

Within a Bull's Roar



PORTSEA GOLF CLUB

The first 75 years

55, QUEEN'S ROAD,
N.W.8.

PRIMROSE 2109.

20th Sept 1936.

My dear Barrett.

In reference to the golf Clubs, I think there is no doubt they must be nearly 100 years old. They were given to me more than forty years ago by an old Scot who was well over 90 years of age. He had not played golf for many years. Scots as a rule begin to play very young in Scotland so even supposing he commenced at 20 years old that makes them 90 years old. It gave me great pleasure to give them to you and to think they will be appreciated in Australia makes me happy. I shall miss you very much. I only wish I could accept your very kind invitation to visit Australia but I must deny the temptation with great reluctance.

I shall not forget you. I feel I have known you for years and to quote the Australian saying I feel I can call you 'Brother.'

With all good wishes for a safe voyage home

Yours sincerely yours.

Edgar J. Semple.

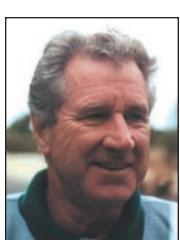
The old Scot was Mr Jarmison the originator of Jarmison's Whisky so Semple tells me. ADB

This letter, received in 1936 by A.O. Barrett, resulted in the club's eventual presentation to the Portsea Golf Club.

They are on display in the foyer of the Club House.

Profile of the Authors

This book is the result of a collaborative effort between Syd Thomson, Pauline Powell and Cheryl Crockett.



SYD THOMSON started researching the Portsea Golf Club's history in February 1997 and prepared the original draft, excluding the Ladies' section. Syd has had an enduring connection with the Club. He was first introduced to golf when caddying for his uncle at Portsea in the early 1950s and joined the Club in 1973. He represented the Club in pennant for twenty years and also played for the Peninsula District in Country Week. In 1977, Syd was elected to the Committee and is one of only two people to serve the Club as president, captain and secretary. He was elected president of the Peninsula District Golf Association in February 2000.

PAULINE POWELL also has a long association with Portsea Golf Club, having joined in 1962. Caring for three young children and working as a pharmacist with her husband in their Rye pharmacy prevented her from playing golf regularly until the 1970s. Pauline was the associates' vice-captain in 1980-81, captain in 1982-83-84 and a member of the last three successful division one pennant teams in 1986, 1988 and 1990. While president of the ladies' council in 1995-96, she began to record the history of the Portsea ladies by taking and collecting photographs and mounting them in albums. Because the ladies' records did not survive the move from the old Club House in 1993, Pauline has had to draw on her own memories and those of her peers. She has also spent many hours researching Portsea Golf notes from newspapers in the State Library of Victoria and the Rosebud Library.



Dr CHERYL CROCKETT has a PhD in Australian history and a Masters Degree in Public History. She has published several commissioned histories in Melbourne. She now lives locally in Blairgowrie with her husband and was commissioned in August 1999 to prepare the final draft of the book in collaboration with, and based on the research and writing of Syd and Pauline. Cheryl hopes to take up golf as soon as her busy life allows.

Within a Bull's Roar

*Celebrating the first 75 years
of the
Portsea Golf Club*



1926 - 2000

First published 2001 by Portsea Golf Club, Relph Avenue, Portsea, Victoria 3944

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Acknowledgments

Many people have contributed anecdotes, photographs and memorabilia to enhance this history of the Portsea Golf Club.

Acting as an editorial panel, Syd Thomson, Pauline Powell and Cheryl Crockett contacted numerous people and spent countless hours researching Club records and other archival material to ensure this publication is as comprehensive as possible. Ian Perkins assisted with editing and chairing the panel during his Club presidency.

As authors, we would like to record here our acknowledgment to the special contributions of the late Jack Howard, who spent many fascinating hours recalling his time at the Club. Colin Colston and Ralph Parry both played major roles at crucial times for the Club and Syd declares, with due modesty, put up with his amateurish interviewing. Bill Shaw, Colin Watson, Roy Holebrook, John Knight, Reg Weir, Tony Clarke, Alan Bullas and Mike Dore all had interesting tales to tell Syd. Pauline also called on the remarkable memories of Life Member Grace Phillingham and former members Edna White, Bessie Bardsley and the late Peg Fletcher. Their recollections provide colour and humour and add the finishing touches to the often too brief references in minutes and newspaper reports of momentous Club events.

Valuable information was also derived from numerous publications, notably 'The Peninsula Story, Sorrento and Portsea Yesterday'; 'Port Phillip Sketchbook'; 'Riversdale Golf Club, A History 1892-1977' and 'A History of Golf in Victoria'.

Audrey Relph (the wife of Jack Relph), provided the Club with all of Jack's documents relating to the establishment of the Club.

Faye Pattinson spent many hours encouraging Syd and assisting him with the initial editing of his early drafts.

Tony Clarke's contribution can only be described as invaluable. He has spent many hours preparing the diagrams of changes to the course over the years.

Photographic material has also been provided from a number of sources. We would like to acknowledge the contributions of June Opie, Hugh Bicker-staff, The Victorian Golf Association, The *Herald Sun* newspaper, Ken Jones and a host of past and present members for their valuable assistance.

A very special thanks should also be made to Robert Rice, who has coordinated the production of this book. We thank him for his unwavering patience and support and for the very professional production.

Syd, Pauline and Cheryl

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SECTION ONE

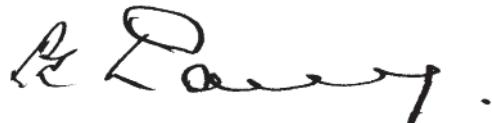
The Formation of the Portsea Golf Club

1926-1949

FOREWORD

Writing the history of a Club is a significant event. It is a gesture of confidence which marks the Club's coming of age. After 75 years Portsea Golf Club can take pride in its course which is rated among the best in the country, its annual Pro-Am event which is held in high regard and its fine Club House of architectural merit. It is a well run Club of which membership is keenly sought.

But it has not always been this way. Until just a few years ago we did not even own all the land on which the course stands. Progress has been a struggle. We have come a long way from a few holes hacked out of the ti-tree by a group of golfing friends whose vision and hard work this history honours. But that spirit of friendship and love of the game have been the sustaining strength of our club and the motivation for change and improvement. Portsea's story is a story worth telling. Now is the time to tell it and the authors have done a magnificent job bringing to life the characters and events which have made Portsea the proud Club we enjoy so much today.



RALPH PARRY

Life Member

CHAPTER ONE

The early Portsea years



The history and development of the Portsea Golf Club is linked inextricably with the natural and social history of the area. The Nepean Peninsula, on which it stands, was formed as a result of changes over millions of years to the levels of the sea. During ice ages, water was drawn from the oceans to expand the polar caps, considerably reducing sea levels. In warmer inter-glacial periods, the levels of the sea increased. When sea levels were high, a sand bar was formed across the mouth of the bay and only the rush of the tide kept the entrance open. When sea levels fell, the bar was exposed and wind-blown sand, as well as the skeletal remains of sea creatures, formed dunes along the narrow coastline. This unrelenting cycle over millions of years has created the barrier of consolidated dune limestone, in places more than sixty metres deep, which separates Port Phillip Bay from Bass Strait.

The area became home to the nomadic Burinyung-bulluk people of the Kulin nation, who fished its waters, collected its shellfish and sheltered in its caves as they travelled across the land. On January 21st, 1802, their seclusion was shattered when white men discovered and named Port Phillip Bay. Mr Bowen, the first mate of HMAS* *Lady Nelson*, marvelled at 'this great and noble sheet of water'. Bowen, who had sailed with a crew of five around Point Nepean from Western Port, returned to report the discovery to Lieutenant John Murray who cautiously negotiated the treacherous waters and spent twenty-five days in the unexplored bay. Murray named Point Nepean as well as a number of other landmarks and skirmished with the natives at Bowen Point, now known as the Western Sister. He hoisted the Union Jack at Point King on March 8th, 1802.

In October 1803, Lieutenant Colonel David Collins, with a human cargo of convicts (including the infamous escapee, William Buckley), as well as a detachment of royal marines and civil staff, arrived in Port Phillip Bay on HMS *Calcutta*, with orders to establish a permanent settlement. At Sullivan Bay near Sorrento, Collins met his companion ship, HMS *Ocean*, which carried free settlers and much needed stores for the venture. Despite its early promise, however, the settlement was abandoned in May 1804.

Lieutenant Tuckey of the 'Calcutta' described the area as 'beautifully picturesque, swelling into gentle elevations of the brightest verdure, and dotted with trees as if planted by the hand of taste, while the ground is covered with a profusion of flowers of every colour.' (During the 1990s, Portsea Golf Club carried out extensive planting of sheoaks, banksias and moonahs, to some extent recreating this landscape.)

For the next thirty-two years there are few records of white settlement around Port Phillip Bay. Sealers were known to have visited the area for wood and water and explorers trekked across the land. Squatters from Van Dieman's Land also made a number of forays across the waters of Bass Strait in their quest to find new runs for their herds. The relative solitude lingered until the settlement of Melbourne was finally established in 1835 after John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner (the son of a convict who had been part of the failed earlier settlement at Sullivan Bay) separately navigated the waters of Port Phillip Bay.

*HMAS – His Majesty's Armed Surveying Vessel

White settlement at the southern end of the Bay began slowly. In 1838, Edward Hobson was granted an annual grazing licence for a cattle run from Boneo to Point Nepean. James Sandle Ford arrived in 1842, taking out a licence and naming Portsea after a suburb of Portsmouth in England. Other settlers gradually followed. Some were attracted by the economic potential of the Nepean limestone, easily accessible in thick layers close to the surface. They built kilns, used local timbers for firing and produced high quality lime that was transported around the bay to be used in the development of Melbourne. Early records indicate that by 1845 there were seventeen limestone kilns in the area. Timber was also sent to Melbourne to meet the domestic and industrial demands of the inhabitants. The park-like landscape of the Peninsula was quickly altered as the cleared land became overgrown with ti-tree, the seeds carried by wind and migrating birds.

Golfers might notice a depression across the fairway when playing the 14th hole, just past the fairway bunkers on the right hand side. Controversy still exists regarding its origin – was it an old cattle track, or one of the tracks along which timber and lime were dragged to be loaded on to the boats?

After the discovery of gold in 1851, immigrants flooded into Melbourne and authorities set aside land near Portsea for a quarantine station, concerned about the potential spread of disease. Construction of the station began in 1854. Port Phillip heads was recognised also as being strategically important for the defence of Melbourne and, over the next fifty years, barracks and fortifications were added to the man-made landscape.

The industrious James Sandle Ford made a living as a limeburner, grew fresh vegetables and reared cattle and horses, which he sent to Melbourne. He also supplied fresh food to ships negotiating the waters into Port Phillip Bay. In 1853, Ford purchased 640 acres adjoining the quarantine land. He later built the Nepean Hotel, on the southern side of Point Nepean Road, opposite the present-day Portsea Hotel site. The Nepean Hotel became a focal point for locals and visitors and a depot for the collection of mail. It changed hands several times over the years before being purchased by Ford's son-in-law, John Cain. The hotel and the Cain family were to play an important role in the early development of the Portsea Golf Club.

As the demand in Melbourne for fresh food increased, a number of fishermen were attracted to the Peninsula. The Watson brothers from Scotland, Jock Stirling and Jack McGrath, family names that will crop up throughout the history of the Club, all settled locally and provided fresh fish for the Melbourne market. Census figures in 1871 indicate that the population of Sorrento and Portsea consisted of farm workers, lime-burners, fishermen and their families. The area boasted a total of twenty-two occupied houses and ninety-eight inhabitants.

When Alexander Watson arrived at Weeroona Bay and found his way up through the scrub, the only signs of settlement were a tiny fisherman's hut on the beach, a stone house on the cliff belonging to the McGraths and a small enclosure with a scrub fence. Watson purchased the beach cottage which he later pulled down to build a white limestone cottage, near the lime kiln that can still be seen in the cliff face to the left of the Portsea pier. Watson used to net up to 1000 baskets of fish in an afternoon in the 1860s. The oldest current Portsea-born member of the Club is Frank Watson. He was born just prior to the establishment of the Club and grew up in the cottage on the beach, which was on Crown land. Frank was sent off to Melbourne to learn a trade, but yearned to be a fisherman. When he married Eunice in 1947, he brought her back to the cottage, which had no running water, no electricity and 'lino placed on the sand'. They lived there very happily for the first ten years of their marriage. Their first two children learned to crawl and walk on

the sand, as had their father before them. When fishing died out, Frank skippered the Sorrento-Portsea-Queenscliff ferry. Eunice has been a member of the Club for many years, serving terms as president, secretary and treasurer of the ladies' Committee. One of their children, Colin, joined the Club as a junior, was a Pennant player and Club champion in 1967 and 1970.

The permanent population in Portsea and Sorrento remained low. However, by the 1880s, when paddle-steamers began operating regularly during the summer months, large numbers of holidaymakers and day-trippers arrived from Melbourne, attracted by the unique nature of the area. By contrast, during the winter months the steamer SS *Dispatch* called only once a week on its circular voyage between Melbourne and the Gippsland Lakes. Its arrival was unpredictable and local passengers often had to wait for days on end, or else endure the long trip overland to Melbourne.

Judge, Sir Charles Gavan Duffy took up land in Sorrento in the 1860s. The Honourable George Selti Coppin, recognising the tourist potential of the area, in the 1870s began to organise and promote paddle steamer trips from Melbourne. Soon, cottages, hotels and guesthouses were being constructed. A horse-drawn tram carried passengers from Sorrento pier to the Ocean Beach where they could take walks to Portsea. Coppin was instrumental in having the strip of land 450 metres wide from London Bridge to Cape Schanck set aside as a reserve. It is now an established National Park. By the late 1800s, paddle steamers arrived regularly during the six-month 'holiday season' that began on Derby Day in late spring.

By the 1920s, the popularity of the summertime paddle-steamer was waning. Following the Great War, many families instead were driving the rough road to Portsea, taking up to four hours to complete the trip. A number of Melbourne families who were keen golfers and who drove regularly to their holiday homes in Portsea for weekends and holidays, were to become important early members of the Portsea Golf Club.

One early Portsea resident remembered:

The condition of the Point Nepean Road from Melbourne to Portsea was enough to deter all but the hardiest and most enterprising of motorists. The road from Mornington to Dromana was particularly bad. If one was fortunate enough to reach Dromana without hindrance, there remained a 16 miles run over a stretch of limestone road, which probably boasted more pot-holes to the mile than any other stretch of road in Victoria. Among the earliest to visit Portsea regularly each summer and eventually to acquire a summer home there were Mr. & Mrs. A. O. Barrett. (Arthur Barrett, A.O. as he was normally addressed, was later to leave an indelible imprint on the development of the Portsea Golf Club.)

CHAPTER TWO

The Portsea Lands Company



Arthur William Relph, whose holiday home was situated on the foreshore of Weeroona Bay at Portsea, was a frequent early visitor to the area. Relph was a partner and director of Sargood Brothers, Merchants, of Flinders Street in Melbourne. An active sportsman, Arthur Relph had been a founding member of the Manly Surf Club in Sydney and he looked forward to his morning swim at Portsea. He was also a keen golfer. Indeed, in the 1920s, he was captain of the Riversdale Golf Club, playing off a handicap of twelve. In May 1923, he set in motion a series of events that led to the building of a golf course and the formation of the Portsea Golf Club. He later recalled:

One Sunday afternoon in May . . . having had my regulation dip off the pier, and feeling the need for exercise to restore the circulation, I set off to walk to the Back Beach, and instead of taking the road, walked toward Quarantine then seeing a fine piece of cleared undulating country stretching away toward the Ocean, I vaulted the fence and made my way toward a hill in the centre. Immediately the idea seized me, "What a magnificent golf links this country would make." . . . I reached the summit of the hill [the Delgany hill] and looked out over the ti-tree to the magnificent view and suddenly heard a muffled roar and I turned to behold a big black bull charging toward me. I did not wait for him but after a sharp sprint of 50 yards, scrambled over a fence that happened to be handy . . . Once seized with the idea, I could not rest till I found out who owned this piece of country and also I was careful to enquire who owned the bull.

Arthur Relph was preoccupied at that time with the search for land on which to build a permanent course for the Riversdale Golf Club and he sensed that the Portsea land from which he had made such a hasty exit possessed the unique characteristics required for a golf course. Riversdale members had experienced great difficulty securing suitable freehold land. They had been moved on from the courses they had built on leased land in Box Hill and Camberwell and spent considerable energy assessing land for a permanent home before eventually settling at St Johns Wood in 1924. It is interesting to note that today Riversdale and Portsea Golf Clubs hold the two leading amateur events in the State, the Riversdale Cup and the Portsea Open.

After extricating himself from the angry bull's paddock, Relph immediately made enquiries about the property. The land was owned by Kathleen and Mabel Cain, who also managed the Nepean Hotel, opposite where the Portsea Hotel now stands. The Misses Cain, the granddaughters of the late James Sandle Ford, were renowned for their hospitality and the hotel was popular with locals and day-trippers. They offered Arthur Relph the land for £4000. Relph took out an option over the sale of the property and set about procuring support to purchase the site 'from which we could not be driven out'. It was a comment that reflected Relph's experiences at Riversdale and his determination that this golf club would have security of tenure, an ambition not finally realised until 1999, almost seventy-five years after the Portsea Golf Club was formed.

Arthur Relph approached his peers to raise the money for the bull's paddock. He intended first to prepare the land for a golf course and once this was achieved, to establish a golf club. Members could then

purchase the land from the original investors. Initially financial support was restrained and Relph raised only half the money he required. Concerned that his option on the land might lapse, but determined to persevere, he sought advice from his friend Wilfred Weyth Gudgeon, an accountant with the large hardware manufacturing company, John McIlwraith & Son. Gudgeon suggested that if not all of the land was needed for the course, then it would be appropriate to set up a Lands Company. The non-essential land might then be subdivided and sold. The establishment of the Lands Company would provide security for shareholders and encourage them to invest. The projected extra income might assist also in the establishment of the course and the promotion of the golf club.

