for a much longer time.



The old 10th tee adjacent to the current 18th green. Does anyone recognise the Blue Gum that is still standing?



By the 1960 more trees had been planted, but the course was still 'very open'

What has been achieved?

As soon as the LMP was completed, and under guidance of Course Superintendent Brett Morris, the first priority areas in the program for revegetation were immediately implemented.

Embraced and driven by the tenacity of Course Chairman Terry Campbell, with the strong support of CEO Geoff Kuehner and with the ongoing energy and commitment of Course Superintendent Mitch Hayes, a gathering pace and increased momentum in the ongoing roll-out of the LMP program came in the following years.

Substantial progress has been made with the conversion of out-of-play rough grass into natural landscape revegetated areas, and the fabrication of hardscape furnishings have been largely installed throughout the course. The club is also blessed to have such a large and generous band of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who readily donate their time and skills, and it is largely due to their continued hard work that such a huge amount of the LMP revegetation works and course care initiative are completed.

Since the 2013 commencement through to early 2021, a total of 4.85ha of previously out-of-play rough grass area has been converted to the more natural condition of mulched revegetation and signature planted area.

Combined with the considerable number of trees that have been planted in groupings throughout 0.5ha of rough-grass areas between fairways, effectively 5.4ha of tree canopy cover has been established.

Throughout all areas of the golf course, just over 19,000 plants have been installed and, pleasingly, this enhanced provision of habitat has resulted in an increase in birdlife at BGC. Through the most recent birdlife survey observations by a local environmental group, the number and type of birds recorded as living in and using the course throughout the different seasons has risen when compared to a mid-2000 BGC bird survey. This is a strong indicator of the health of the course environment.

Identified as a key objective and priority of the LMP, the focus on establishing dense trees and shrubs to the perimeter boundaries where visual screening of adjoining roads and commercial uses

was needed, is already completed. This screen planting will continue as part of the staged approach.

The commitment to the weed tree removal program has continued under the control of Course Superintendent Mitch Hayes, and is ongoing, with substantial progress made. A carefully-staged and selective approach to larger weed tree removal has also been taken, which ensures minimal visual impact. The succession plan is for new local native tree species to be established in the gaps, before the next weed trees are removed.

The new stone and timber suite of course furnishings have been largely completed, and over the next few years the remainder of these planned seats and bins will be installed. Stone-lining to protect the edges of creeks and lakes from wave action and erosion has been progressing to high-profile and problem in-play areas, and this work will also be continuing to a staged and prioritised program.

In the past five years BGC has been elevated in the Australian Golf Course top 100 rankings, and the LMP program has played a part role in addressing the criteria assessed in achieving this status. It is hoped that continued commitment to the LMP implementation will assist with the shared desire to continue elevating this ranking.

The 2018 LMP Update

In 2017 BGC was in the process of having Course Architect Ross Watson prepare an updated version of the Course Master Plan (CMP).

It was therefore timely in 2018 to not only align the LMP with the updated CMP, but also take stock of what had been achieved in the first five years. This allowed the examination of the performance of the initiatives and program to this point, and enabled the adjustments and improvement made - and the lessons learned along the way - to be incorporated and refined into the latest strategy in the updated LMP.

The 2018 updated version of the Landscape Master Plan, which captured all of this, was prepared and presented to the club by Richard Garnham, and with the Club Committees' support the program of planned staged roll out of landscape areas and elements continues.

The efforts, commitment and achievements to date have been highlighted in recent discussions with a number of authorities, and it is pleasing to see the club receive some recognition. BGC has recently been accepted into Brisbane

City Councils' Land for Wildlife Program, and the club has also been invited to participate in a pilot sustainability program with the international body; Golf Environment Organisation (GEO).

What does the future hold?

The 2018 LMP update has a proposed combined revegetated and treed area of about 16ha, which represents close to 25% of the total 64ha BGC site area. Having already completed 5.4ha since 2012, this means about one-third of the total proposed revegetation and natural area creation proposed in the LMP has been achieved.