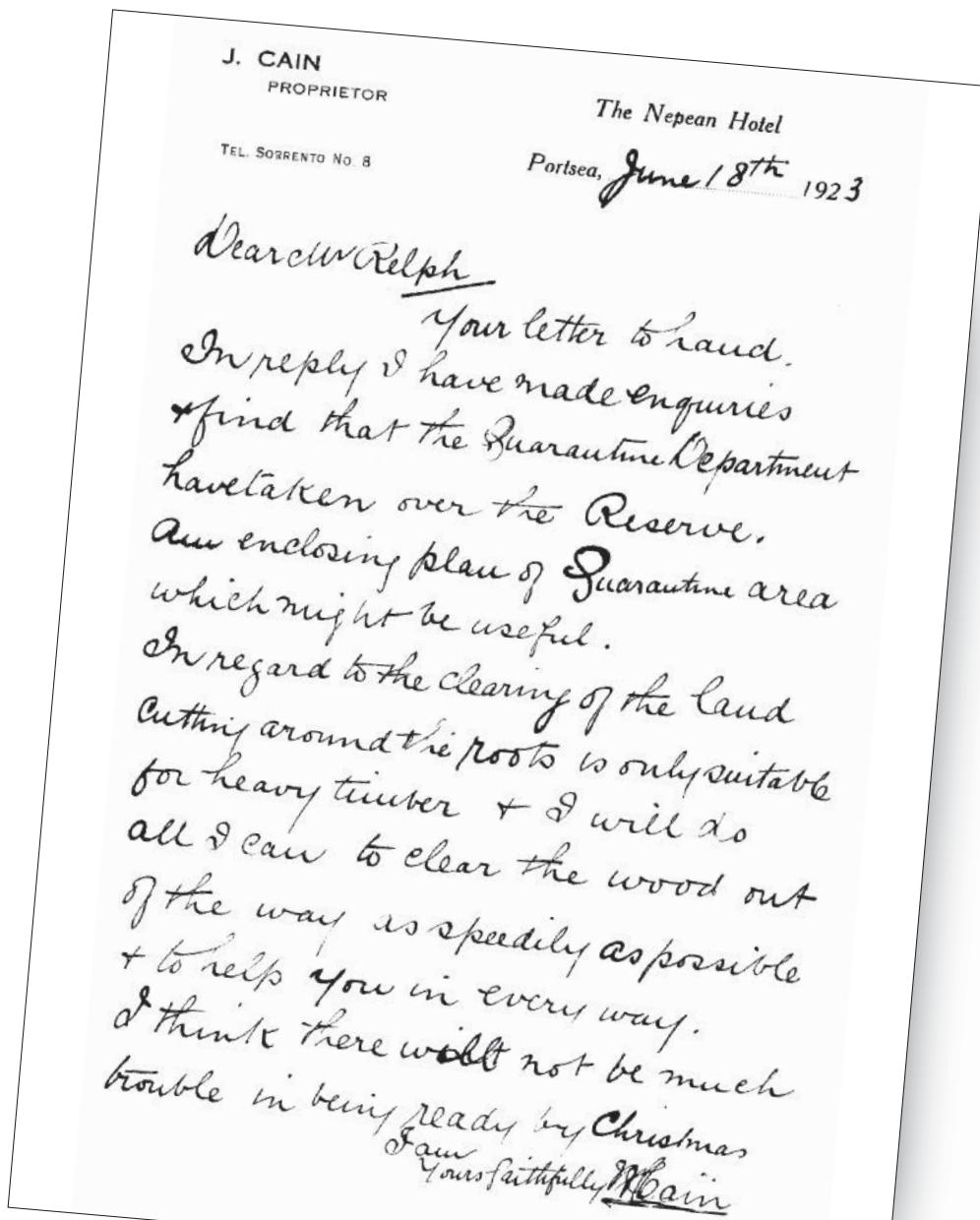
Relph, heartened by Gudgeon's advice, on June 23rd, 1923 formed and registered *The Portsea Lands Company Pty Ltd*. The Company could raise the money by selling one hundred shares at £100 each. The maximum number of shareholders of a proprietary company was limited to fifty. Forty-eight applicants applied initially for sixty shares in the Company. Shareholders included many prominent businessmen as well as seven women. The Estate of W.W. Gudgeon was listed as a shareholder, indicating that he had died prior to the issuing of shares. The Cain family took up a number of shares as well. The Company's registered office was situated at 90 William Street, Melbourne and its secretary, John Weyth Gudgeon, was a principal of Gudgeon and Grace, Estate Agents, 60 Queen Street, Melbourne.

The directors of the Portsea Lands Company Pty Ltd were all close friends of Arthur Relph and all had 'summer' or permanent homes at Portsea. William Davidson was manager of the Australian Estates & Mortgage Company and owned a home to the left of the current Club entrance. Harold Armytage, builder and owner of *Delgany* which abutted the newly acquired land, also owned *Como* in South Yarra, now managed by the National Trust. Armytage was a retired pastoralist whose pioneering family had settled large tracts of land in Victoria and New South Wales. Edward Brooke was the manager of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. His house, like Arthur Relph's, was situated at Weeroona Bay. Henry Manson was from New Zealand.

The Portsea Lands Company began preparations for the clearing of the land even prior to its incorporation. Mabel Cain wrote from the Nepean Hotel to Arthur Relph on June 18th, 1923. Her letter indicated that the Cain family may have been engaged to carry out initial clearing, perhaps because of their superior knowledge of the land. The family had already cleared part of the land for growing wheat. The wheat furrows remained discernible during various course alterations. The Cains may also have retained commercial rights over the sale of the cut timber. During later clearings, the Club sometimes sold its timber to offset costs.

Some ninety acres were set aside by the Lands Company to build the golf course, which it planned eventually to lease to a golf club for a low rental with an option to purchase. Being the chief instigator of the project and with his recent Riversdale Golf Club experiences, Arthur Relph took on the task of organising the design of the course. Having witnessed first hand at Riversdale the excellent work of John (Jock) Young, Relph confidently commissioned him to design the preliminary nine hole Portsea layout.

At the time the first layout was designed, no land had been subdivided, but the land closest to Point Nepean Road was not included as part of the course. The first tee played over land on the north side of Relph Ave. This tee eventually had to be altered when those blocks were sold and built on. This did not happen until after the second world war.



Mabel Cain's original letter to Arthur Relph



The Nepean Hotel



Jock Young

Jock Young had emigrated from St Andrews in Scotland just after the Great War and was greenkeeper at Riversdale in 1919. Just prior to the Riversdale Open on the King's Birthday weekend that year, the Australian Golf correspondent referred to his excellent work and the wonderful condition of the course. Jock later became Club professional at the Royal Queensland Golf Club. He then returned to Riversdale in that capacity in 1921, before moving to Commonwealth Golf Club in 1924. He remained at Commonwealth for over thirty-seven years. The association between Portsea and Commonwealth continued when Sloan Morpeth, a New Zealand and Australian Amateur Champion, became involved in Portsea's eighteen hole layout in 1963. Twelve-times Portsea Club Champion, Alan Bullas, also captained the Commonwealth Golf Club Pennant team. Portsea junior, Peter O'Dwyer, played number one in the Commonwealth 2000 Pennant side.

Although the Cains had removed some of the wood, most of the land required labour-intensive clearing before fairways and greens could be established. Jock Young later recalled that the 'clearing of the ti-tree was no easy matter, but with the help of fifteen men, in twelve months there was space sufficient to start the holes'.

The course was then ploughed and levelled. Then the slow tedious work of planting couch roots was carried out. Water at first was supplied from the well at *Delgany*. With a scarcity of local labour, several years of drought and the need continually to eradicate plagues of rabbits and noxious weeds that appeared once clearing had begun, progress was slow. Even after the first nine holes were constructed, players could still get lost looking for balls in the remaining ti-tree.

Jock Young introduced his nephew Alexander (Sandy) Cunningham to Arthur Relph and recommended him as a greenkeeper, as he had prior experience of golf courses and of supervising men.

Sandy Cunningham was in his late twenties, stood about 5'7", was very deaf and had a broad Scottish accent. He had been employed as a caddy and worker at St Andrews in Scotland prior to serving in the 'Black Watch' during the Great War and was very particular and punctual. He once telephoned Arthur Relph in Melbourne to complain that one of the men had turned up for work five minutes late. Relph had a difficult time convincing Sandy to give the worker another chance. He later stated that he believed that it was because of Sandy's strong work ethic that the golf links had been laid out so cheaply. Sandy compensated for the scarcity of labourers by paying the local lads sixpence per day to collect lumps of limestone left scattered in the areas that were to become fairways.

During December 1924 and Easter 1925, after some eighteen months of backbreaking work, the links was opened to holiday visitors for a nominal fee. This not only raised some additional revenue for the Portsea Lands Company,



Sandy Cunningham



Arthur W. Relph

but it was a means of alerting the public to the existence of the new golf course. Arthur Relph arranged the publicity and organised for an article to appear in the Melbourne press under the heading of 'Exclusive Portsea'. He emphasised the beauty and potential of the course and encouraged city holiday-makers, golfing enthusiasts and the social set to try the new 'model golf links' and enjoy the outstanding scenery:

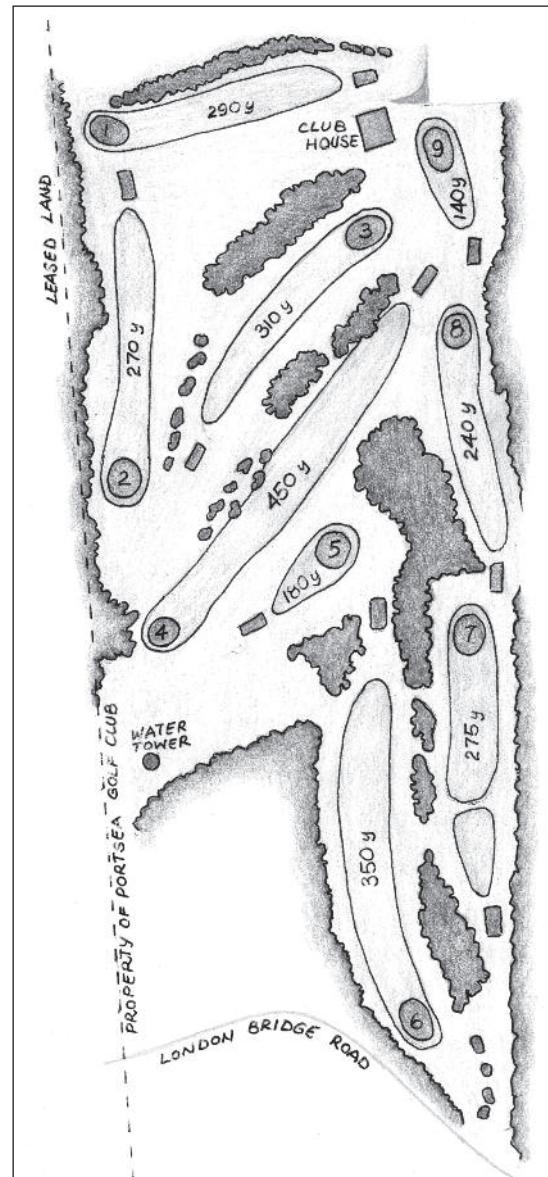
Portsea Beach is today filled with representatives of wealthy families well known in many phases of Melbourne life. Every house is occupied . . . The guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Relph at their fine house are generally golfers . . . The golf course . . . is on 120 acres of rugged beautiful country, strikingly like a portion of Scotland . . . Pretty views are to be had on every hill top. It is to have 18 holes, two of which will overlook the wild ocean scenery on the back beach.

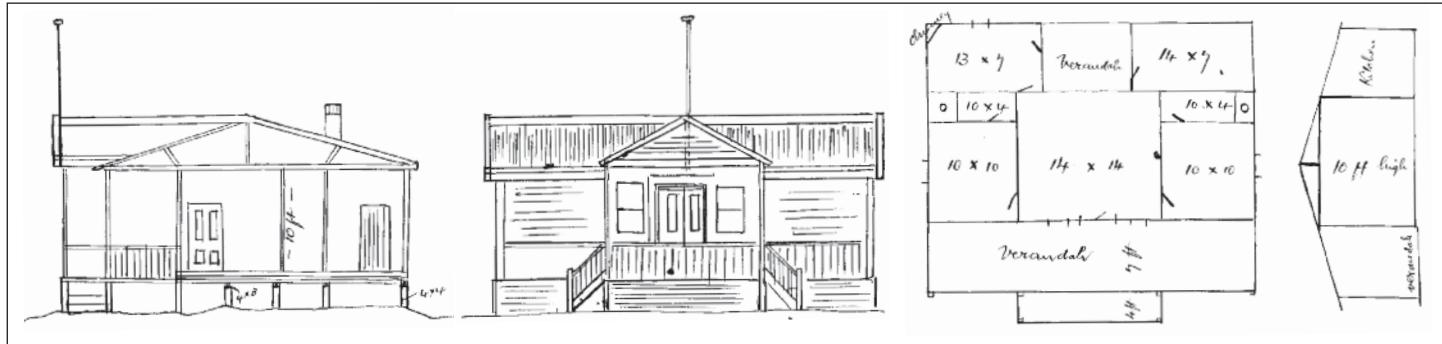
By the end of April 1925, the Company's balance sheet indicated that its paid-up capital was £6560. £4000 had been spent on the land purchase, £1905 on the golf links and £165 on machinery and plant. Only £500 remained and a number of the shareholders expressed concerns over the amount of expenditure, the lack

of land sales and the plan to build a substantial Club House. An Extra-ordinary General Meeting was held prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 7th, 1925 to discuss their concerns. Shareholders were told that the construction of the Armytage residence, *Delgany*, had created a shortage of both sandstone and labour, increasing out of all proportion tenders for the proposed Club House. Chairman Arthur Relph appears to have satisfied shareholder concerns by proposing a less costly temporary structure.

Relph reported to the AGM on the progress of the Portsea Lands Company in its first two years, emphasising the many difficulties that had been overcome. At the same time, he highlighted the potential of the course to become one of the finest in Australia and also one of the most beautiful and picturesque. Most importantly, Relph confirmed that the course would be completed and ready to hand over to a golf club on January 1st, 1926:

The work of completing the Links and making them ready for occupation by a Club by January next has been planned out. Still further clearing is necessary in order to lengthen several of the Fairways; three of the Fairways will require to be ploughed and a good deal of levelling and rolling will be required to be done. The greens will require to be top dressed





Early Club House plans

and sown with special English grass seed. This work, together with the general tidying up and making ready will keep our two men fully employed up to the end of the year. In September and October it will be necessary to employ several additional men to plant the fairways with couch grass. It is estimated that the cost of completing the Links and making them ready to hand over to a Club on January 1st next will come to about £650 [This amount was crossed out and replaced with £700]. . . and a proposal will be considered of leasing the Links to the Club on a rising scale of rent over a term of years with an option to purchase at a certain amount.

Arthur Relph finished his report by recommending the private sale of the first subdivision of eight acres of land adjacent to the 'Portsea Road' (Point Nepean Road):

Some small amount of advertising has been done, but so far no land has been sold. Several enquiries have been made from intending buyers who wish to erect country homes, but it is apparent that they think the price asked is too high. The Directors determined to commence by trying to obtain £5 per foot. It is however likely that this will be reconsidered at our next meeting . . . The Directors also propose that no land shall be sold until the purchaser's name is first approved of by the Board, also that the value of any building to be erected shall not be less than £800. It is considered that with these restrictions the value of the property will be increased and the best interests of both the golf club and the investors will be conserved.

A letter to shareholders further stated that proceeds from the sale of the subdivided land would be placed into a separate account to ensure the return of their investment. There was also to be a further issue of shares on the basis of one £100 share for each share held, to be paid in £20 increments as required. This was to enable the course and Club House to be completed in time for the proposed club to take out a lease at the end of the year. The temporary Club House, constructed in timber, was completed in time for the handover. It was to remain 'temporary' for some sixty-seven years. Registration of the proposed land subdivision was made with the local authorities, but an oversight delayed its registration at the Titles Office. Company secretary, John Gudgeon, refused to 'accept any blame for the trouble' when instructing a Mr Elder to register the plan in early December 1925. Some land sales may have been forfeited through lack of title during this confusion. However, sales were more likely to have been sluggish because of the high prices asked. Gudgeon declared them to be 'prohibitive'.



The completed Club House – c. 1930

Arthur Relph took charge of the promotion of the Portsea Golf Links Estate. His characteristically rosy descriptions emphasised the estate's unique qualities, its proximity to Melbourne, two hours by car or by steamer to Sorrento, two minutes from 'the finest and most fashionable bathing beach in Australia', with 'electric light and a telephone service', an 'excellent water service' and 'probably the most picturesque golf links in Australia'. Relph was perhaps over-optimistic. Only the most intrepid driver would have dared to make the journey by road from Melbourne in two hours and the steamer was by this time calling infrequently. Bore water was supplied from wells sunk on the course, for which an annual charge was set. Later, the Company sought to improve investment prospects by promoting the 'splendid opportunity for anyone desirous of erecting and conducting an up-to-date golf or guest house on land adjoining and overlooking the Portsea Golf Links'. But sales remained slow even after the cost of the blocks was reduced, although some shareholders appear to have purchased blocks at the lower rate.

On October 10th, 1925, a meeting was called at the Union Steamship Buildings in Melbourne to form a golf club. Three days later, a statement of receipts and expenditure of the Portsea Lands Company from its inception to October 13th, 1925 indicated that there were sixty fully paid shares of £100 and twenty-eight at £40. After the purchase of the land and expenses to that date, some £209 remained unspent.

Despite the difficulties surrounding the land subdivision, Arthur Relph had achieved his initial objectives. At the end of 1925, the land for a golf course had been secured and cleared and the first nine holes had been constructed. The Portsea Lands Company began to divest itself of responsibility for the course as Arthur Relph's dream became reality. The new Portsea Golf Club was formally established on January 1st, 1926.

* * * * *

Records of the Portsea Lands Company after 1925 are sketchy. The Company's balance sheet for the twelve months ended April 30th, 1929 confirm that the Golf Club leased ninety-one acres, which included land abutting the ocean. The cost of the golf links, plant and machinery and an advance to the Club had totalled nearly £6500. However, the club paid an annual rental of just £5 to the Company. The AGM of the Portsea Lands Company on July 5th, 1929 was followed by an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the future of the Company and the proposal by the Portsea Golf Club to purchase the golf course land. Company directors discussed the difficulties of making land sales and the means by which money received from existing and future sales might be set up to repay shareholders. As the money did not represent profits, future payments could not be made in the form of dividends. Following legal advice, it was recommended that the most effective means of returning capital was to liquidate the Company. A resolution was therefore passed:

That the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Herbert Taylor of 422 Chancery Lane, Melbourne, be and he is hereby appointed Liquidator for the purpose of the said winding up.

A further meeting was held twenty-one days later to confirm the resolution and Herbert Taylor, honorary secretary of the Golf Club, was appointed to organise liquidation of the Company. The last recorded meeting of the Portsea Lands Company was conducted in 1934. Eventually all blocks between Point Nepean Road and Relph Avenue were sold. No records remain regarding land sales between London Bridge Road and the Ocean Reserve although shareholders may have insisted on the sale of the back beach land to recover their investment. In retrospect, this land would have been a significant asset to the Club.



The Nepean Hotel.





Overlooking Portsea.

PORTSEA

GOLF - LINKS

ESTATE









Part of the Bay at Portsea.

Land surrounding Golf Links is the safest and soundest investment available, and constantly increases in value as the links become improved with age and attention.

Enquire concerning the value of land surrounding Golf Links anywhere in Australia and you will find the above statement to be an absolute fact.

Particulars from the AGENTS—



The Golf Links and Part of Estate.

GUDGEON & GRACE, 60 Queen Street, Melbourne

Phone 1512 Central

The front page of the advertising brochure promoting the Portsea Golf Links Estate.

PORTSEA Golf Links Estate

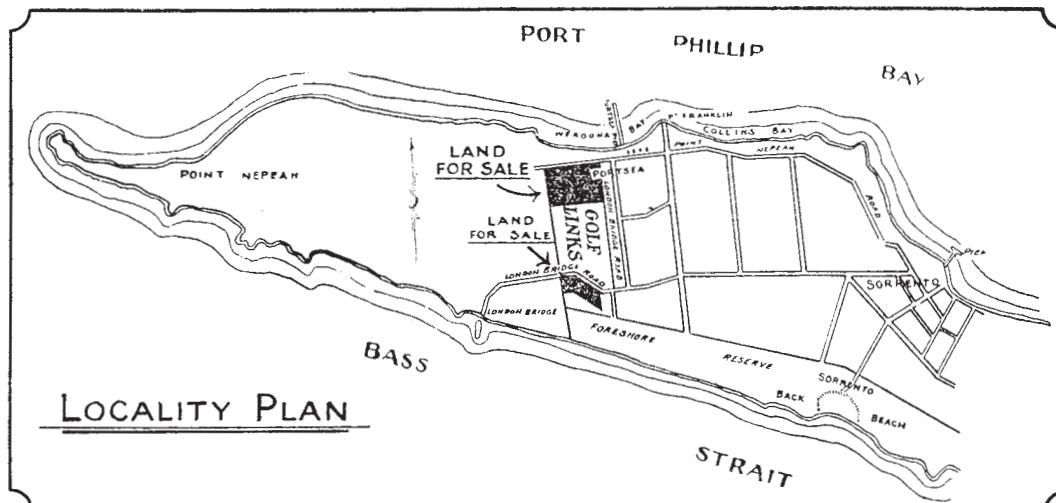
Allotments for Sale on Very Easy Terms, in Victoria's most fashionable and popular sea-side resort, adjoining and overlooking the Golf Links.

Point Nepean road allotments just two minutes from glorious bathing beach and pier.

Back Beach allotments 4 minutes from Ocean and beautiful surfing beach, right on the London Bridge road.

The progress Portsea has made during the last few years is wonderful. Numbers of our well known business people have built seaside homes, and the Portsea Golf Links and Tennis Courts have added to the attractiveness of this beautiful seaside resort.

An excellent water service can be obtained on the property.



Portsea is splendidly served by Railway Motors and other Cars, also Boat Service, which give a continual daily service throughout the year, and the return fares are very reasonable.

Allotments with frontages of from 60 feet by Depths varying to 200 feet can be secured at the following prices: Pt. Nepean road allotments from £4 per ft., ON EASY TERMS OF QUARTER CASH, Balance over 3 years, at 6 per cent. interest. LONDON BRIDGE ROAD ALLOTMENTS, £2 PER FT. TERMS, £10 DEPOSIT, BALANCE OVER 5 YEARS, AT 6 PER CENT. INTEREST.

Illustrated Circulars containing all information now obtainable from—

GUDGEON and GRACE
 60 QUEEN STREET, MELBOURNE
 Local Agent: JAMES MORTON, Portsea

The advertisement printed in the *Herald* newspaper on 12th January, 1927.

CHAPTER THREE

The formation of the Portsea Golf Club

At the meeting held in October 1925 at the Union Steamship Building, participants agreed that a golf club, to be called the Portsea Golf Club, should commence operation from January 1st, 1926. Shareholders of the Portsea Lands Company, perhaps not surprisingly, were involved heavily in the organisation and inaugural membership of the Club. Indeed, all who attended the October meeting, with the exception of J.W.Gudgeon, were shareholders of the Portsea Lands Company. Their involvement in the new Club put them in a position to enjoy its golfing facilities and to control membership. They hoped to gather support from like-minded city members who were attracted by the idea of playing golf and holidaying in the Portsea area. By this means, they hoped to improve the Portsea Lands Company's land sales which, in turn, would protect shareholder investment.

Inaugural members included A.W. Relph (Chairman), J. Buick, D.G. Landale, F.S. Berry, H.N. Straus, J.H.T. McCrae, E.G. Brooke, H. Taylor, W.L. Davidson, J.B. Young, H.J. Manson, J.W. Gudgeon, F.D. Stogdale, J.R. Barter and F. McC. Mitchell. The office bearers for the proposed Portsea Golf Club were selected even prior to its formation. 'It was resolved on October 10th, 1925' that the office bearers of the Club would include:

President: *H.A. Armytage, Esq.*

Vice-Presidents: *E.G. Brook, Esq.; W.L. Davidson, Esq.*

Captain: *A.W. Relph, Esq.*

Committee: *Messrs H.S. Spencer-Jones; C.L. Kimpton; F. Stogdale; J.B. Young; H.J. Manson.*

Secretary: *H. Taylor, Esq.*

The founding Committee consisted of men of considerable means and influence, which augured well for the Club's future. Committee member C.L. (Leslie) Kimpton, for instance, who owned a property adjoining the seaside home of Arthur Relph, was head of a well-known family of flour millers. At various times he was president of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, the Victorian Chamber of Commerce (as later was Arthur Relph), the Portsea Golf Club and the Australian Club. Messrs Armytage, Spencer-Jones and Kimpton were elected to the Committee even though not in attendance at the October meeting, indicating that they had been privy to a number of informal discussions prior to this. It is likely that the annual subscription fees had been discussed informally as well and simply ratified at the October meeting. Fees were set annually: Gentlemen – two guineas; Ladies – one guinea; Children under fourteen years of age – one guinea.

Publicity for the opening of the Club had a familiar ring. The *Argus* ran a comprehensive article under the pseudonym of A.W.R. and simply titled 'PORTSEA'. The virtues of Portsea were extolled again. It was:

The most fashionable bathing resort in Victoria, if not Australia. The brightest young women of Melbourne foregather . . . and they spend without limit on chic, smart costumes which lend brightness and colour to the scene.

Relph left the best until last – the newly established Portsea Golf Club. His description of the land running from the Point Nepean Road to the back beach makes even more bitter-sweet the later loss of the back beach land:

Running over undulating country from the Portsea Road back to the cliffs, interspersed with dells and meadows, every tee commanding a view of the bay and surrounding country through delightful fairways, it will be a golfers' paradise. These links will be opened for play during the Christmas holidays.

The first formal meeting of the Committee took place at the new Club House at 5 pm on December 31st, 1925, chaired by its new captain – A.W. Relph. He maintained this position until his death in 1948. Twenty-nine members were elected to the Club, among them Arthur Relph's daughter Irene, and his son Jack, who was to carry on the family interest in the Club after his father's death. Ten ladies were elected at that first meeting. Most members commuted from Melbourne on weekends to holiday homes in the area. Mr B.R. Gowan, who was to serve on the Committee for twenty years from 1929, was one of the first members elected. Also elected was Mr H. Spencer Jones, who was nominated for the Committee at the October meeting even prior to being elected a member.

Arthur Relph and Herbert Taylor were authorised to draw up the Club rules. Taylor, like Relph, was to become a mainstay of the Club. A chartered accountant, he held the position of honorary secretary until March 1945, dedicating his holidays and any other spare hours to the Club and to balancing the budget. Taylor was a past president of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce and in 1961 became president of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV).

Responsibility for finances and for course maintenance was transferred from the Portsea Lands Company to the Portsea Golf Club with a minimum of fuss. The Committee agreed that green-fees would be set at 2/6d per day for men and 1/6d per day for ladies. The putting-green, a less strenuous pastime for visitors, could be used for one shilling a half-day, the cost to include a putter and ball. The Committee resolved at that first meeting to ask the local butcher, Mr Wilson, to graze sheep on the course, a tradition which originated in Scotland where sheep were used to maintain the fairways.

The sheep that kept the grass 'mown' in Scotland, soon formed hollows in the fairways to shelter from the bitter Scottish weather – from whence originated modern-day bunkers. The Royal North Devon course in England, also known as Westward Ho, has carried on this tradition. Bunkers for many years were considered to be unnecessary at Portsea, which was described by Sloan Morpeth in 1934 as 'all bunker'.

Even as the Club was launched, alterations were underway to improve the initial nine hole layout. An additional hole was added at the beginning of 1926. By March 1926, a well had been sunk in the hollow in front of the present fourteenth tee and tanks had been erected higher up near the current water tower. The Committee anticipated that this water supply would provide unlimited water to every hole.

On February 11th, 1926, 'T.E.E.' from the magazine *Table Talk*, provided a comprehensive overview of 'Portsea's New Links' and the 'men behind it'. The article indicated not only the extent of Arthur Relph's efforts, but also the vast improvements which had been achieved:

All golfers who went to Sorrento for the Annual Open meeting had heard that hard by at Portsea some well known men in the world of golf had formed a club and had energetically set about the perfecting of a course. Most, if not all, of the visitors thought that there would probably be available for a round, a few holes, pleasant, but rough. Every golfer who went along to see the new layout got a huge surprise.

Half because they knew someone interested and half out of tolerant curiosity, they wended their ways past the magnificent freestone castle of Mr Harold Armytage (a structure almost unique in Australia) and onto the course . . . The links set all who saw it talking and prognosticating a great future . . . We should have expected no less than we saw when we knew the personnel of the moving spirits. They are big men in every sense – outlook, business and golf in particular. A.W. Relph (Captain) is well-known at Riversdale and few men could display the energy and enthusiasm in a golfing objective that this fine, big personality has shown in his tireless efforts to give Portsea the one big attraction that it lacked. The most exclusive seaside resort in Victoria, adorned with the holiday homes of the State's best known families, the resting and playing ground of wealth, youth and beauty, had until now no golf links.

All very heady stuff for Arthur Relph and his companions, but also well deserved. The putting green created added interest:

A little over from the Club House is one of the most interesting nine hole putting greens to be seen at any club. In the distance this gives the impression of a group of turf cricket pitches of varying lengths, and the greatest variety of putts may be had on a round.

Golfing editors continued to praise the course. The *Sun News Pictorial* proclaimed that: 'Jock Young had done his best work [but] nature has given him fine material'. An *Australasian* correspondent explained that when he had first viewed the layout in 1924, he felt that the design philosophy did not follow the advanced ideas of Colt, Fowler and Mackenzie. But he was forced to reassess his preconceptions and to admit that over the past two years much good work had taken place and the course, with the exception of two greens, was 'admirable'.

During its first year, the Club attracted a large membership. In February 1926, twenty-nine new members were elected. Many of the remaining shareholders of the Portsea Lands Company became members. Ninety-four applicants were granted membership within the first three months, including family and

friends of the Committee. The Misses Cain, who had sold the original property to the Lands Company and were the owners of the Nepean Hotel, joined during this period.

Harold Armytage, the Club president, introduced a number of new members, among them horse-racing legend L.K.S. Mackinnon and his family. Armytage's family joined as well and became enduring supporters and benefactors. Harold Armytage donated a cup for the first Open meeting. (The present Armytage Cup was donated by the Armytage sisters in 1931.) Having retired to *Delgany* however, Harold Armytage died within twelve months of the Club's inception. He attended no formal Committee meetings during his term as president, indicating perhaps that his position was simply that of a figurehead, although illness may have kept him from attending. Despite this, he was described as 'a cornerstone of the Club'.

There were few formal Committee meetings and attendances at meetings were low. However, Committee and ordinary members alike took great personal interest in the new golf course, funding special projects and assisting on weekends with working bees to clear the ground and plant trees. (These early working bees initiated a tradition of voluntary cooperation at the Club which



Harold Armytage

continues to this day.) While Committee meetings were irregular, two important items were approved in September 1926.

1. As it had become obvious that a number of the holes were too short, Arthur Relph arranged for the 2nd and 6th holes (the current 1st and 13th) to be extended. The Club approved the funds for this extra work which required hiring a horse and dray locally from Alex Watson, considered an expensive transaction at £8/3/9d.
2. Approval from the Victorian Golf Association (VGA) was sought to hold four events – men's and ladies' handicap events and men's and mixed foursomes – on December 26th, 27th and 28th, 1926.

Although these events were not intended to be the 'first' Open meeting, which was played officially in March 1928, they were reported and promoted extensively. On December 28th, 1926, 'Harlequin' of the *Morning Post* enthused over the course's potential. Almost certainly after discussions with Arthur Relph, 'Harlequin' predicted an increase in fees and a permanent Club House built of local stone from the links, once the proposed eighteen holes were completed. The article further indicated that a syndicate might be formed to erect a guesthouse along similar lines to the golf house at Macedon. Throughout this period, similar themes can be traced in advertisements placed by the Lands Company, all extolling the virtues of Portsea and the 'lure of the links'.

'Harlequin' described changes which would further challenge golfers:

*The length of the course is 2715 yards and the bogey for the 10 is 40. The third and fourth holes (18th and 17th) have been increased 150 yards by shifting the tees and the third 430 yards is the longest on the course . . . A player is compelled to play with great accuracy to record bogey 5. Abe Schlapp, who is a member of the club considers the land excellent golfing country, especially the short pvt. *sic!* . . . This hole is from a plateau tee to a green of 130 yards below and is a bogey 3.*

Other Melbourne newspapers highlighted the success of the first events, the delightful weather and the hospitality of the captain. While some greens were reported to be inconsistent, even lacking in character, the competitors were said to have left 'with an excellent impression of the links'. The Club's inaugural year was a resounding success and its future appeared secure.



Abe Schlapp

CHAPTER FOUR

Towards the thirties

A.O. Barrett makes his mark

The Portsea Golf Club held its first Annual General Meeting in March 1927. Only five members attended, three of them Committee members and all office-bearers were re-elected. Since the death of Harold Armytage in the latter part of 1926, nobody had filled the position of president. Nevertheless, with membership continuing to increase and the course, during the summer months at least, 'thronging' with members and visitors, the future of the Club looked bright.

On January 21st, 1927, Mr A.O. Barrett became a member. He was 57 years of age when he joined the Portsea Golf Club and was to make a notable contribution for the next twenty years. Barrett had founded and managed a number of successful malt businesses in Melbourne, but travelled frequently with his family to Portsea. He owned one of Portsea's most beautiful holiday homes, *Arlescote Wood*. Barrett had emigrated to Australia when he was fifteen years of age and had attended Melbourne Grammer School.

He was a member of the Australian Club and a foundation member of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV). Within three months of his joining, four of his sons also became members, one of them as a junior. A.O. Barrett soon made his presence felt, donating £5 to improve the grade between the 4th green and 5th tee. A local builder, Mr Croad, submitted a price for a trestle bridge over the depression, but it was considered to be too expensive and instead a new tee was built to eliminate the climb. Barrett was speedily invited to join the Committee and in February 1928, was invited to accept the position of president.

A.O. Barrett had been a champion long-distance walker and a delightful story is told about his courtship days, when, fearing the activities of a rival suitor after he missed the bay steamer to Portsea, he ran throughout the night from Melbourne to Portsea in order to propose to his future wife. The Barrett family in the year 2000 donated a number of old golf clubs to the Club. The clubs had been given to A.O. by an English friend, Mr E. J. Semple, in 1936 – they were then 100 years old.



The clubs presented by the family of A.O. Barrett

In July 1927, perhaps encouraged by A.O. Barrett, the RACV magazine published an article recommending that the 'Motorist-Golfer' should take advantage of the links at that 'favoured watering hole – Portsea'.



A. O. Barrett

It also reported that well-known exponents of the game, Ivo Whitton and A.W. Jackson had commented favourably on its golfing features following an exhibition match played on January 30th, 1927.

Not all was smooth sailing however. After the initial enthusiastic response, membership had slowed considerably. The Club had 112 members, but more were needed. The Committee resolved to offer honorary memberships to doctors and nurses working at the quarantine station. There were also problems on the course. Rabbit plagues created ongoing difficulties, while the costs of tree clearing and course improvements ate into Club funds. A decision was made to purchase a horse and dray for £40 to overcome further outlay for the hire of Alex Watson's outfit. W. (Bill) McGrath, who was later to become course curator, joined as a junior in February 1928.

The Club held its first official annual Open meeting in March 1928. There were six events for which each player was charged an entrance fee of 2/6d. A trophy fund had been set up and a number of donations were received, including £10 from the Misses Cain. Each trophy for first place was valued at two guineas.

The Portsea Trophy had a value of three guineas. Runners-up also received trophies, valued at one guinea each.

Only three members were present at the second AGM in May 1928 – A.O. Barrett, A.W. Relph and H. Taylor. All members of the Committee were re-elected and Barrett was formally elected president. The choice was impeccable. A.O. Barrett was to be indefatigable and generous, serving as president until 1946, almost without a break. He displayed a deep personal interest in the layout of the course and financially contributed to a large number of projects. He also laboured physically alongside Sandy Cunningham on the course. He recalled in 1934 the backbreaking nature of much of the work:

Together, we crawled, often backwards, through the scrub dragging our line – one could not possibly walk – and hacked out our tracks to mark new fairways, and find out the lay of the land.

In December 1928, Mr Reg Jupp, the professional at the Metropolitan Golf Club, was paid £2/12/- to review the course, after which several itinerant labourers were employed to carry out his suggestions. Wages were set for the greenkeepers – £6 per week for Sandy Cunningham and £4 per week for the two temporary assistants. £3 per week was allocated for the 'boy', Jack Howard. Jack was not referred to by name until he turned eighteen. He was later to become a most dedicated and influential Portsea course curator and a Life Member of the Club.



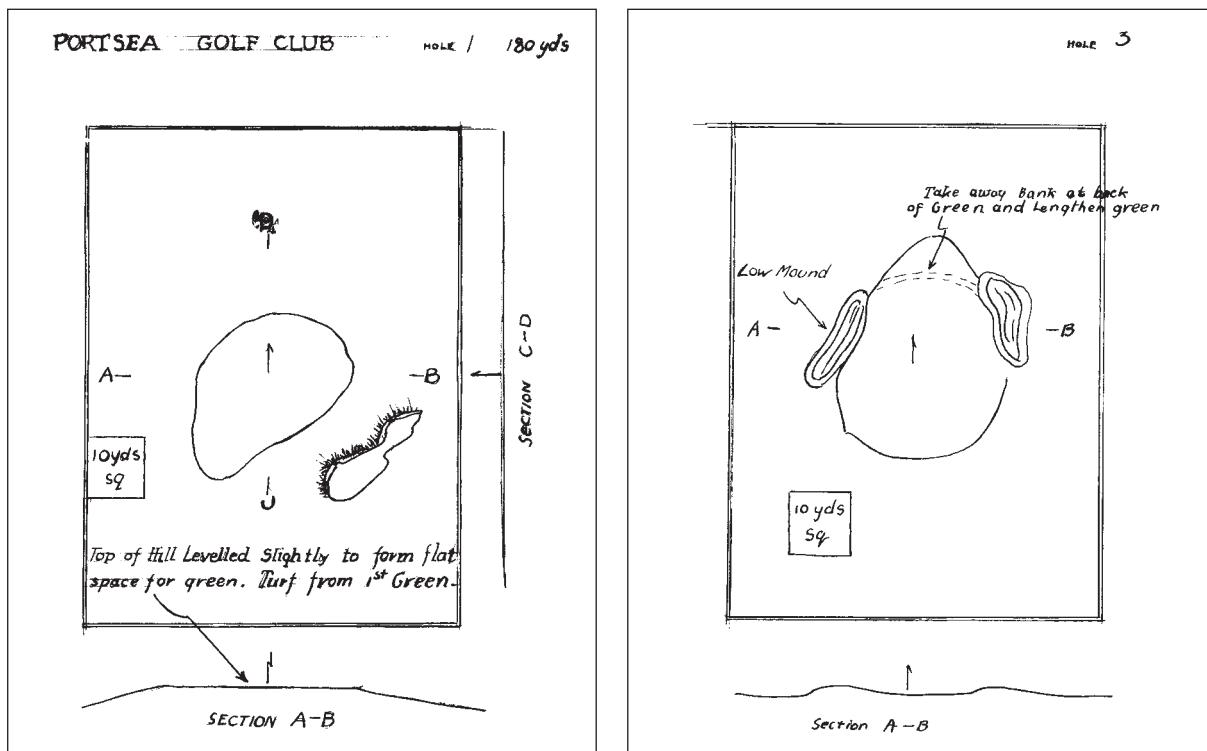
Reg Jupp

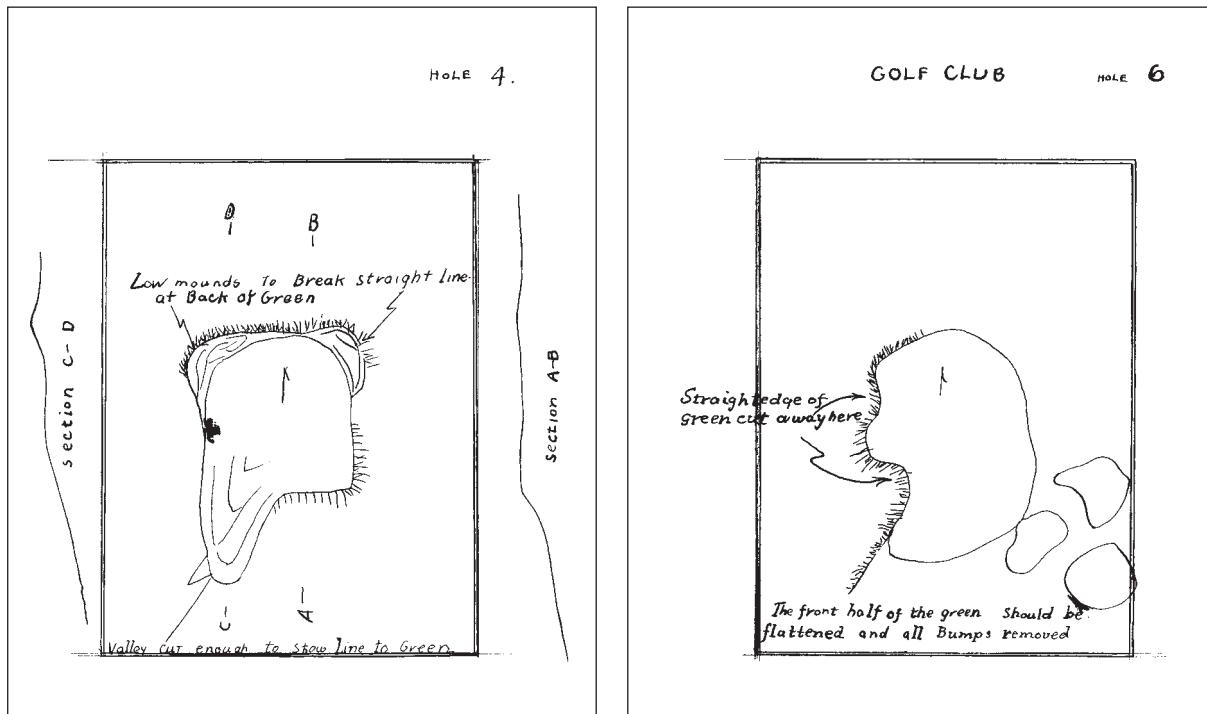
Sandy Cunningham was forced to take time off during this period with appendicitis. It was hoped 'he would only be away a few days'. This may well have been the case given his strong work ethic, as his illness raised no further comments. Sandy married local girl, Jean Stirling, who was a keen golfer and became one of the first local associate members in 1928. Jean Cunningham later collected green-fees and made afternoon teas for the players during the summer, when she and Sandy lived in the small residence connected to the Club House. Green-fee players were directed to the Club House by a notice placed on the first tee. Mrs Cunningham, or 'Mrs Sandy' as she was affectionately known, was made an honorary member of the Club after Sandy retired in the 1950s.