While continuing to build on all the good work and achievements, ongoing commitment towards completing the remaining 9.6ha area to be naturalised is progressively achieving the multi-benefit and more cost-efficient vision of the LMP.

- Richard Garnham



The Jacarandas on Hole 8 are simply stunning



Volunteers have planted thousands of trees over the years as part of our landscaping master plan



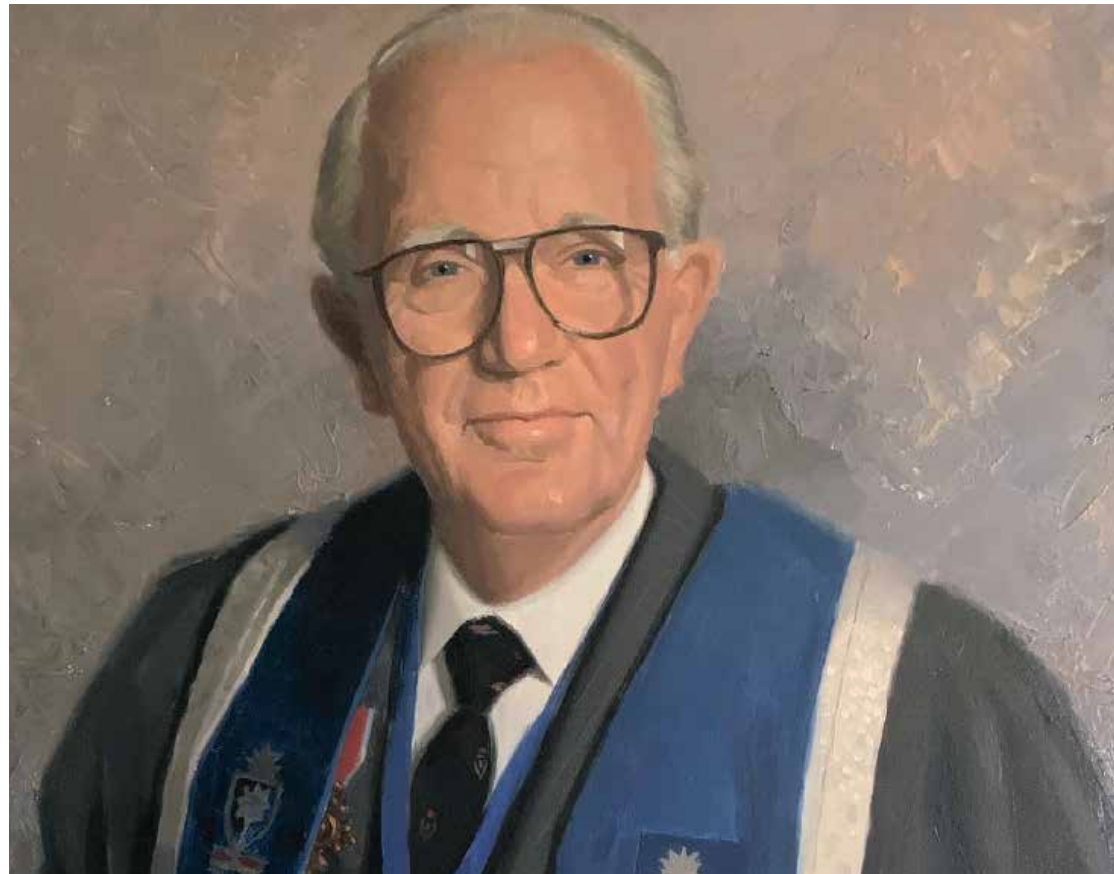
The finishing hole at BGC has a number of Blue Gums which define the hole



66 Helen Hudson, Honorary Life Member joined BGC in 1952



Jill Hughes, front right, was made an Honorary Life Member in 2016



The Brisbane Shield was the brainchild of Honorary Life Member, Keith Cockburn and has been running since 1962

HONOURARY LIFE MEMBERS

Forget about Club Championships, Pennant wins, holes-in-one and any other triumph on the golf course – The Brisbane Golf Club recognises Honorary Life Membership as the most prestigious award available to its members.