In February 1929, fourteen new members were elected, the most notable being Kenneth H. Boykett. Ken Boykett was appointed to the Committee and became president in 1952, a position he held until his death twenty years later.

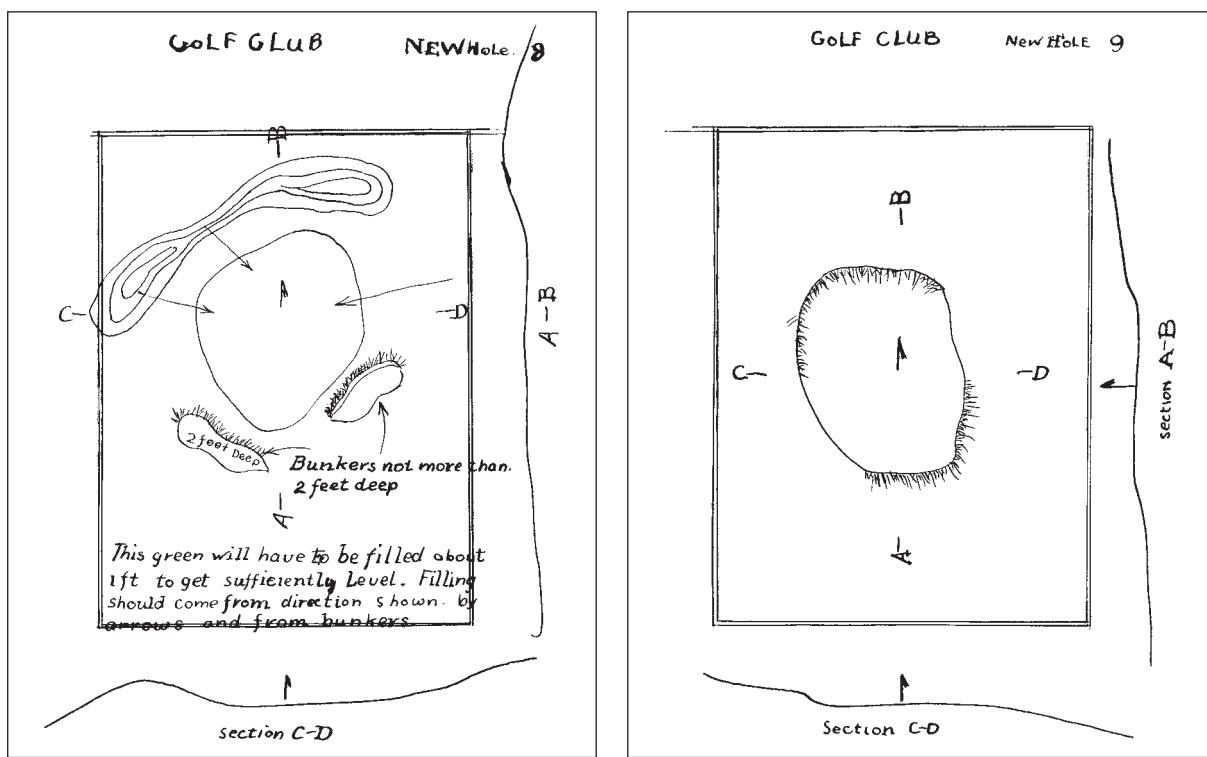
The Barretts maintained their interest in the Club. After the second Open meeting in March 1929, Mrs Barrett supplied afternoon teas for the mixed foursomes. The following month, A.O. Barrett notified the Committee that he would purchase an engine and pump, together with the necessary piping, to create a better water supply for the links. This generous offer was to cost him approximately £100. The pump was to be placed at the well already in use and the water piped up to tanks near where the water tower now stands. The Club purchased a plough, harrows and scoop and the Committee was rostered to supervise working bees on weekends. Sandy Cunningham was given notice that the Committee expected to see a considerable improvement in the links by spring.

The pump donated by A.O. Barrett was to cause some excitement in early 1938 when Sandy Cunningham reported that he had seen traces of oil at the well where the pump was situated. Investigation confirmed this. The site was pegged and an application made for approval to drill for oil. Drilling was about to commence when it was discovered that the pump had an oil leak and over many years the oil had accumulated near the bottom of the well!





Alex Russell's plans for remodelling several greens.



Golf Officials Thought They Had Struck Oil

The twelve-hole links of the Portsea Golf Club nearly achieved world-wide fame recently. For a few anxious weeks several leading members thought they had discovered oil on the course. There was great secrecy, but the discoverers had sleepless nights dreaming of a Portsea bristling with oil-well derricks.

The holiday golfers who patronise the course little dreamed that they were taking divots from possibly priceless ground, although a few of them may have been slightly curious at the several notices that were staked out by club members at various vantage points.

Some thought the licence notices were probably for goldmining, but few dreamed that an oil boom was considered imminent. It all came about through one of the water-pumps refusing to function. When the faulty pump was inspected by Mr. A. O. Barrett, the president, and one of the greenkeepers, it was found that the dome at the end of the pipe was covered in oil and that the cylinders into which the pipe protrudes were covered with a thick coating of about an inch of black, tar-like oil. At it was apparently impossible for such an accu-

mulation of oil to gather in such a place, the hearts of those who discovered it began to beat excitedly. It was thought that the pipe had tapped the edge of some seepage from an adjacent deposit of oil.

So convincing was the evidence, that Mr. Barrett and Mr. Taylor, the secretary, pegged out leases on behalf of the club and immediately procured the services of a foremost geologist and chemist attached to one of the leading oil companies in Melbourne. The expert took samples, of which there was no dearth, and the discoverers spent more anxious hours awaiting his report. Then came the report and also a fading of hopes, for the analysis showed that the oil was made up of both vegetable and mineral qualities of a certain percentage which corresponded exactly with that in the oil used in the pumping-plant engine near by. What had happened was that oil from this engine had been escaping and seeping constantly for about 12 years into the well until there was so much of it there that it eventually blocked the pump. "It was very exciting while it lasted," said Mr. Barrett, "and it took six month's growth out of me."

The Argus, 4th March, 1938

Arthur Relph and A.O. Barrett were frequently to disagree about how to improve the layout and size of the course. (Indeed Relph's son, Jack, was to joke later that every time he and his father arrived at the course, A.O. had changed more holes.) Arthur Relph found himself at odds with the new plans for the course. By June 1929, Relph had employed Mr Alex Russell, Australian business partner to world renowned course architect Dr Alister Mackenzie, to provide an alternative opinion on the links and plans for new and remodelled greens. After this, two extra men were employed to assist with alterations and Jack Howard was appointed as assistant greenkeeper. By spring, £270 had been expended on labour alone. During the same period, members had painted the Club House and created a small garden around it.



Alex Russell

Although only three years had passed since the Club had commenced leasing the course from the Lands Company, already there was a move to make the arrangement more permanent. Messrs Relph, Barrett and Davidson formed a sub-Committee to confer with the Lands Company with a view to purchasing the property or to obtaining a lease of some fixed duration. By May 1929, after investigating a number of proposals and following some serious negotiating by Arthur Relph, the Club accepted an offer by the Misses Armytage and their sister, Mrs Fitzpatrick to purchase the land and to lease it to the Club. The title, over which the Armytage sisters would hold a mortgage, was to be in the Club's name. Furthermore, the Club was to be given the option to purchase the land after twenty-one years for the same price paid by the Armytage sisters.

By the end of the 1920s, Portsea Golf Club appeared to be well established and financially secure, albeit supported by a number of its wealthier members. The Club boasted a membership of over one hundred, most members commuting from Melbourne. The course consisted of eleven holes in play and three very successful Open meetings had been organised, putting the Club on the golfing map.

CHAPTER FIVE

Depression and war

The challenges of the thirties

The depression and the onset of the second world war were to wrest many changes at the Portsea Golf Club. Members resigned en masse at times in the 1930s, firstly because they were unable to provide the time or the financial commitment to the Club, then later, in heed of the call to war.

The differences between Arthur Relph and A.O. Barrett deepened. In June 1930, while course changes already approved were still in the process of being carried out, Barrett tabled a report on the course which he had personally commissioned Reg Jupp to prepare. In August, he submitted a plan to increase the number of holes to fifteen. Herbert Taylor, Club secretary, voiced concern about the added expense. He asked Arthur Relph ‘to point out to Mr Barrett’ that the estimated receipts and expenditure up to December indicated a deficiency of £100 and that he had ‘only allowed £20 extra for wages’.

At the AGM in July 1930, seven members were present and A.O. Barrett was re-elected president. Arthur Relph, as captain, reported on the Club’s successful activities – the Open meeting, the completion of the pumping system donated by Barrett and other course alterations which the president had overseen. A.O. Barrett had provided an extra £100 to meet the cost of wages for special construction works. There was a welcome increase in the number of new members, which Relph optimistically envisaged would need to be limited to 250. There was also an improvement in green-fee income.

Despite this rosy outlook, members at the AGM were informed that the Committee had decided to limit the course size to twelve holes. Arthur Relph believed the condition of the course had deteriorated due to ‘bad management’, a criticism broadly levelled at both Sandy Cunningham and A.O. Barrett. Relph went on to argue that proposals to increase the number of holes could not be countenanced in view of the depression and the ‘unsatisfactory state of the Club’s finances’.

In November 1930, A.O. Barrett resigned as president in protest at the decision not to extend the course to fifteen holes. At that meeting, Arthur Relph maintained his attack on the management and poor condition of the course, which he claimed was due to resources being overstretched. Relph believed that the new work had been wasted and that the whole place was ‘getting out of hand’. The poorly veiled criticism of A.O. Barrett was patently clear. It was followed by the comment that if Relph’s and Herbert Taylor’s advice to restrict work on the two new greens had been followed, the whole links would be in ‘good order’.

Herbert Taylor also informed the Committee that the Club would have a deficit of £126 by December. He tendered his resignation as honorary secretary, explaining that Club work was interfering with his ordinary business, but agreed to carry on until a replacement could be found. In January 1931, his chartered accounting business was offered a fee of £30 per annum by the Club for clerical assistance and during the Open meeting that month, Herbert Taylor was presented with a ‘handsome, inscribed golf bag’. If these offerings were designed to delay Taylor’s resignation, they succeeded admirably.

Herbert Taylor remained honorary secretary until 1945, playing a crucial role in overseeing the finances during what was to prove a most difficult period in the Club's history.

A.O. Barrett, who had worked tirelessly and had made considerable financial contributions to support his alterations to the course, remained a Club member. Differences with Arthur Relph appear to have been overcome by the AGM in April 1931, when a special vote of thanks was passed to the Barrett family for their very substantial donations and for the time that Barrett had expended personally at the course.

At the AGM in 1931, the Committee resolved that A.O. Barrett be made a Life Member of the Club, the first Life Membership to be awarded.

While the Committee argued about course alterations, it would appear that members were beginning to resign because of their economic difficulties. As membership decreased, the financial position of the Club deteriorated. Sandy Cunningham, whose work had been criticised the preceding year, was kept on but his wages were reduced by ten percent in 1931. As the financial positioned worsened in early 1932, Jack Howard was 'laid off' altogether.

Jack Howard recalled that he was only employed for urgent work at the Club during the depression and only then with the permission of the Committee. He also recounted how 'A.O.' would always try to give him work. He often arrived in his big Minerva car, which Jack thought looked like a hearse, on a Friday afternoon. He would then ask Jack to work for the weekend in the garden of his Portsea home.

In October 1931, Herbert Taylor reported that by Christmas the Club would again be in the red. Arthur Relph offered to write to members for donations and several members were interviewed personally with a view to gaining their financial assistance. But it was a fruitless exercise. However, he was successful in having held over the outstanding rent owing to the Armytage sisters. Mrs Fitzpatrick also offered to purchase a horse for the Club to assist with the mowing, provided that she could use it occasionally. The offer was gratefully accepted. The Committee later reciprocated by offering the sisters its old dray, when it was able to acquire a new one. The ladies refused to accept the dray as a gift however and paid the Club £5 for it.

Course changes continued and club activities were maintained, although in a somewhat restrained manner. Committee members worked tirelessly and quietly bolstered funds when necessary. In June 1932, Arthur Relph organised for pine and cypress trees to be planted along the new road leading to the Club House and on the course, sharing the cost with Les Kimpton*. Barrett continued to propose, fund and oversee alterations to the course. In 1932, he financed and supervised a new 5th hole up the hill to the tower, extending the course to twelve holes.

No new president was elected until July 1934, when A.O. Barrett again accepted the position. By this time, the Committee appeared to be working as a team. It accepted advice from Club members as well as from other clubs. A.O. Barrett boasted in the 1934 Portsea Golf Club Centenary Souvenir:

Mr. Taylor suggested many things – all done; Mr. Relph, the lengthening of No. 3; from Mr. Gowan came the inspiration of No. 6 and No. 11 holes, and he and I worked together, collected some £400, and cleared fairways, made new tees, etc. Then Mr. Reg. Jupp helped; Mr. Bienvenu, greenkeeper of the Metropolitan Golf Club, laid out No. 2 green – the best green on the place. But to Mr. Sloan Morpeth, we are heavily indebted. He laid out No. 1 hole, and implored the writer to complete his conceptions of No. 2 hole, which is done and named after Mr. Morpeth, and all he said in his generous visits was remembered. Mr. Jim Grace, Mr. Fowler, Mr. S. Dalrymple – who named No. 10 hole and helped devise No. 3 green. Hints from Mr. M. Ryan and Mr. Gus Jackson fell into greedy ears.

* Jack Relph was later to state that planting those trees was 'the worst thing my father ever did at this golf club.'

The Committee even deferred to the ladies and welcomed their pertinent suggestions as they regularly played at the Club. In July 1934, Mrs Robert Morton was asked to convene a ladies' tournament. It may have been following that tournament that A.O. Barrett recalled being reprimanded by Miss Susie Tolhurst that:

All those courses are built for men, they are not suitable for women . . . Half the people on this earth are women, and in a flash I saw: "Build one for both men and women, and you please all holiday golfers," so that on this course special tees are built for the women, shorter for the very long holes.

From this time, the Club provided special tees for lady golfers.

Misses Susie and Shirley Tolhurst, both of whom were to become Victorian ladies amateur champions, played frequently at Portsea although they were not members. Susie Tolhurst also won the Australian amateur championship twice. She later married Sloan Morpeth.

At Club birthday celebrations at the Nepean Hotel that year, A.O. Barrett 'broke all conventions by suddenly imploring those present to give the Club a concrete water tower of 15,000 gallons capacity' as its 'scanty water tanks could never sustain the grass'. Barrett's unexpected outburst had immediate repercussions:

Colonel Daly got up and started the subscription list; others followed; £85 came in, but to crown all, a note from a friend of 41 years, Mr. Otto Yuncken, promised that he would "supply all extra funds to effect the purpose."

In three months the tower, 30 feet high, 11 feet internal diameter, roofed with concrete, was built by Hansen & Yuncken and presented by Mrs. Yuncken as a gift to the Club*. Barrett, with some self-satisfaction, exclaimed: 'Now we are complete'. He further exhorted: 'It will be clever golfers who in a tournament beat 48 strokes for the 12 holes.'

Subscriptions were increased in 1934 for the first time since 1929, only the second increase since the Club had been formed. Members paid three guineas and associates paid two guineas. While subscriptions appear to have been comparatively low, members were called on to donate extra financial assistance and manpower when necessary.

As economic conditions began to improve, the Club increased its push to attract holiday golfers. Improvements to the Club House were considered and electricity was connected. However, major changes were delayed by the expectation that the Club House would need to be moved after land subdivisions were completed, as the Committee confidently expected that the newly constructed London Bridge Road would attract more visitors to the course and more land sales for shareholders of the Lands Company. For the second year running, in 1936, a professional was appointed to the course, although without a retainer. Jack Howard was employed to collect green-fees using a ticket system and the Club recommenced paying rent to the Armytage sisters, including interest on overdue monies.

By March 1937, Sandy Cunningham's wages had increased to £5 per week and Jack Howard was receiving £3/5/- per week. Jean Cunningham was also provided with an 'honorarium' of £5 for collecting the green-fees. In 1937, the Committee offered the local vicar and priest honorary membership.

Membership numbers continued to improve in 1938. Ten resignations were received, but thirty-two new membership applications were accepted, including new local associate members Mrs J. E. (Jo) Moody and Mrs D. (Doll) Spunner. There was to be no further increase in local associate membership until after the second world war.

* The water tower is still in use, although the water is only required in extremely hot and dry weather.



Susie Tolhurst



The Governor-General of the Commonwealth, Lord Gowrie, inspecting the Victorian Scottish Regiment during a visit to its camp on the Golf Course at Portsea, Victoria, in early November 1939. He is accompanied by Major R.A.B. Johnston, administering command at the time.

There were fifty local members. They paid only half the full subscription and were expected to play during week days. However, when a number of local members started playing regularly on Sundays and also 'spending too much time in the limited space available at the Club House', the Committee decided to restrict their numbers. When city members continued to complain in 1939 about the difficulty of getting a game on weekends, the Committee resolved the issue by limiting local membership to residents of Portsea. It was a move which would almost bring about the closure of the Club during the looming and difficult war years.

With the onset of hostilities in Europe, Committee meetings diminished and the Club was obliged to allow the 5th Battalion, Victorian Scottish Regiment, to occupy part of the course. The Regiment was responsible for the Flinders to Portsea ocean coastline and hinterland. 'A' Company occupied the Franklin Barracks immediately war was declared. As the Barracks were unable to accommodate everyone, a tented camp for the remainder of the Company was set up during October 1939 on what was the 1st fairway of the golf course. This rendered the course virtually unplayable. Hugh Bickerstaff, a long term Club member, who was stationed at this camp, related the following account of army activities:

Normally an army camp was situated on flat ground, so it was somewhat of a novelty to be on undulating sandhill country. The men were relatively young and fit and to utilise excess energy, one company would try to take the football from another company and this would mean fifty to sixty men pursuing an equal number from the other company in their efforts to obtain and hold the football. The ball would be kicked down what is now the 1st fairway and over the hill and all the men would disappear, then the ball would appear back over the hill and then waves of energetic youths would appear in hot pursuit with vocal encouragement from the less energetic members. No doubt today's members can visualise the large numbers that could be concealed in the various fairways on the course today! The 2/5th Battalion was also marshalled for service on the grounds of the Portsea Golf Club.

The amount collected from green-fees fell considerably while the army was in residence and the Club was soon in debt. By November 1939, concern was also expressed over damage to the course and compensation had to be sought to replace fencing and a water tank. Once the army moved on, Herbert Taylor quickly wrote to golfing editors at the *Argus* and the *Herald* requesting that they inform the golfing public that the course was playable again. But the second world war was to create almost insurmountable difficulties for the Club, just as it was beginning to show signs of recovery from its depression doldrums.

CHAPTER SIX

The 1940s – war and peace

How Portsea Golf Club was affected

The 1940s heralded new difficulties for the Portsea Golf Club. Work on the course diminished rapidly as staff joined the armed forces. Jack Howard was granted a 15/- per week wage rise but shortly afterwards left to enlist and Sandy Cunningham was left alone to work on the course. Overseeing course maintenance became increasingly difficult for the city-based Committee as petrol rationing limited travel. Other pressing responsibilities took up their time and resources as the war progressed. Membership also declined. Members were granted leave and their subscriptions waived while on active service but many simply resigned.

In 1942, following Japan's entry into the war, matters worsened. Fearing that Point Nepean could be a landing point for a Japanese invasion, the Army placed barbed wire across fairways and dug slit trenches at various strategic points, again making it almost impossible to play golf. The secretary was forced to approach the Armytage sisters to communicate the sorry state of the Club's affairs in order to explain why the Committee was again unable to pay its rent. Without the generous support of the Armytage sisters who allowed rent payments to be deferred throughout the war, the Club could easily have faced liquidation. With its finances in such a poor state, remaining members had to be circulated for contributions to provide a Christmas fund for Sandy Cunningham.

The Committee provided honorary membership as a reward for financial favours during the war. In late 1939, one member who had lent the Club £50 was asked if he would accept repayment with no interest. After agreeing, he was given honorary membership. Another longstanding member resigned but donated three guineas to the Club and was also offered honorary membership.

Because of the financial restraints, Sandy's working hours were reduced. No meetings were held in 1943 and with the Committee devoting little time to Club concerns in 1944, rumours began to circulate that the course would have to be closed for the duration of the war. Arthur Relph could think of no other solution even though it was feared that this would almost certainly lead to the demise of the Club. He explained the difficulties in a letter to Captain Sydney Newing, a medical officer at the Portsea Camp Hospital, who had expressed his disappointment that the course was to be closed:

Although we were getting along very nicely up to the outbreak of the war we now have very few members left and last year the subscriptions paid did not cover our working liabilities . . . Mr Barrett, our President, has been very good in helping us in the past, but I understand he has written to Mr Taylor suggesting that we close down until after the war is over and we can see our way to get going again . . . Mr Yuncken and Mr Kimpton are the only members (apart from myself) to offer help to keep going. The local people have never realised the value of the Golf Links in the district. We have called meetings of our Committee to place the position before them, but Mr Taylor and myself were the only members who attended. It is very unfortunate that neither Mr Taylor nor myself have been able to go down to Portsea. Mr Taylor has been kept very closely at work and has now had to go away for a complete rest. He is also due at Canberra for a conference on May 1st, immediately on his return, so I may not be able to see him for several weeks . . . I have not had a day off for 15 months as it is quite impossible for me to get



Sandy Cunningham (left) and Tom Houghton with a load of wood on the Club dray.

golf as part of their rehabilitation. He believed, after speaking to Sandy Cunningham, that with labour from the camp hospital, between them they could maintain the course with the old single gang mower. If the Club would pay for the horse feed, Sandy was willing to accept the green-fees as wages. Newing was adamant that they could 'keep the place going.'

Arthur Relph's response to Newing indicates the almost super-human efforts that had been made to keep the Club afloat previously and the reasons why this could no longer be achieved. Age and illness were taking their toll. He also clarifies one of the Committee's complaints about Sandy Cunningham – his lack of attention to keeping records:

We have tried to get reports from Sandy again and again as to the number of visitors, condition of Links, whether the hired machine was working satisfactorily, but Sandy is not built for writing reports. We have been paying him half a week's wages each week, on the understanding that he would work there half of each week, that is 2½ days per week . . . In regard to your suggestion that Sandy should take green-fees in payment for his services it would be necessary for receipts and payments to be made through a bank and records kept. We may some day need to show the Misses Armitage our records of income and expenditure. It would be better that Sandy should work on certain defined days each week and we pay him for those days by cheque, but he needs some local committee to supervise his work and keep us in touch.

Relph was neither convinced of the merit of Captain Newing's plan nor hopeful of a simple solution:

One difficulty that seems impossible to be overcome is the need sooner or later for a suitable horse mowing machine. Sandy has repeatedly told us that he could not manage with the old small single mower that you now propose to use and the Rye machine was the only one that we could find after searching all around Melbourne. That machine is too costly to rent and we have no money to buy a new or second-hand one if we could find one . . . We may be able to get enough to keep things going

away and my wife has been practically laid up for five months, being attended at home by a District Nurse who comes in for an hour on her rounds. We have not been able to get any help in the house and she needs my attention every night. My daughter (who lived with us) passed away recently after six months illness (cancer). My own health is not too good and I badly need a rest.

Captain Newing offered to assist the Club to continue. A number of armed service personnel had joined the Club during the war and ambulatory patients at the camp hospital were being encouraged to play



Tom Houghton

temporarily, and in the meantime I suggest you carry on as nearly as possible on the lines you mention; but keeping a record of any receipts and payments to Sandy . . . It is out of the question to get water laid on. They won't allow it. Somehow we have to find monies for municipal and water rates also, a fairly large sum . . . Many of our members are connected with private companies and their taxation is appalling and there is no relief in sight . . . For the Misses Armytage and Mrs Fitzpatrick's sake I am most anxious to try and find some way of carrying on for no one could have been more considerate than they have been to us. Could you name another local man who would be able to act with you as a local committee to carry things on, and who would be helpful to you? It is necessary that some local committee should superintend work and report to us. Again thanking you for your kind efforts to help us keep things going.

Yours sincerely, A.W. Relph

On April 18th, 1944, A.O. Barrett wrote to Arthur Relph. Barrett indicated that he supported Captain Newing's plan and that Mr Tom Houghton of the Portsea Hotel would help.

Captain Newing and Tom Houghton, who became a member the same year, kept the Club functioning for the remainder of the war by overseeing Sandy's work and mowing the fairways themselves with the horse-drawn mower. A.O. Barrett paid £100 for the overhaul of the

water pump which he had purchased in 1930 and suggested that Relph follow up Newing's suggestion to arrange for the removal of the barbed wire from the fairways as it was costing the Club hundreds of pounds in green-fees. The army was not at first enthusiastic:

These wire obstacles form part of the defensive plan for the protection of the Forts on the Nepean Peninsula . . . if all the wire on the Portsea Golf Links were removed, it would not only interfere with the general plan for the protection of an important military area, but it would create a precedent as regards similar wire on private property on both sides of the bay.

The army agreed to remove the wire which directly interfered with play on the 1st and 4th fairways and to review the removal of the remaining wire in six months. Following further correspondence from Arthur Relph, by Christmas 1944 the wire was removed. It had extended along what was the western boundary of the course up to the tower and also along what are now the 1st, 2nd, 13th, 17th and 18th holes. 'By this time the course was virtually closed and membership had fallen to forty.'

Arthur Relph, Les Kimpton and after 1944, O.A. Yuncken each provided ten shillings per week toward the upkeep of the Club and the Armytage sisters agreed not to make claims for rent and interest. With these generous contributions, the Committee believed that the Club would be able to carry on. Tom Houghton later bore the initial expense of connecting the Club to the State Rivers & Water Supply.

Herbert Taylor retired at the next AGM in March 1945, having filled the position of honorary secretary for twenty years. The position was accepted by Arthur Relph's son, Jack, who was a chartered accountant, and like Herbert Taylor was employed by Irish Young and Outhwaite. He had won a number of Portsea Open events as a boy and was to follow in his father's footsteps as a visionary for the Club.



Tom Houghton on gang mowers – current 18th fairway, c. 1947.

Two months later, A.O. Barrett proposed and C.L. Kimpton seconded that Herbert Taylor be made a Life Member in recognition of his services to the Club. Herbert Taylor became the second Life Member of the Portsea Golf Club, an honour well merited.

In May 1945, concessional subscription rates were set for payment of fees by military personnel and patients. By September, Club finances had begun to improve and Sandy Cunningham was again employed full-time. Interestingly, Jean Cunningham began providing a written report to the Committee regarding the condition of the course and the details of green-fees paid. 'Mrs Sandy' continued to submit reports to the Committee until Sandy's retirement.

After the war ended, membership gradually increased. However, active Committee members remained difficult to find. In March 1946, A.O. Barrett intimated that he would be resigning from the Club. Despite this he was again elected president. At the AGM in 1947, Barrett finally retired at the age of seventy-six and C.L. Kimpton was elected president. Tom Houghton was one of several new faces elected to the Committee that year.

When dissatisfaction was voiced again about Sandy Cunningham's performance and the general condition of the course, Houghton was given authority to oversee Sandy's work. In April 1949, W. (Bill) McGrath, who had been a junior member in the 1930s and had worked at the Sorrento Golf Club under Walter Scott, was appointed course curator. Sandy, who had played a major role in creating the course, continued to work at the Club until the 1950s.

Purchasing Club land

Ownership of the leased land became an important issue at this time, as the Misses Armytage and Mrs Fitzpatrick intended to sell *Delgany*. Jack Relph reported that the Armytage sisters preferred to sell the property to the Club rather than to renew the lease and during the year, investigations were carried out to assess the possibility of purchasing the land. On April 1st, 1949, the Committee resolved that the secretary should approach the Armytage sisters with a view to them accepting a down payment of £2000, the balance of £2,485 to be paid at the end of five years. Jack Relph was instructed to draw up alternative schemes to finance the purchase, to be presented to members at an Extraordinary General Meeting. By July 1949, the Committee had decided to form a company in which members could purchase debentures, the minimum amount being £10. Interest was set at 4.5 percent per annum. The company was to be 'limited by guarantee so that the liability of members would be limited'. The minimum amount required for the £2000 deposit was promised by November at which time the Committee decided to proceed with the purchase, recording:

It was decided . . . that members who had promised to take out debentures be circularised asking them to pay in amounts promised by February 28th, 1950, by which date it was anticipated the company will be formed and that interest will commence as from March 1st, 1950.

Arthur Relph died just prior to the momentous decision to purchase the leased land. As the Club's history records, Relph had been the linchpin in the Club's foundation and survival. The position of captain, which he held up until his death, was left vacant. He died before he could be made a Life Member.

To encourage members to become more involved with the organisation of the Club, a Committee meeting at the Portsea Hotel on June 11th, 1949 was timed to coincide with the annual tournament on the King's Birthday weekend. Approximately sixteen members attended. Both Tom Houghton and Jack Relph were nominated for the position of captain. Both declined, Relph responding that with the current president and Committee, he did not feel that the Club required a captain. Houghton concurred with Relph and so the position remained vacant.

It was at this meeting that Tom Houghton, a member of five years standing, was elected as a Life Member in recognition of the work he had undertaken to ensure the course remained open during the difficult war years.

The security of the Club appeared to have reached a turning point by the end of 1949. Not only was it about to purchase its own land, but Club income was beginning to increase substantially, from £450 in 1948 to £1250 in 1949. Arthur Relph's vision for a Portsea Golf Club, securely settled on its own land, finally seemed about to become a reality.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Building a golf course

1924 – 1950

When Arthur Relph secured the land at Portsea, he sought to ensure that the course could be developed unhindered by any concerns that it might later be required to relocate. Portsea Golf Club has never had to change its location. However, prior to 1950, there were a number of changes to the configuration of its holes. This chapter will examine early developments and changes. Numbers in brackets indicate the holes as they are currently numbered.

Jock Young was commissioned by A.W. Relph to design the original nine hole layout for the Portsea Lands Company in 1924. Once the tedious initial clearing of the dense ti-tree was completed, the land had to be ploughed prior to planting the couch roots. The natural terrain was utilised as much as possible to simplify the workload.

In February 1926, less than two months after the formation of the Portsea Golf Club, an additional hole was added. This hole was played from just alongside where the water tower now stands down to a green some 126 yards toward the current 14th ladies' tee. Arthur Relph referred to it as 'Wee Drappie' although A.O. Barrett called it 'The Honey Drop'. Mr W. Meader of the Victoria Golf Club, was given the credit by A.W. Relph for this hole. Already many newspaper articles were praising the course, although a report in the *Australasian* in late 1926 was rather more circumspect:

The greens varied in pace, some being slow and others of an opposite character. Through the green the lies were excellent, and there is no doubt that when the turf has had time to mature the course will easily realise the high expectations entertained for its future. A few of the greens are lacking in character and sooner or later an expert will have to be called in to re-form them.

The Committee made numerous attempts to improve the character of the greens over the following few years and first Reg Jupp and then Alex Russell were requested to produce a report on the course. In June 1929, the Committee accepted Russell's recommendations for new and remodelled greens (these plans are printed on pages 26 and 27). New greens were developed at the 1st, 7th, 8th and 9th holes and new tees at the 2nd, 4th and 9th. The only green which bears any relationship today to this layout is the current 13th which is in the same position as the 6th hole at that time.

The 1st green was moved to the position of the current chipping green, the 7th (14th) was extended to about 40 metres short of the current 14th green, the 8th became a new little 90 yard hole with the green close to where the 15th tee is now situated and the 9th (15th) was extended from opposite the causeway to down in the hollow about 35 metres short of the existing 15th green.

The 2nd tee was moved from the chipping area to left of the current 9th green, thus making the hole a dogleg. This area is still level and with a quick mow could again be utilised. The 4th tee was moved from near the *Delgany* fence line to the position of the new (1997) forward 17th tee. The 7th tee (14th) was moved slightly left and the 8th tee for the new 90 yard hole was against the London Bridge Road fence, some 20 metres short of the 14th green. By 1930, the course had been extended to eleven holes, the main alteration being the additional 90 yard, 8th hole.



Club House and 3rd (now 18th) fairway, November 1924

Russell indicated in his report that he had some ideas for another hole, although he needed more time to think about it. His report finished with a series of general recommendations:

1. All slopes to be gentle.
2. No straight embankments or straight lines of any sort round the greens.
3. Greens to be flat and almost level within five yards of the pin at least.
4. All the mounds shown should be sufficiently low and broad to be cut with the mower.
5. The immediate approaches to the greens need attention generally. The small bumps and hollows flattened and the turf improved.

In May 1930, the Committee gave approval for alterations to the 2nd, 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th holes. The following month further alterations to the 7th, 9th and 10th holes were approved but not for the tee at the 5th. A.O. Barrett tabled a further report on the course which he had commissioned personally of Reg Jupp from the Metropolitan Golf Club, Barrett's city club. Jupp's suggestions were accepted even though Herbert Taylor voiced reservations about the added expense.

The same month, the Committee resolved to build a new 8th hole and cut out the short 90 yard hole as well as the changes to the 7th, 9th, and 10th holes. This new 8th is the current 14A par 3 hole. Jack Howard later explained how the work was undertaken:

After deciding where the tee would be, Sandy stayed there and I fought and crawled my way up the hill through dense ti-tree until arriving about where I thought the green had to go. I threw sticks up in the air for Sandy to see and he would yell for me to move right, left, forward or back until it appeared ok. I then put a stick in the ground and that was the centre of the green. Then we had to clear all the scrub and try to make the hole.

In July 1930, A.O. Barrett reported that this work had been completed and that Mr Cuming, whose family had joined the preceding month, was paying for a new practice putting green in front of the Club House. Miss Cain, from the Nepean Hotel, had organised for her gardener to prepare a garden around the putting green.

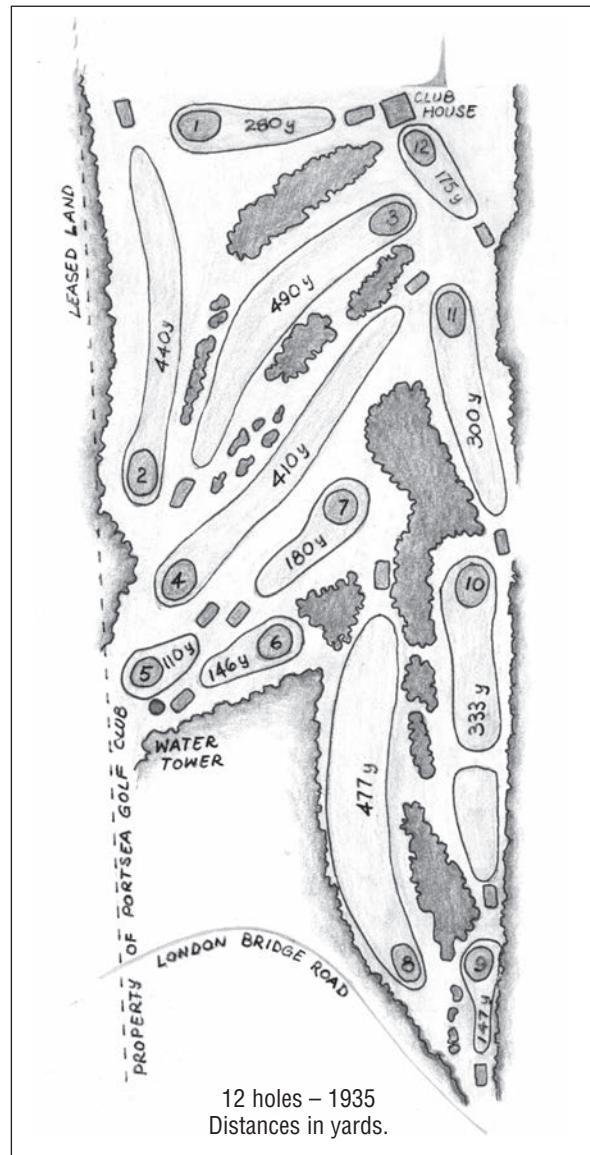
Soon after this, following the damning statement by Arthur Relph on the condition of the course, work was curtailed. Apart from maintenance, the only additional course work undertaken in 1931 was to lift the old short 8th and relay it to the new 8th green.

At the AGM in June 1932, Arthur Relph referred to the excellent condition of the course and the improvement since the new 8th was opened and alterations had been carried out on the 7th, 9th and 10th holes. He also remarked on the construction of the new 5th hole which was entirely funded and supervised by A.O. Barrett. This additional hole, which had been recommended earlier by Reg Jupp, started from the area of the current 2nd tee and played up to an area about 30 metres to the right side of the tower. The Committee, at this stage, had reached the course target of twelve holes. It would remain the same for the next twenty-five years.

A.O. Barrett continued to fund and supervise improvements to the course. By April 1933, Committee approval had been obtained to lengthen the 3rd hole and to change the tee and green on the 12th. Jock Young was asked to mark out the new greens. The green at the 3rd hole (18th) was directly below the present spike bar and its outline is still recognisable. The new green was located in the vicinity of the first group of fairway bunkers.

Few changes occurred after this. The 10th and 7th tees were moved in 1937 and the 12th hole was lengthened in 1939 by moving the green up the hill to the present car park, almost against the fence. The 7th (13th) tee change, which was to the left of the current ladies 2nd tee, extended the hole some 40 yards. This work was organised, completed and paid for by Barrett and the *fait accompli* only later reported to the Committee! Just how much of his own money Barrett put into the course remains a mystery, but he certainly put *his stamp* on it.

No more alterations were made until the army relinquished control of the course after the war. The Club then regrouped and negotiations were initiated to purchase the leased land. In April 1949, the 1st tee was moved to a position just south and forward of the old Club House, as the Committee anticipated that homes would be built on the land sold by the Portsea Lands Company along Relph Ave. But the main objective at this time was simply to maintain the course in as good a condition as possible and to consolidate Club finances.



Course machinery

Throughout these early years, the use of manpower for maintenance, course alterations and additions was a necessary and ongoing expense for the Club, as very little machinery was used. Greens were covered with couch grass and were cut by a hand mower twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. In 1939, the Club was given a motor mower for the greens, by that time a mixture of couch and wire grass which was impossible to cut with a hand mower.

On Black Friday in January 1939, as Victoria blazed, Jack Howard was out mowing the greens as usual. He recalled that it was so hot that after mowing the first green the motor seized and he was forced to leave it under the pine trees until the next day to cool down.

Until 1935, the fairways were cut using a small, horse-drawn gang mower about a metre wide. The mower was too narrow to be effective and Jack remembers in the late 1920s, taking a day to mow what is now the 18th fairway. Before lunch, he mowed the section from the tee to the pine trees; the remaining section was mown after lunch. By the time he had finished mowing all the fairways, it was time to begin again.

The horses that pulled the mowers were grazed in a fenced area where the 1st fairway and Club House are now positioned. Jack Howard recalled that before the second world war, when the worksheds were in their former position, his first job each morning was to hit a four gallon drum loudly to arouse the horses. They virtually galloped in from the course where they had been grazing overnight, to be fed near the sheds. At times the draught horse which pulled the gang mower was too slow and Jack Howard would yell very loudly in an attempt to make it hurry. One day A.O. Barrett came over and asked Jack not to be so noisy. While Barrett was around, Jack refrained from yelling, but as soon as he had walked away, Jack would begin yelling at the horse again just to get the mowing finished.