Honorary Life Membership is bestowed upon individual members who have provided exceptional, loyal and outstanding service and contribution to the club over an extended period of time. And that honour has been conferred on just 44 members since the first ‘Life Membership’ was extended to architect Robin Dods back in 1897.

However, history notes that much debate was held during the club’s infancy on the subject of awarding Life Membership, and its variations and limitations. And while Robin Dods was the first to be granted actual Life Membership - which has since been recognised as Honorary Life Membership - Marion Gilchrist became the first ‘official’ Honorary Life Member of The Brisbane Golf Club when the title was conferred on her in 1925, 28 years later.

It seems the original club rules adopted on November 18, 1896, did not provide for any form of Life Membership. However, two years later and a year after Robin Dods was recognised, Life Membership was also bestowed on the founding secretary, solicitor John Gair, when he announced his impending departure to establish a practice in Charters Towers in partnership with fellow BGC member, Henry Schacht.

Another three years on, and Life Membership by subscription was introduced, purely as a means of raising funds to enable the club to become better placed financially. The subscription was set at 10 guineas, with a limit of 25 subscribers. But in 1903 the subscription amount was amended to 20 guineas, with the number of subscribers limited to 10.

That decision, however, was rescinded the following year and although five Life Members were now on the books, no provision was made for them in the rules. Another vote in 1907 to reintroduce

Life Membership was taken, and was 15-10 in favour, but again was lost as the motion failed to gain the required two-thirds majority.

Twelve months later the motion was resubmitted, and this time the rules were amended to provide again for Life Membership but also for the granting of Honorary Life Membership to any member. And, at the same time, His Excellency Lord Lamington, J.R. Gair, S.R. Innes-Noad, R.S. Dods and E.H Macartney were reindorsed as Life Members.

Onto 1925, 17 years after the introduction of an Honorary Life Membership was ratified by the committee, and the first recipient was inducted. And it was bestowed upon a woman – Associate member Mrs Marion Gilchrist.

The next inductee – in 1928 - was not a Club member, nor even a golfer. The honour was conferred upon Bert Hinkler of Bundaberg, in recognition of him being the first person to fly solo from England to Australia in February of that year. The pioneer Australian aviator remains the only non-club member of the 44 Honorary Life Members to be accorded the distinction.

Mrs Gilchrist joined the committee of BGC in 1918 and almost immediately assumed the position of Secretary, a role she held until 1925 before becoming Foundation Secretary of the Queensland Golf Union. In 1931 she was elected President of the union, a position she retained for three years before retiring.

She then returned to BGC that year when a new Associates committee was elected and her presence is said to have helped ‘heal the wounds’ that had prompted the mass resignation of the former committee a year earlier. Mrs Gilchrist, whose husband also served on the committee from 1918 to 1922, eventually stood aside from all committee duties in 1931.

While all BGC Life Members obviously thoroughly earned their honour, one of the more befitting recipients was Thomas Brown (Tommy) Hunter, after whom the trophy for the Queensland Open Golf Championship, the T.B. Hunter Cup, is named.

Tommy joined the club in 1908 and his administrative talents were soon recognised when he was elected Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer in November 1910. He relinquished the role of Treasurer in 1912 but continued as Secretary until early 1939, firstly in an honorary capacity for 18 years until 1928, and then in a part-time salaried position.

Born of Scottish parents at Dalby on the Darling Downs, golf dominated his life. He was an initiating force in the formation of the Queensland Golf Association in May 1914 and became its first Honorary Secretary and Treasurer until retiring in 1940.

But T.B. Hunter was not just an administrator – he was also a golfer of great ability and his most notable successes included the Queensland Amateur Championship in 1913, the Foursomes Amateur Championship of Queensland in 1919 and the BGC Championships in 1919 and 1920.

The most recent recipients of the prestigious awards have been:

Terry Campbell: Joined BGC in 1988 and served on the committee from 2005 to 2008 and again from 2011 to 2017, and during this time filled the position of Treasurer, Captain and Vice-Captain. He was Course Chair for five years and his influence on the course is well known and respected by members. Terry drove the green replacement program (2013-2016), implemented the Landscape Master Plan and was involved with the changes and construction of holes two and eight, as well as the practice area adjacent to hole 10. He led the volunteer program on the course for a number of years and often would be seen working on the course during his own time.

Helen Hudson: Straight out of school, Helen found work in Brisbane as a secretary and her boss, Jack Laidlaw, was an avid golfer and member of The Brisbane Golf Club who encouraged Helen to take lessons with club Professional at the time, Mick Stafford. In 1952, and for almost the cost of a secretary's annual wage at the time, Helen joined BGC. Giving birth to four children in six years meant a brief hiatus from golf, but in 1959 she returned to the game, reducing her handicap to 16. In 1994 she joined the Associates' Committee, served for eight years as Secretary, Vice-President and then as Ladies ' President from 2000 to 2002.

Bruce Richter: Moving from Pacific Golf Club, Bruce joined GBC in 1972 and immediately became a regular twice-a-week player. His role as a club official started in 1978 when he was appointed Honorary Treasurer, a position he held for a record seven successive years. Following his term as Treasurer, Bruce was elected Vice-President of the Club in 1985 then, in 1987, he succeeded Lex Irving as President of BGC, a position he held for

three years. Following his retirement as a club official, Bruce adopted the role of Club Historian and took on the onerous task of writing the history of BGC which, after five years work, is now tabulated in a book known to members as ‘The Fairway is Mine’.

Jill Hughes: Jill joined The Brisbane Golf Club in 1973 at the age of 30, and went on to win five Club Championships - in 1981,1984,1985,1987 and 1988. She was first elected to the committee as Handicapper in 1978, in 1982 became Secretary and in 1989 was voted in as Vice-Captain, a post she held for eight years. Jill served four years on the Brisbane and District Ladies Golf Association, three of them as Treasurer. The lowest handicap she reached was seven, and she said her husband Ian had been her great support during her service to the club.

Keith Cockburn: Dr Keith Cockburn, one of Brisbane’s leading obstetricians, joined BGC in 1957 and served on the committee from 1964 to 1972. He was elected a Vice-President in 1970, but moved quickly to President in January the following year when the President was transferred south, and continued in that role until December 1972. The brainchild of Keith and his golfing wife Julie, the Brisbane Shield remains a hotly-contested mixed event which has been running since 1962. In 2020 the club installed a memorial to Keith on the 17th tee and overlooking the lake on the fifth hole – a lake that Keith recommended and he vigorously pushed for the project until its fruition. Keith’s remarkable and successful career was acknowledged in 1981 when he was awarded an OBE.

- Tony Durkin

The full list of The Brisbane Golf Club Honorary Life Members, and the year the honour was conferred, is:

1897, R.S. Dods	1960, C.B. Freeman
1898, J.R. Fair	1960, E.J.D. Stanley
1902, Lord Lamington	1960, Mrs W. Pitt
1903, Hon. S.R. Innes Noad	1969, A.H.Colledge
1903, E.H. Macartney	1971, Mrs N.G. Hatton
1914, T.B. Hunter	1972, G.H. Mocatta OBE
1925, Mrs E.F. Gilchrist	1972, K.A. Virtue MBE
1928, H.J.L. Hinkler	1975, Miss M.L. Just
1933, J.A. Alexander	1976, R. J. Nixon-Smith
1933, L. Francis	1978, S.W. Mills
1933, E.H. Waring	1978, I. Robinson
1941, W.D. Little	1981, Mrs R. J. Boyle
1941, A. Midson	1981, Mrs K. Kent
1942, R.Thompson	1982, K.S. Reid
1942, J.E. Trude	1988, G.B. Gargett
1946, D.A. Lupton	1990, E.T.A. Dixon
1946, Miss D. Hood	1993, M.R. Burrough
1948, Miss W. Brennan	1996, B.S. Richter
1951, Mrs L.M. Cannan	1998, Mrs I.J. Huges
1956, J.D. Land	2016, Mrs H. Hudson
1959, T.B.F. Gargett	2017, K. Cockburn OBE
1959, H.W. Herbert	2019, T.M. Campbell



Honorary Life Member Honour Board, 2021



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Bruce Richter – Bruce has been a Member of The Brisbane Golf Club since 1972 and is now an Honorary Life Member. He is the author of *The Fairway is Mine*, the book written to detail the first 100 years of The Brisbane Golf Club and was also President from 1987 to 1990.