The Berrigan fairway mower was purchased in November 1935, at a cost of £47/10/-. But it began to give trouble during the war years and, until funds dried up, a motor driven mower was rented for £1 per week from the Rye Golf Club. It was not until early 1946 that a reconditioned gang mower was purchased to replace the Berrigan. The Club then had to wait until petrol rationing was lifted in 1948 to purchase a tractor to pull the gang mower.

When A.O. Barrett offered five guineas to assist with the purchase of the mower in 1935, perhaps it was to reduce the noise Jack made calling and working the horses.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Matches and competitions to 1949

When the Club was formed on January 1st, 1926, play among members was mostly social. The first documented competition was a 'Summer Meeting' held on the December 27th and 28th, 1926. The rules of golf at that time allowed the Committee to vary a 'stipulated round' from 18 holes and events were played over whatever number of holes a golf course had. The *Australasian* titled the event – *'The Portsea Open Meeting'*. It reported that the weather was fine, the course was dry and a good field found the golf interesting although a cool south-east wind made conditions difficult, something present day members would understand. The result of the men's event was a tie on 40 for the ten holes between R. Felstead and Jack Relph, both playing off a handicap of 12. Felstead won in a playoff. Jack Relph was only 13 years old at the time. The mixed foursomes in the afternoon was won by Mr Elvin and Mrs Marshall. The following day, the men's foursomes was won by Herbert Taylor and A. Taylor, off a 9 handicap. Mrs Marshall won the ladies' event as well, with 47 off a 9 handicap.

The Committee appear to have used their very substantial influence after this to invite the open champion of Australia, Ivo Whitton, and the amateur champion of Victoria, A.W. (Gus) Jackson, to play an exhibition match on January 30th, 1927. The *Morning Post* informs us that 'Ivo Whitton, playing at the top of his form, established a record at Portsea by playing the 10 holes in 38 strokes.' A.W. Jackson stated that he was off his game. He only halved the seventh hole and Whitton won the other nine. A hole-by-hole resume gives an account of perfect drives, misjudged chips, shots with a 'baffy', perfect chips and Jackson's 'mashie niblick' approach. Many of these terms would appear strange to the modern golfer. Gus

Jackson was generally regarded as a foursomes specialist, winning the State foursomes twice and the National foursomes four times. He won the State amateur title again in 1933 and completed five seasons of Pennant without losing a match.

On Foundation Day (Australia Day) weekend in 1928, the course was in good condition and many members and visitors played private matches on the Saturday. On Sunday, a four-ball match was played to encourage well-known golfers to compete at Portsea, to promote both the course and the area. Australian amateur champion, W.S. Nankivell and Henry Schlapp competed against S. Dalrymple and E.G. (Abe) Schlapp, who had been runner-up to Ivo Whitton for the Victorian title in 1923. The latter pair won comfortably. S. Dalrymple went around in two over bogey. A sweepstake on the Monday resulted in a tie between Jack Relph and two others.



Abe Schlapp – 1930s



Ivo Whitton



W. S. Nankivell

In March 1928, the first official Open meeting was held. Jack Relph won both the men's handicap and the Portsea trophy. In the mixed foursomes he was placed with Miss Stogdale, the daughter of a Committee member Fred Stogdale. The winner of the event was Miss Susie Tolhurst with her father, E.K. Tolhurst.

The second Open meeting was held on the Eight Hour Anniversary holiday weekend in March 1929. The major event was the Portsea trophy played on Monday over twenty holes. A.O. Barrett and his partner won the foursomes event and A.W. Relph and J. Relph were placed third. Herbert Taylor and his partner were placed third in the mixed foursomes and A.O. Barrett and his partner were fifth. The enthusiastic Committee proved themselves to be not only dedicated administrators but competent golfers.

The third Open meeting in January 1930 generated an interesting piece of trivia in *The Age*:

On Boxing day at Portsea, Dr Frank May showed something out of the ordinary in niblick skill. At both the 3rd and 4th holes he found bunkers near the green. In each case he was so sure of his hitting, and so deadly in his direction, that the ball went from heavy sand to the cup without more ado. It may be a better policy in future for May to shoot for the bunkers instead of the greens, and toss the putter out of his bag altogether.

PORTSEA GOLF CLUB

FIRST ANNUAL

OPEN MEETING

Under the Auspices of the Victorian Golf Association

WILL BE HELD ON THE LINKS AT
PORTSEA
— ON —
23rd, 24th and 26th MARCH
— 1928 —
(Eight Hour's Anniversary Holiday)



ENTRIES CLOSE 15th MARCH, 1928, with
H. TAYLOR, Hon. Sec., 422 Chancery Lane, Melbourne

Event No. 1—LADIES' HANDICAP
Friday, 23rd March, commencing at 2 o'clock.

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 10 Holes—Stroke Play. | Entrance Fee, 2/6 |
| 1st Prize | Trophy, value £2/2/- |
| 2nd Prize | " " £1/1/- |

Event No. 2—MEN'S FOURSOMES
Saturday, 24th March, commencing at 9.30 a.m.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10 Holes—Stroke Play. | Entrance Fee, 5/- each pair. |
| 1st Prize | Two Trophies, value £2/2/- each |
| 2nd Prize | " " £1/1/- " |

Event No. 3—MIXED FOURSOMES
Saturday, 24th March, commencing at 2 p.m.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10 Holes—Stroke Play. | Entrance Fee, 5/- each pair. |
| 1st Prize | Two Trophies, value £2/2/- each |
| 2nd Prize | " " £1/1/- " |

Event No. 4—PORTSEA TROPHY
Monday, 26th March, commencing at 9.30 a.m.
(Played concurrently with Events Nos. 5 and 6)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 20 Holes—Stroke Play. | Entrance Fee, 2/6. |
| 1st Prize | Trophy, value £3/3/- |
| 2nd Prize | " " £1/1/- |

Event No. 5—MEN'S HANDICAP
Monday Morning, 26th March, commencing at 9.30 a.m.
(Played concurrently with Event No. 4)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 10 Holes—Stroke Play. | Entrance Fee, 2/6. |
| 1st Prize | Trophy, value £2/2/- |
| 2nd Prize | " " £1/1/- |

Event No. 6—MEN'S HANDICAP
Monday Afternoon, 26th March, commencing at 2 p.m.
(Played concurrently with Event No. 4)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 10 Holes—Stroke Play. | Entrance Fee, 2/6. |
| 1st Prize | Trophy, value £2/2/- |
| 2nd Prize | " " £1/1/- |

The Committee reserves the right to limit the number of entries in any event.

Competition included a schoolgirls' and schoolboys' scratch event. The outstanding feature in the open events was the performance of two schoolboy golfers, Harry Williams and Jack Relph. The *Age* reported that in the Portsea handicap event, Jack Relph won with a nett 83 for twenty-two holes and in the scratch event he tied with Harry Williams with 91 off the stick. The morning eleven holes handicap was won by another schoolboy Alf Barrett, A.O.'s son. On the following day, when the schoolboys and schoolgirls played, the contest was narrowed down to Harry Williams and Jack Relph, the latter the victor by one stroke. Jack Relph at the time of this meeting was seventeen years old, attending Melbourne Grammar and playing Pennant golf for Riversdale. He later became Victorian schoolboy champion. (John Kellaway, who joined the Club in the early 1980s, also won the event in 1952. In 1990, Ryan Meadows won the title of schoolboy champion at Long Island and his younger brother Brad emulated the feat in 1992 at Riversdale. They became the only brothers in Victoria to have both been schoolboy champions.)

Harry Williams was only fourteen years old in 1930, off a handicap of scratch and playing Pennant for Commonwealth Golf Club. In the following year he was to become the youngest Australian amateur champion ever at just sixteen years of age. Williams won this title again in 1937. He also won five Victorian titles between 1931 and 1939. It is generally accepted in golfing history that he was the greatest left handed golfer Australia has ever produced. There is an oft told story which shows just how good Harry Williams was. One Saturday morning he was playing at Victoria Golf Club in a par event off a plus two handicap. After nine holes, he had two eagles and six birdies, and was 10 under the card and 8 up. Instead of playing the remaining nine holes, he recorded nine losses on his card, whereupon he packed up his clubs and went to the races. He still won the competition. He only played social golf occasionally after 1939. He was to die tragically with his mother in a gas filled room in 1961.



Harry Williams

The fourth Open meeting was held in January 1931. The *Sporting Globe* reported:



Sloan Morpeth

At the Portsea Annual Open Meeting there were received good entries for the events of the two days, and the presence in the field of Sloan Morpeth, Gus Jackson, and Harry Williams of the "plus" brigade and National Woman Champion Miss Susie Tolhurst added distinction to the gathering. A well-kept and greatly improved course was enjoyed to the full and even the crack players found most of the holes of the calibre that calls for thought as well as perfectly judged shots. Sloan Morpeth won the scratch event over 22 holes, and played golf that was of high class to be three under fours (85). Harry Williams was also in hot form and accounted for the rounds in 86 strokes . . . In the Portsea Cup event young J. Shackell who shows real ability was two strokes back in second place. He won the opening handicap on the first day after a play-off. . . . One of the finest young golfers who play regularly at Portsea is Jack Relph. He and Miss Swanson won the mixed foursomes. The veteran amateur Australasian walking champion A.O. Barrett, who is President of the club, partnered by Miss D. Carnegie, occupied second place in the social foursomes.

This was the first time the new Armytage Cup was played. It was the gift of the Misses Armytage and made of solid silver. The Armytage Cup was a handicap event played over twenty-two holes and it was won by H.J. Blight with a nett 78. As Blight was not a member at Portsea, this caused some consternation, considering the value of the trophy. Rather than Blight take it home, Riversdale Golf Club, his home club, was asked to hold the cup for the year.

Although the depression affected many activities at the Club, the annual Open meetings continued to be held. The fifth Open meeting was held over the New Year weekend of 1932. A four ball best ball event for



Mick Ryan

men was included at this time. Sloan Morpeth and Mick Ryan were part of the field. On the first day, Susie Tolhurst had the best gross score with 50 and her sister Shirley was second with 53. Miss Peggy Strutt from Tongala won the handicap event by 8 shots with a nett 37. The highlight of the next day was the new course record of 38 set by Mick Ryan, overtaking Reg Jupp's record for the course of 40, established the previous year. The par for the course was 40 but the bogey was 43. The *Argus* reported that Ryan's only mistake was 'an error of judgment when his niblick approach failed by a foot to carry on to the ninth green'. Ryan's 38 was achieved in the best ball event in which his partner failed to score on any hole. Despite this, they were placed second only to T.Cuming and C. Dobson. Jack Relph again showed his good judgment in his selection of partners, winning the mixed event with Miss Strutt with nett 39 off an 8 handicap. Sloan Morpeth and Susie Tolhurst easily recorded the best gross with 43. Sloan played with his future father-in-law in the four ball event, perhaps a good diplomatic move, but they failed to win.

Mick Ryan's course record was no surprise. He was an accomplished golfer, becoming Victorian amateur champion in 1930 and 1932. He later won the 1932 Australian Open, as well as an Australian amateur, an Australian foursomes and four Victorian foursomes championships.

The results of Armytage Cup were well-reported. One article stated:

Alf Barrett [A.O.'s son] a skilful young Metropolitan player, who is also a noted swimmer, appearing to have it won after the morning round and leading by 4, however in the afternoon developed a fit of "socketing". J. Brownell was being hailed the winner with a net 83 off a 3 handicap, but very late in the day A.O. Barrett handed in his card which gave him a net 80 off 27.

While the sizes of previous fields were not recorded, the 1932 Armytage Cup was reported to have had a large field of seventy-three players. In the best ball there were thirty pairs and the total entry for all events was 140 players, perhaps the best to date. The *Argus* reported that:

The Cup was presented to the winner by the captain (Mr A.W. Relph) who said that in view of the valuable work done for the Club by Mr Barrett, and the unselfish and valuable service which he continued to give it, no worthier winner of the trophy could be found. The tournament, the fifth, was easily the most successful to date.

The condition of the course was again deemed newsworthy. In the *Australasian*, Harry Culliton, a well known and former top golfer, gave a comprehensive rundown of the events and then turned his attention to the course. He commented on the 'giant strides' that had been made in the past few years and that a 12th hole (the hole up to the water tower) would be brought into commission any day. He suggested that the main event, however, should be the 'scratch' rather than the handicap, perhaps a not surprising comment as he had been a very low handicap golfer for many years. He alluded to the shot of Brownell which 'drove to the green on the 10th hole which was 284 yards, [currently that hole forms part of the 15th] although there was a wind assisting him.' He also referred to A.O. Barrett's win in the Armytage cup as 'a wonderful effort for the old gentleman'. One wonders how Barrett, who was sixty-two years of age at that time, reacted to that comment!

In May 1932, Mrs C. L. Kimpton, an associate member of Portsea and Metropolitan, whose husband Les was to be president between 1947 and 1950, 'boled in one' on the fifth hole of 120 yards. This was the "Wee Drappie" or "Honey Drop". The following day she repeated the feat and suggested to Jack Howard that he leave the hole where it was and never change it!

The sixth Open meeting was transferred to the March Eight-Hour Day weekend, to avoid clashing with the Test Match over the New Year, a sign of the drawing power of a cricket match, even among dedicated golfers! By this time the new 5th hole was in play, a short par 3 of some 110 yards. The Armytage Cup was therefore played over twenty-four holes. The meeting was said to have concluded in 'disagreeable weather'. A.W. Relph was the very popular winner and it seems fitting that he and A.O. Barrett should win the Club's most prestigious event in consecutive years. Relph won with a net 92 and by 2 shots from Dr A.E.V. Hartkopf, who had holed out in one at the new 5th hole. Jack Relph won the gross event with 98 for the 24 holes. He was playing off scratch at this time and had holed in one on the 8th three months earlier.

At the end of 1932, the Committee organised and personally funded a professional purse, a decision which showed great courage in the difficult economic times. The event was highly successful, indeed it might be considered a forerunner to the very popular present-day Portsea Pro-Am. The winner was Charlie Connors from Eastern Golf Club. In the first round he scored 44 against a par of 43, and in the afternoon he had

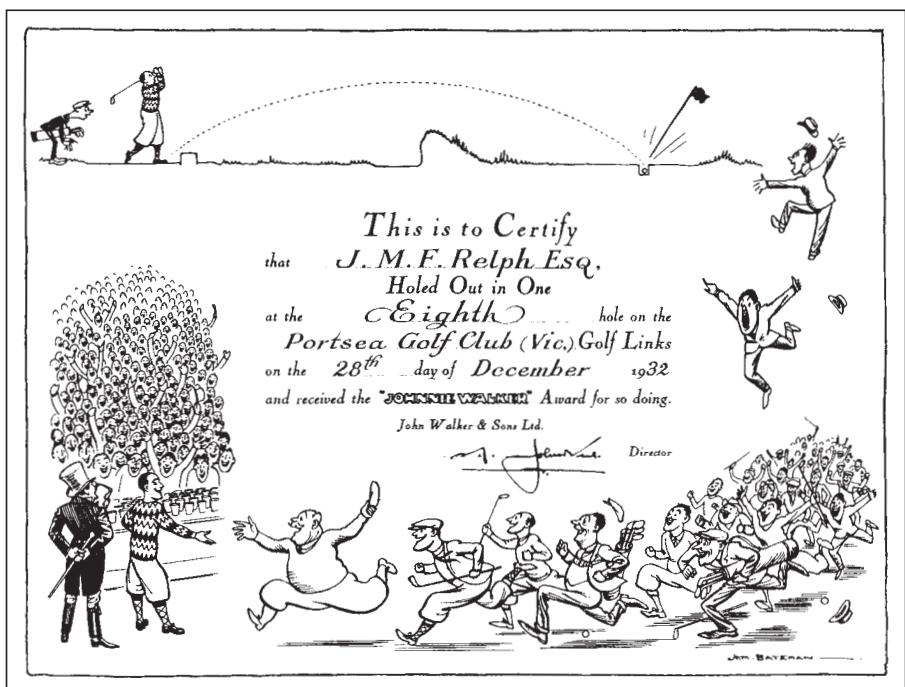
46, which gave him a three stroke victory over W. Fowler and C. Smith. Some other well-known names in the event included Colin Campbell, Bill Clifford, Ted and George Naismith, Reg Jupp, Jock Young, Horrie Boorer and Arthur LeFevre. It was Connors' third consecutive win and was testimony to his long and controlled hitting. *The Sporting Globe* commented glowingly on the event and the course:

Without qualification, last Saturday at Portsea, was a success. Men like Messrs A.O. Barrett (President), A.W. Relph (Captain), Herbert Taylor (Hon. Sec.) and C.L. Kimpton do not associate themselves with half organised events. . . Arthur Le Fevre is not a man given to exaggeration. He weighs his words well. When he said he had never played over better turf on fairways than that at Portsea, he meant it. Connors and the rest of the star pros fully supported that statement. The greens were good, the layout clever, the test of golf difficult, and the natural features of the country well exploited. Of all extra-metropolitan courses, the professionals were emphatic in rating Portsea next to Barwon Heads.



Arthur Le Fevre

The seventh Open meeting in 1934 was again conducted over the New Year period and despite the depression, twenty-nine pairs contested the mixed foursomes over twelve holes, which was won by Mr D. Stogdale and Miss Forstal. The Armytage Cup was won by D.C. Kimpton by one shot from his father C.L. Kimpton. Like many other Portsea members, D.C. Kimpton was a member of Metropolitan Golf Club.



**HOLIDAY GOLF
AT PORTSEA**
Star 18/12/35

Earlier Dates Allotted

The Portsea Golf Club will hold its annual meeting earlier than usual this season, the dates allotted being Friday and Saturday, December 27 and 28. These dates are expected to be more convenient for visitors.

At the request of a number of ladies who will be visiting Portsea an event for ladies will be played on Friday morning and a mixed foursomes in the afternoon.

On the Saturday the Armytage Cup will be played for all day and there will be also separate events for morning and afternoon.

Post entries will be taken and all events will be handicaps open to members of all associated clubs.

During the year extensions and alterations to the course have been made.

An invitation has been issued to all professional golfers in the State to visit Portsea links on Saturday, January 11, when they will play a two-round event for a purse to be presented by members of the club.

After taking a mediocre 55 in the first round of 12 holes in the Armytage Cup at Portsea, Laurie Duffy, the promising Yarra Yarra player, completed the 12 holes in the second round with a record 46, breaking the previous record by two strokes.

The morning handicap of 12 holes was won by A. J. Terdich (Commonwealth), who returned a net 38 for a 10 handicap. His gross score of 48 equalled the course record, which was later smashed by Duffy.

With an aggregate of 96 for the 24 holes, Basil Mogg (Eastern) led Laurie Duffy (Yarra Yarra) by 4 strokes in the Armytage Cup scratch event at Portsea, A. J. Terdich, with a score of 101, being third.

Men's Handicap, 12 holes, and Armytage Cup, 24 holes, in conjunction.

- 38—A. J. Terdich (10).
- 42—A. F. Hansen (10).
- 44—D. Vibert (8).
- 45—C. R. Hansen (10), B. Terdich (14), R. G. Anderson (5).
- 46—J. R. Relph (2), B. Mogg (3), E. Barnard (9), T. Mitchell (5).
- 47—E. H. Hudson (3), H. J. Blight (7), A. J. Nicholas (7), P. Renn (7).
- 48—M. F. Holmes (12), V. G. Matthews (9), A. O. Barrett (11).

Second Round Armytage Cup.

- 96—B. V. Mogg (49, 47).
- 100—L. Duffy (55, 45).
- 101—A. J. Terdich (48, 53), J. Relph (48, 53).
- 105—F. A. Hansen (52, 53).
- 108—T. Mitchell (51, 57).
- 109—J. M. Barrett (54, 55).
- 110—K. Jamieson (55, 55).

Afternoon Handicap. Played concurrently with second round Armytage Cup.

- 43—F. A. Hansen (10).
- 44—B. Mogg (3), T. G. Flizzy (11).
- 45—B. Terdich (14).
- 46—L. Duffy (plus 1).