Michael O’Shea – Michael is a retired general surgeon. He joined the club in 1968 and was an active member for 40 years when disability forced his early retirement from the game. He has since maintained a keen interest in the history of The Brisbane Golf Club.

Helen Placancia – Helen joined the Club in 2007 and served on the Ladies’ Committee for several years including as President from 2016 to 2018. During her time on the Committee she updated the Ladies’ By-Laws and assisted the Club Committee introduce gender neutral time sheets.

Debbie Kember – Debbie joined the Club in 1990 as an associate and became a full member in 2012. She is currently Vice President of the Club and plays in the women’s pennant team. Between golf games, she has enjoyed a long career in the education sector as a school and system leader, serving as President of three professional organisations.

Lloyd Cotterill – Lloyd was Captain of The Brisbane Golf Club from 2010 and 2013 and is also a former Course Chair. He still serves on the Course Standing Committee and co-ordinates the volunteer program. He has been a member for 33 years and has represented the Club at Pennants for more than 20 years.

Andrew Slack – Andrew is a former Queensland and Australian rugby union representative who captained the Wallabies in 19 Tests. He was a sports journalist and sports editor for Nine News Brisbane for 28 years and has been a member of BGC since 1985.

David Prince – David joined The Brisbane Golf Club in 1987 and was President from 2008 to 2011. He led the Club at the time of the Brisbane Floods in 2011. David is a commercial lawyer and the founding director of Woods Prince Lawyers.

Joe Dowling – Joe Dowling has been a keen BGC member since 2017. He was a journalist at the Australian Financial Review and News Ltd for 20 years before starting a career in corporate finance, focused on the mining sector. He now runs his own Investor Relations consultancy.

Alastair Haydock – Al is a retired petroleum geologist with over 40 years’ experience in the international petroleum industry including senior management positions in exploration and production and as a director of an ASX listed energy company. He has been a keen member of The Brisbane Golf Club since joining in 2004 and is an active participant in the club’s volunteer program.

Tony Durkin – Tony started his profession as a journalist in regional NSW before being appointed Editor of Rugby League Week magazine in Queensland in 1980. He has also worked in radio and television, mostly in rugby league, but also cricket and golf. Tony is a former Communications Manager for the Brisbane Broncos and has been semi-retired on the Sunshine Coast, contributing regularly to the BGC website.

Richard Garnham – Richard is a Registered Landscape Architect and Urban Designer with over 30 years’ experience in private consulting practice. Richard joined the Club in 2003 and has been heavily involved with and supported course planning initiatives, including the preparation of and ongoing delivery of the Landscape Master Plan.

Acknowledgements

The Brisbane Golf Club thanks those involved in the production of this historic publication. Firstly, each of our authors - Bruce Richter, Michael O'Shea, Helen Placanica, Debbie Kember, Lloyd Cotterill, Andrew Slack, David Prince, Joe Dowling, Alastair Haydock, Tony Durkin and Richard Garnham. To receive a very quick yes from each of you when I first reached out and asked for your contributions was wonderful. The photographs were initially collated by Helen Placancia for our 120-Year Anniversary Book, and having all images accessible on the one USB for this publication was a huge advantage. Thanks also to Debbie Kember for her assistance and support of the project along with Mark Deuble via the Member Services' Sub-Committee. Natalie Zapotezny designed and printed the book, and her patience and expertise is greatly appreciated. And, in editing the contributions, Tony Durkin was able to create a consistent style throughout the publication. We hope you enjoy the book and take the time to read each story as they reflect important phases of the Club's history. It certainly has been a pleasure working with everyone involved in the production.

~ Geoff Kuchner, CEO

Back Cover: Professionals playing the 3rd hole at BGC during the 2017 Queensland Open





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