Star 28.12.35



AT PORTSEA.—Mrs. and Mr. M. T. Ryan, Mrs. and Mr. Albion Walkley, and, standing, Mr. A. W. Reiph, president of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce, and founder and captain of the Portsea Golf Club, taken on the links during the Portsea golf tournament.

Extracts from The Star – 1935

The eighth Open meeting was held at the end of December 1935. The *Star* reported that these slightly earlier dates would suit visitors and remarked on the extensions and alterations that had taken place on the course during the year. The conditions on the first day were ideal. The women's event in the morning was won by Mrs Barnard with a nett 40 from Miss Kimpton who had 45. One hundred players took part in the mixed foursomes in the afternoon, which was won by Mr M. Barnard and Mrs Black. The men's event on the Saturday was played in dull, cold and windy conditions with A.J. Terdich playing off 10 and winning by 3 shots from A.F. Hanson. The best gross was 96 by B. Mogg who defeated Laurie Duffy, a 'plus man' from Yarra Yarra, by 4 strokes. Duffy's brother, Eric, was a professional golfer and both had learnt to play golf while caddying at Royal Queensland Golf Club with Norman Von Nida. Duffy's afternoon round of 45 was a course record. The *Sun* reported that 'entries for the meeting were 278, exceeding the previous highest figure by more than 100.'

Invitations were again issued to professional golfers to compete for a purse in a two round event at Portsea in January 1935. The *Age*, *Herald* and *Star* all gave the day extensive coverage. J.M. Dillon, in the *Herald* leader, listed the highlights. Charlie Connors' 44 was one stroke better than the record set by Laurie Duffy two weeks previously. Alan Maiden's hole in one was on the blind, short 5th hole of 110 yards. It was his fifth 'ace'. When he was asked if he had used a No 7 or No 8, he replied 'I took my mashie,' emphasising his scorn for golf clubs that did not possess the original names of his native land, 'and played a half shot'. Remarkably, during the first 12 holes Maiden scored a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, although not in sequence. Len Boorer, playing a one iron for his second at the 477 yards 8th (now 14th), found that the head of the club flew ahead 60 yards, while the ball travelled only 30 yards. And Reg Jupp's tee shot finished just six inches from the hole on the 220 yard 12th.

Fred Thompson won the day with rounds of 46 and 45. He started with a two at the first hole of 280 yards, by putting his second shot after driving the green. However, a double bogey on the short 5th was disappointing. He defeated Connors by two shots, with Alan Maiden a further three shots away. The *Age* reported that nearly every metropolitan professional had travelled to Portsea to play for the purses of £10, £3 and £2.

The ninth Open meeting was held over the New Year period of 1936-37. R. Roth of Commonwealth Golf Club, on a 16 handicap won the Armytage Cup with nett 96 for the 24 holes. J. Guest from Royal Melbourne Golf Club, from a two handicap was one shot further back, winning the gross event with a 99.

On the Easter Saturday of 1937, professionals were again guests of the Club, competing for a purse in a 24 hole event. The *Argus* reported the day:

Many of last years players stayed in Melbourne to meet Walter Hagen and Joe Kirkwood. Len Boorer returned the best card in the morning with 45 and George Naismith equalled that in the afternoon. There was a three-way tie between L. Boorer, E. Wood and G. Naismith on 93. Eight more holes were played with Wood finishing three shots in front of Boorer with Naismith coming third. A.O. Barrett, the president and A.W. Relph the captain presented the trophies. Great satisfaction was expressed at the condition of the course and reference was made to the advantage of natural bunkering in its layout.

The annual New Year Open meeting was not held in 1938. The Armytage Cup was deferred as well. It was played for a last time on December 30th, 1939, prior to a six year break during the war. The leading card was returned by Mr Hewett, a local member who did not have a handicap and therefore was disqualified. The next best card, by Mr Sinclair, had been marked by Mr Hewett, who was not eligible to sign it, and so Sinclair also was disqualified. The third best card was by Mr Meckiff who was declared the winner, some would say by default. After the war, the Armytage Cup was played again during the Open meeting. By the 1950s, however, these open events were discontinued and it was not until 1977 that the Armytage Cup again was linked to another open meeting, the Spring Tournament. It has been played in conjunction with this tournament ever since.

The war put an end to all competitions until 1947. Tom Houghton reported just prior to Easter 1947, that he and Sandy Cunningham were hoping to have the course in good condition for a tournament referred to in the *Herald* as the 'Portsea Open'. That year the winner of the Armytage Cup played over twenty-four holes was K. Halley with a nett 91 off a 12 handicap. Jack Relph was runner up on 95 off the same handicap. Jack's handicap had gone out from 4 to 12 in ten years. K. Halley also won the scratch event with 103. The *Argus* reported that the highlight of the tournament was:

The approach work of Mrs A. Cunningham (Sandy's wife) who holed 30 yard chips on the second and seventh. Her playing partner T. H. Houghton was in rare putting form.

In 1949, the Club held an Open event during the King's Birthday weekend on the Saturday and Monday. Mr Ray Wright, the professional at Cheltenham, organised the meeting and he is recorded in the Club minutes as doing it 'very smoothly'. R.J. Williams won the Armytage Cup with 89 for the twenty-four holes. W. R. Scott won the scratch with a 98. The four ball event was won with a score of five-up by K. Halley who was off two and W. Ford off eleven. The mixed event was won by G. Fiedler and Mrs Stevens.

The *Peninsula Post* reported on the condition of the course after the Open event in 1949. It commented that the Portsea golf course 'under the care of W. McGrath is now one of the best outside the metropolitan area'.

The Nepean Cup

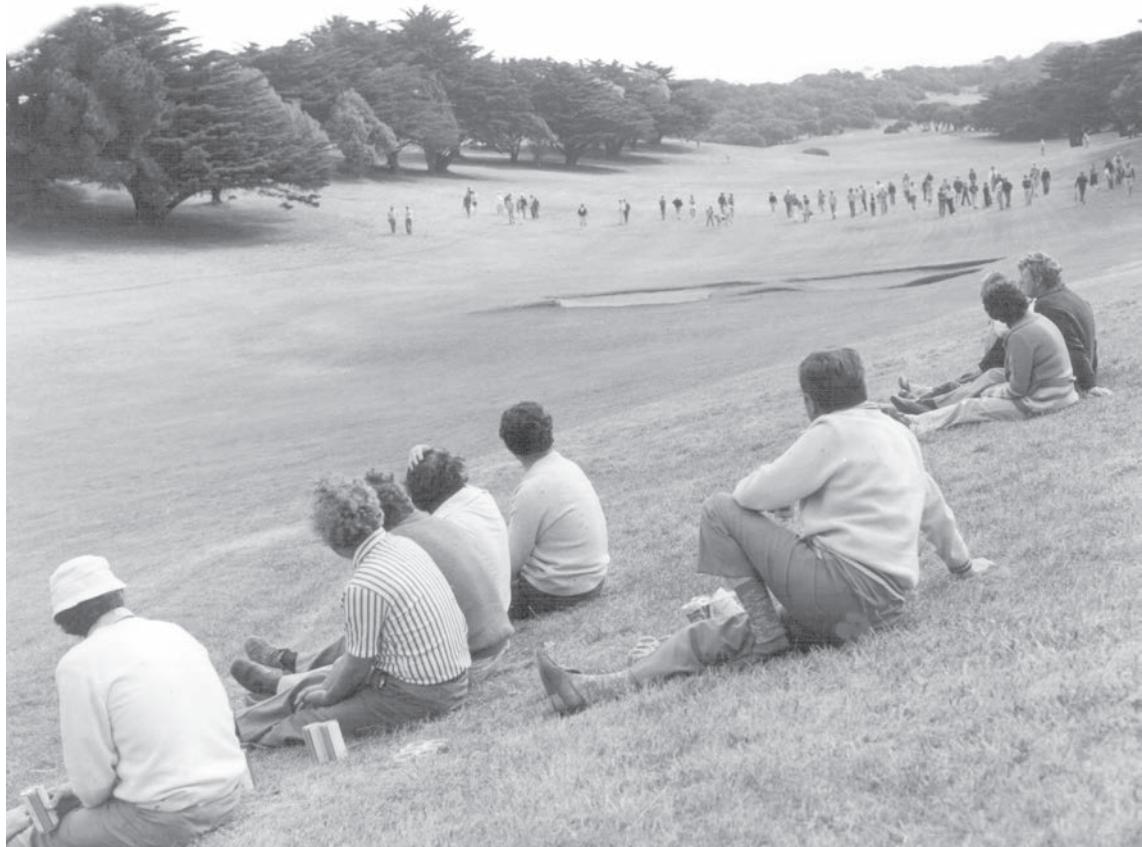
During the latter part of 1937, the Nepean Cup was donated by the four Misses Cain. They were all members, had supported the Club since its inception and regularly played golf at Portsea. The sisters had often donated trophy money for open meetings, but when they donated the Nepean Cup, it was expressly intended for a Sunday competition between local members. However, as members under the 'local' category paid half the normal subscription and had no voting rights in the Club, owing to prior agreements with the VGA, Herbert Taylor asked Sandy Cunningham to advise the Misses Cain that the Club could not permit such a competition on a Sunday. Interestingly, Sandy informed him after the event, that the competition had been held on a weekday. The first winner was Max McDonald. It is apparent that the Committee was patently unaware of much that took place on the course while they were in Melbourne and they certainly had very little to do with the competitions that were played among the local members. The Nepean Cup was not played for between 1940 to 1949 or in 1951. Since then it has been competed for annually. A fifties and over event has been played concurrently with the Nepean Cup since 1990.

SECTION TWO



Management and membership

Organising the Portsea Golf Club
1950 – 2000



CHAPTER NINE

The 1950s

Membership rights, land acquisitions and incorporation

Portsea Golf Club was disadvantaged perhaps more than most other Victorian golf clubs during the second world war. Not only had membership dwindled as members enlisted, but the Australian Military Forces took advantage of the Club's strategic position near Port Phillip heads and for defence purposes the course was virtually closed after the Japanese entered the war. The main objective of the Committee immediately after the war was to re-establish and maintain the course in as good a condition as possible with the limited resources available. By 1950, members were looking for land security so that long-term improvements could be made to the course.

Purchasing land and financing improvements

The Committee set about organising the purchase of the leased land from the Armytage sisters, who had accepted the Club's offer to pay a deposit of £2000, with the balance of £2,485 to be paid over five years with interest. Some forty-five members took up debentures issued by the Club to fund the £2000 deposit.*

The Armytage sisters on December 8th, 1950, resigned their membership after twenty-five years with the Portsea Golf Club. The Armytage name lives on each time the Armytage Cup is contested. The Delgany property was purchased by the Dominican Order of Catholic Nuns who ran the 'St Mary's School for the Deaf'.

Jack Relph, who was elected captain and secretary at the AGM on December 30th, 1950, had previously been authorised to request Mr P.B.O. McCutcheon, the Club solicitor, to draft the Memorandum and Articles of Association for the incorporation of the Club. At the AGM, these were tabled and approved. The Portsea Golf Club Limited was registered as a Company 'limited by Guarantee' and incorporated on March 19th, 1951. After this time, ordinary and local members were absorbed under the general heading of 'ordinary' membership with ladies classified as 'associates'. Voting was restricted to ordinary members. The Committee soon realised that the income from golfers was not sufficient for the Club to maintain the course, repay its debts and find the large amounts required to improve the course. By February 1953, for instance, the Committee had only been able to make an initial repayment of £300 to the Armytage sisters. Adding to the Club's financial woes, the sisters informed the Committee that they would not be renewing the loan, which was due to be repaid by 1956, as they no longer held any interests in the Portsea area. It was to be a salutary experience for the Committee, which found itself financially compromised by the need to meet its loan commitments at the same time as it was planning course extensions.

After fruitless efforts to gain financial assistance from the local Shire in 1954 for course extensions, the Committee raised £2000 by calling on each member for a donation of £10 and for £5 from each associate member, both amounts more than their annual subscriptions. A further £4000 was borrowed privately.

*Prior to 1950 the Club's borrowings were limited to £1710 deposited by eleven members including the Misses Armytage and Mrs Fitzpatrick, who had contributed £1000. Although not formally acknowledged in the Minutes of the Club, the Armytage sisters must have agreed to waive repayment of the £1000 as the total repayment of amounts owing to them was recorded as £2485.

Over the next four years, the Club repaid £800 off this loan. In 1959, Club debenture holders agreed to the Committee borrowing a further £8000 privately to repay the balance of £3200 owing on the previous loan and pay for additions to the Club House as well. The loan was secured by a second mortgage over the Club's assets.

Membership

Club membership was beginning to increase by 1950. Golfing enthusiasts were attracted to the less crowded 'out of town' courses and Portsea was a popular destination. Local ladies were showing increasing interest also in the Club. In the late 1940s and during 1950, thirty-three joined as associate members. In December 1950, an associates' Committee was formed. In January 1951 annual fees were increased to:

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Members | £4/14/6 |
| Associate members | £3/ 3/- |
| Junior members | £1/11/6 |

By August 1952, there were 225 members, comprising 126 ordinary members, seventy-one associates, fifteen juniors, six army, four absentee and three life members. The improvement in membership and fees, while pleasing to the Club, increased the work undertaken by Jack Relph, whose staff at Irish Young and Outhwaite spent many hours each week organising Club business. The Committee therefore allocated funds (£250 in 1952) to cover Relph's increased staffing costs.

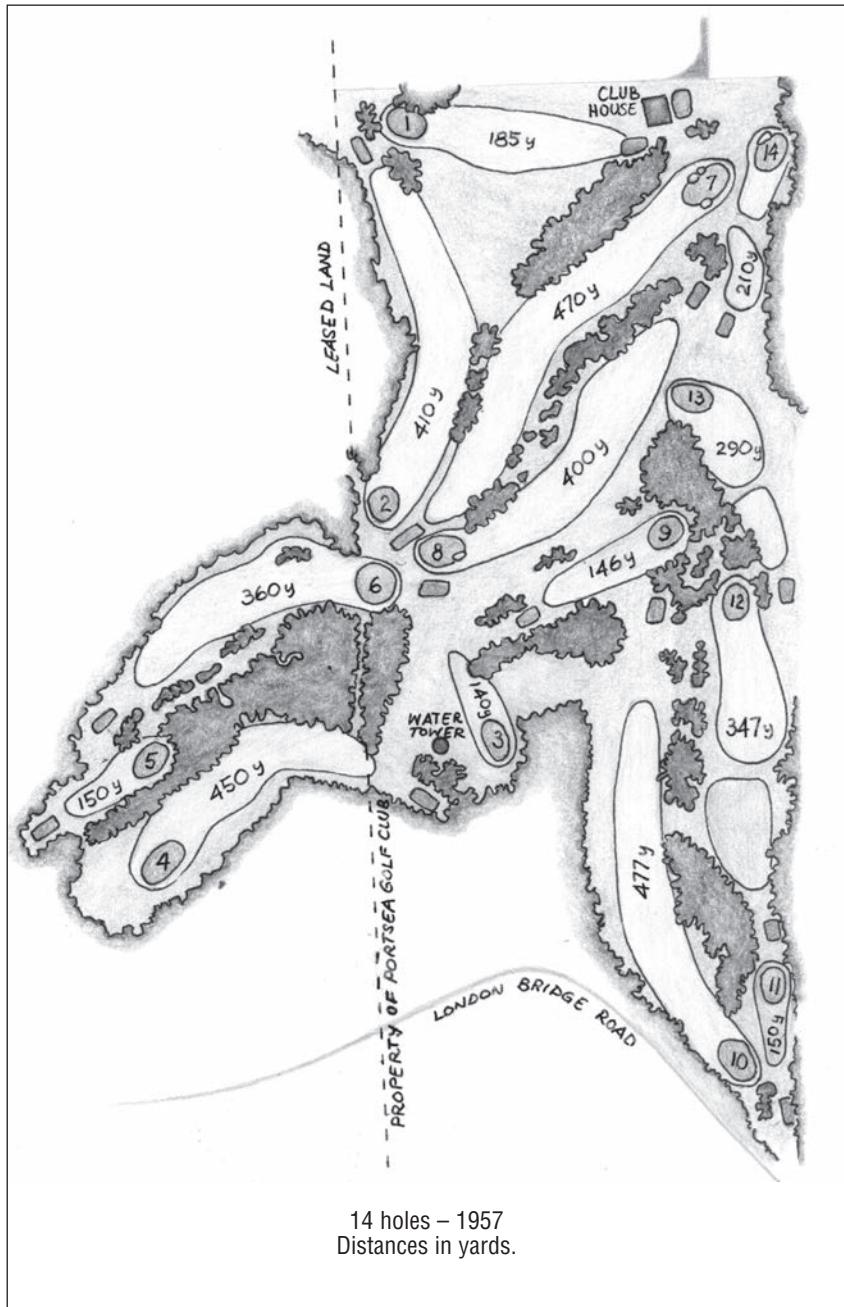
Leasing government land

For the Club to continue attracting new members and green-fee players, who provided the bulk of its income, it was essential to improve the course and its facilities. To do this it needed to acquire more land. Lieutenant Colonel Colin Colston, a serving officer in the army who travelled regularly to Portsea from Melbourne to play golf, proposed that the Club might look at the possibility of leasing some of the quarantine land that adjoined the course. When inquiries were made, the Director of the Department of Health appeared amenable to the proposal and in August 1952, Jack Relph wrote to Colonel Harrison, Commandant of the Officer Cadet School (OCS), requesting that he join the curator and himself in an inspection of the land. In order to prepare a formal proposal, the army made an aerial photograph available and the Committee prepared a survey of the proposed leasehold.

Negotiations and frequent Committee meetings were conducted throughout 1953 to discuss both the proposed lease and planned course changes. Les Kimpton, president between 1947 and 1950, and a dedicated member of the Committee since the Club's inception, was too ill to attend meetings, but still managed to write prior to his death, warning the Committee to 'proceed cautiously' with its expansion plans and to 'consider its financial position'.

Course alterations

Even before it had officially obtained the lease, the Committee had contracted to have the existing course redesigned. In 1953, it invited three potential course designers to submit alternative course layouts incorporating the area of the anticipated lease – A.W. (Gus) Jackson, who in 1927 had played in an exhibition match with Ivo Whitton at Portsea, Jack Watson, who was a surveyor and Jock Young, the



The alterations did not run smoothly. Bill McGrath positioned the extension to the 10th green (15th) for instance, before it had been pegged out for Jackson to approve. Jackson was not pleased and made his feelings apparent. The Committee informed McGrath that Jackson was the course architect and was to be consulted in future. In December, Jackson was still expressing his disappointment in the work carried out on the new green. He was annoyed also that the trees on the 2nd hole had not been removed. The Committee walked the course in January 1954 and agreed that all but one tree to the right of the 2nd fairway, from the tee to the corner, be removed.* The poor working relationship between Jackson and McGrath remained unresolved and when written approval for the lease was finally received, Jackson was still dissatisfied with the alterations.

*The cypress left standing was struck by lightning and finally uprooted by wind in 1998.

original course designer. The reports were completed in May 1953 and in July, Gus Jackson was commissioned to redesign the course and extend it to fourteen holes. Taking to heart Les Kimpton's timely financial advice, the Committee asked Jackson to alter his original plan to take into account the Club's limited funds. The Committee planned to implement his recommendations for the existing course immediately. Then, as soon as the lease was approved, course extensions could also be commenced. Jackson's list of alterations to the existing course included:

1. Removal of trees at the back of the 1st hole (the present chipping green near the 10th tee) leaving one tree only.
2. Removal of a dozen trees to right of 2nd hole (1st and practice fairway) as they cause trouble and would speed up play.
3. Moving 4th green (17th) from on hill (13th tee) to foot of hole and planting trees on right hand side.
4. Extending the 10th green (15th) back a short distance.
5. Moving 11th green to the left thus making a dogleg, and planting ti-tree behind it.

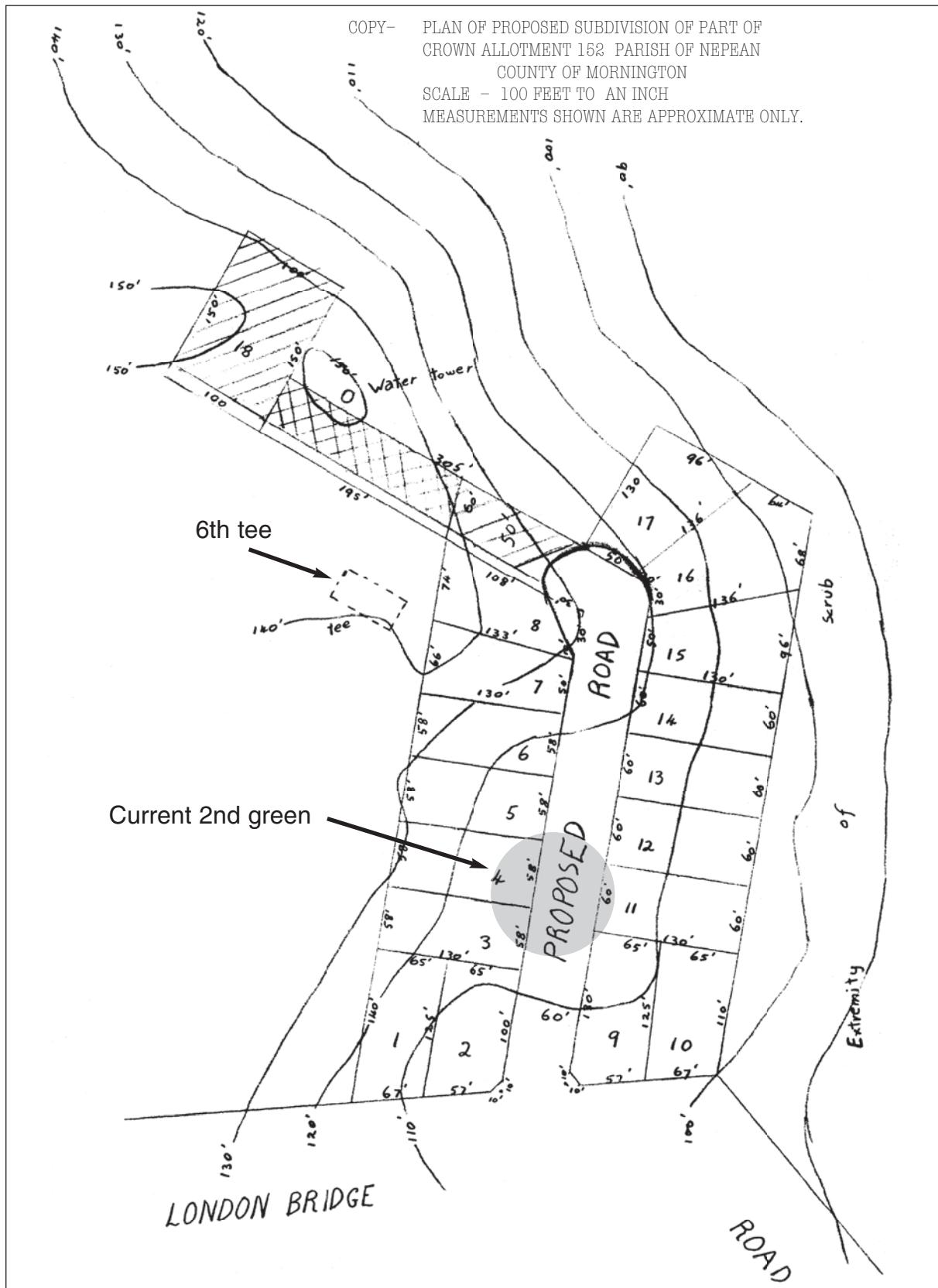
Extending the course

After frustrating delays, a lease encompassing 35 acres and 38 perches of land adjoining the Club was finally signed in March 1954 for an annual rental of £26. This land now incorporates part of the current 3rd, 6th, 8th and 12th holes, and all of the 4th, 5th and 7th holes. In the eighteen months it took to negotiate a favourable lease, the land had been transferred from the Department of Health, which controlled the quarantine area, to the Department of Interior, which in turn had allowed the Department of Army primary use of the property. The army retained the right to enter the grounds at any time and had to be notified prior to any work being carried out. A condition of the lease was that a rabbit-proof fence be erected along the boundary prior to the commencement of any clearing of the land.



The current 1st green, then 2nd green in 1958. Note the par 3 hole (towards the tower) which had been made redundant.

Committee members walked the course in January 1954. As they stood on what is now the 6th tee overlooking what was considered to be 'dead' land between the water tower and London Bridge Road, they thought they had found a solution to their financial difficulties. By March, however, after seeking expert advice, ideas of selling this portion of the course were shelved. In December 1956, the sale of this land was again proposed as a possible means of paying for course changes and reducing the Club's borrowings. It was thought that there might even be sufficient money left over for a new Club House. The land was surveyed, but the Plan of Subdivision was not sealed until late in 1958, when the area was being rezoned. The subdivision was then set aside, rather propitiously in retrospect, as golfers now play the 2nd, 3rd and part of the 6th hole over what could very easily have ended up residential property.



During the next two years, changes to the course were considerable. A plan of the fourteen hole layout indicates how the two short holes up and down from the tower were abandoned and a short hole was built from where the current 2nd tee is, to a green just at the end of the path. Players then walked up the hill to the current 6th tee and played to a green halfway up the existing fairway. They then played the 7th hole and from there walked to a tee on the left of the path now used to service the 8th hole. This tee played to a green on the plateau between the 12th green and 13th tee. What had been the 11th, became the 13th which was made into a dogleg and played to a green to the left of the current par 3 16th. The old 12th which became the 14th was lengthened to 210 yards by moving the tee. The green was positioned close to where the storage shed now stands.



The 7th green and Club House – c. 1960

Fourteen holes

In 1955, after good spring weather, the grass was growing well and it was anticipated that the new holes would be ready for play in the summer of 1956. The Committee celebrated the opening of the fourteen hole course in March 1957 by organising a £100 professional purse. To complete the eighteen holes, holes 1, 2, 7 and 14 were played twice. Because of the layout, rounds could be commenced from two tees, the 1st and 8th (17th).

Ossie Pickworth, one of the leading professionals competing for the purse, recommended afterwards that the Committee 'do not hurry to complete eighteen holes, the present course is quite sufficient for most players'. Pickworth had scored an eagle both in the morning and afternoon rounds on the 6th hole which was 330 yards in length and extended from above the current ladies' 8th tee and through the valley to near the 13th tee.

Greens and water

The ever-present problem of watering had to be tackled as the course was upgraded and extended. The Committee had hoped that the clearing of the new fairways and the watering system might together be completed for £2000, but the cost of a new pump at the water tower was far higher than expected. In 1954, the decision to sink a bore was postponed because of the expense but also because it was rumoured that the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) was about to take over the local water supply from State Rivers. By October, however, the need for more water was so great that the Committee proceeded with a bore and pump close to where the bore is now situated on the side of the 18th fairway. Good water was found at 75 feet.

Staff

Sandy Cunningham's health had been failing for some time and concern was expressed about his ability to 'stand up to the burden' of the heavy work program predicted for the course. In March 1955, still in poor health, Sandy took long-service leave. The Committee informed him in April that from the end of June he would no longer be required on a full time basis, but that casual work might be available if he wanted it. Instead, after dedicating thirty-two years to transforming Portsea from a wilderness, Sandy left the Club.

The Committee decided to ask Jack Howard to return to the Club. After the war, Jack had worked in Melbourne, but he was a member of the Portsea Committee and joined his family at their Portsea home on weekends. In mid-1955, Jack Howard was re-employed. Having two curators, however, created a number of tensions and by February 1956, Bill McGrath had resigned and was working again for the Sorrento Golf Club. Jack Howard was put in charge of the course, assisted by two permanent ground staff. His sister, Sheila, was employed to collect the green-fees and to look after the Club House. Because the small residential section of the Club House was not suitable for occupation during the winter months, by the end of the decade plans were implemented to improve the Club House so that the Howards could live there and Sheila could more conveniently collect green-fees all year round.

Planning for eighteen holes

Despite the praise of world-renowned Australian golfer, Ossie Pickworth, the layout of the new fourteen hole course was soon deemed to be unsatisfactory and shortly after its completion, Jack Relph began to seek alternative layouts in order to extend the course to eighteen holes. In 1959, he sought advice from Jack Howard, who drew up a plan for the extension. In October 1959, the Committee discussed building the four extra holes with the assistance of army bulldozers which were stationed locally. The course would then have comprised two circuits, one of eleven holes and the other of seven. Although no plans exist of the proposed layout, it involved the unused portion of the freehold and leased land which now includes the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th holes. Jack Howard believed that this could only be achieved if six of the holes were made par 3s and he informed Jack Relph, in no uncertain terms, that he would not be a party to this. He suggested instead, that in order to have a strong eighteen holes, the Club should attempt to acquire additional land to the north of the existing lease.

CHAPTER TEN

The 1960s

The move to eighteen holes

After a decade of planning and alterations, the Committee again was faced with the mammoth task of leasing land in order to build an eighteen hole golf course. During 1960, negotiations commenced with the Department of the Interior and the Department of Army to lease an additional thirty-two acres to the west and north-west of what were then the 1st, 2nd and 6th holes. This would make a total of sixty-seven acres leased.

While reminiscing in 1997, Jack Howard told how after finishing his daily work he would walk over this land visualising its potential for the additional holes. He spent over six months planning the possible layouts.

The Committee was hopeful that costs for the proposed course alterations would total just £1500, if army bulldozers could assist with clearing the new holes. Negotiations were already well-advanced in early 1961, when the RACV began a campaign to open up Point Nepean as a tourist attraction. The Department of the Interior immediately halted its negotiations with the Club. Discussions were not reopened until the following year.

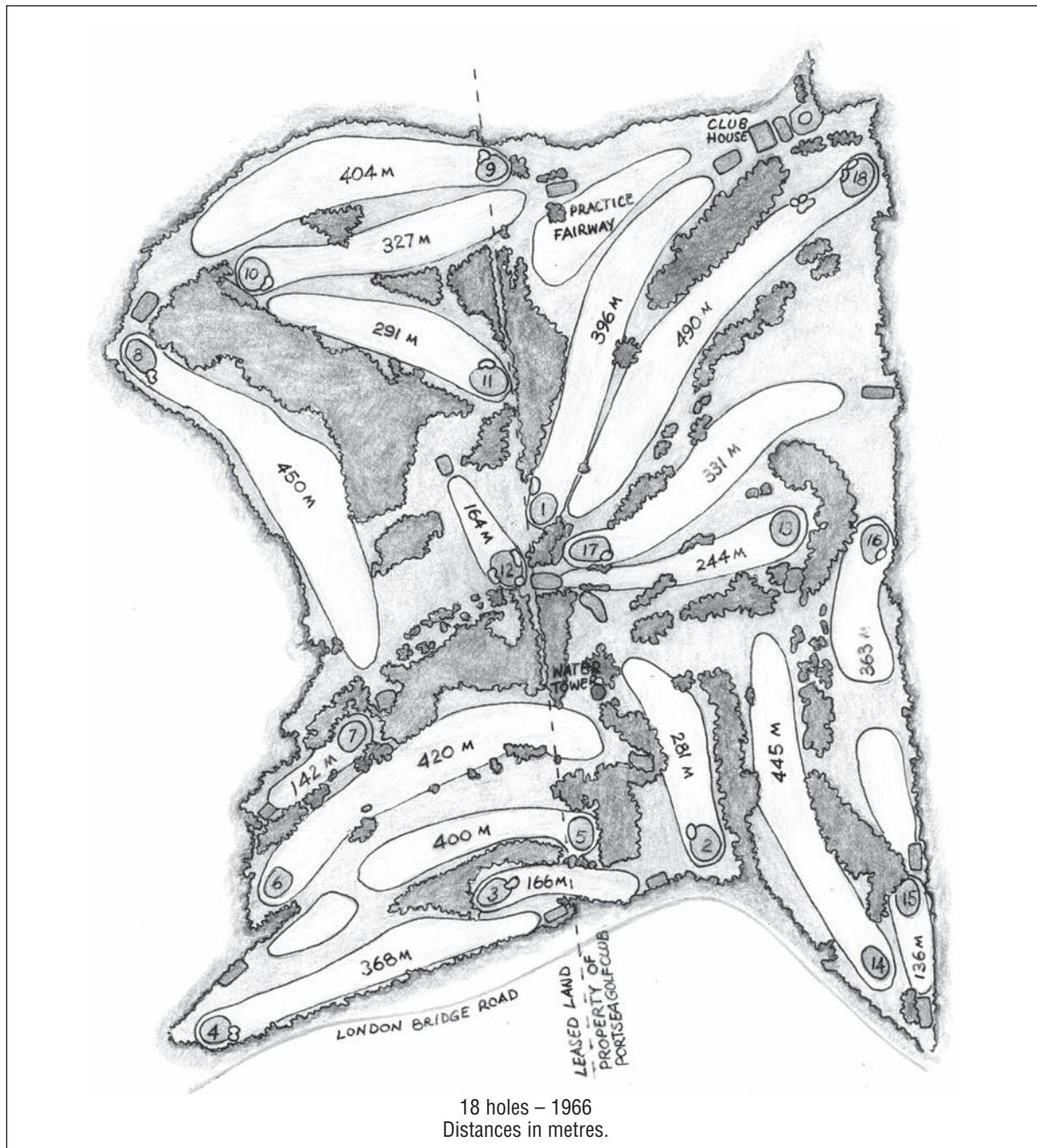
In April 1962, thirty members attended the AGM, by far the largest number ever to do so. The Committee informed the meeting that it was again at a delicate stage in negotiations for the additional land and that it hoped soon to have a favourable outcome. Indeed, the Commandant of the OCS had already written to Southern Command recommending the lease and pointing out the reciprocal benefits it would bring:

- (a) *Its clearance by the Golf Club would be of material assistance to the Department of Army in that by so doing, the Golf Club would be constructing an effective firebreak between the Defence Reserve and the town of Portsea. This would be most desirable, particularly when it is recalled that recent fire outbreaks during training have been the subject of complaint by the Flinders Shire Council. A golf fairway, constructed and maintained by a civilian body, would present a far more attractive and to the Army, less expensive fire break. (In late 1975 there was an extensive fire in the Army land abutting the 5th and 6th holes. As a result, fencing was destroyed and the Club requested that the Army replace this. Fire trucks had to drive over the course to access the fire. The hill between the 5th tee and 6th green was totally burnt, although nothing can be seen of this today.)*
- (b) *From a public relations point of view, the relationships existing between the Portsea Golf Club and the Army, as represented by the OCS, have been extremely cordial. This has been demonstrated by the granting of membership to all members of the OCS staff and the officer cadets by the Club at a very nominal rate. In addition, the leasing of a portion of this area to the Club meant that the Army has gained a strong ally in resisting any of the periodical demands that are made for it to relinquish tenure of this Reserve.*

By August 1962, the lease had been granted, bringing the total area leased by the Club to 67 acres, three roods and 14 perches. The annual rental was £208. (By comparison, in 1977, the cost of the lease was \$900. It gradually increased to \$3600 in 1990, but by 1992 it had increased to \$26000, the latter figure set when the leased land was transferred from the Commonwealth to the State Government.)

Sloan Morpeth, who had just retired as manager of Commonwealth Golf Club, was appointed to review the existing layout and to totally redesign and extend the course to eighteen holes. He produced two course plans and Jack Howard also produced one. One of Morpeth's designs was similar to the final layout, only in the reverse order. Imagine walking up to the 9th tee from the bottom of the hill! Morpeth's successful design incorporated most of the features in Jack Howard's plan and work commenced in April 1963.*

Over the following two years, the Committee concentrated on the additions to the course. Photographs indicate the mammoth task undertaken. Sloan Morpeth, Jack Howard and Max McDonald formulated a



*Morpeth was not known for his golf course architecture, but his knowledge of golf and playing experience made him an interesting choice and he obviously had spoken previously to Jack Relph about his ideas for the course. He later designed the additional nine holes at Portsea's first reciprocal course at Narooma in New South Wales.

timetable for the work. A tractor, a front-end loader and blade, as well as a large steel trailer were purchased and couch runners for the new fairways were obtained. During the time it took to construct, a number of changes were made to the original plans. Although modesty prevented him from stating it, Jack Howard must be given much of the credit for the final layout, as the weight of responsibility for its ultimate success fell on his shoulders. Several suggestions he made, which were overruled at the time, were incorporated into later alterations. With only three permanent ground staff and the occasional assistance of two casual staff, Jack Howard's workload was immense. However, by June 1965, the greens were in the process of being laid and the Committee reported, with obvious relief, that 'Jack Howard was now starting to re-act a little bit more favourably instead of worrying as he had in the past, as he now could see the end of the job in sight'.

The eighteen hole layout was opened for play on October 30th, 1965, which also happened to be the first day of the Club championships. Arrangements for the official opening were planned for Sunday November 14th. In addition to organising an exhibition match between three professionals – Peter Thomson, Guy Wolstenholme and Martin Roesink, the presidents and captains of Mornington Peninsula Clubs and the captains of Pennant teams were invited. The Committee arranged a £1000 hole-in-one prize for the professionals and a barbecue. Unfortunately, the exhibition match never took place, as the professionals were required to finish the Dunlop tournament that day after rain had earlier delayed play at the Yarra Yarra course. However, members and visitors still played and enjoyed the refreshments that followed.

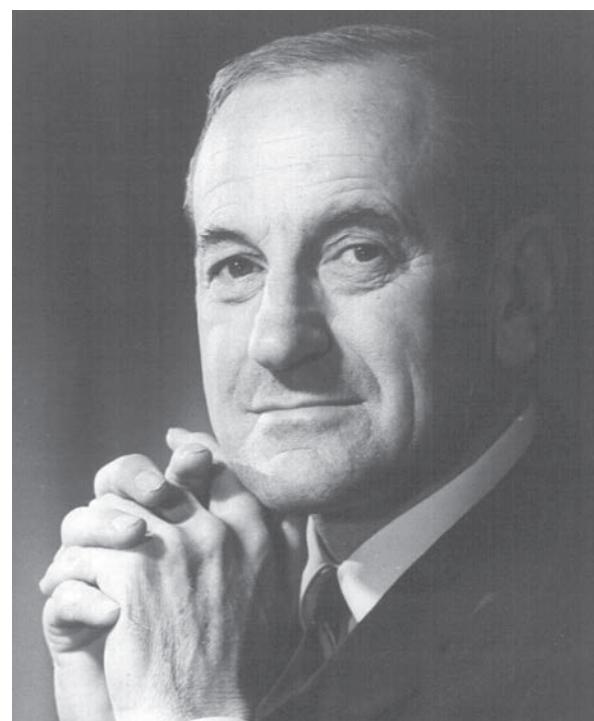
Committee changes in the 1960s

Early in the decade it remained difficult to secure Committee members. Jack Relph, still one of only a small handful of Committee stalwarts, was singled out in 1960 for his contributions and devotion to the Club.

At the AGM on April 16th, 1960, Colin Colston proposed that Jack Relph be made a Life Member, stating: 'Portsea Golf Club owed a great deal of its success to the endless and untiring efforts of Mr Relph who had followed in the footsteps of his father in holding key positions on the Council of the Club. . . . He had carried out numerous and arduous tasks allotted to him requiring many hours spent in furthering the progress of the Club to which he was devoted. The proposal to make Jack Relph a Life Member was carried unanimously.'

Jack Relph retired as treasurer/secretary at the AGM in 1966. During the Club's first forty years, only two people had filled this combined position, Jack Relph and Herbert Taylor.

Interest in serving on the Committee gradually increased. In 1968, for the first time there were more nominations than positions available, which required an election to be held. The newly elected Committee members began to inject fresh ideas and to delegate responsibility and meetings became more structured as sub-Committees took over specific tasks.



Jack Relph



2nd fairway from near 2nd green – March 1963, Reg Weir and Jack Howard



2nd green – March 1965



8th hole – July 1963



10th green – March 1965



3rd tee looking towards 4th green – July 1963



8th tee – March 1965. From left: Jack Howard, Sloan Morpeth and James Relph

Finance

In 1960, the Club's outstanding debts remained unpaid. Debenture holders were offered an increase in their interest rate in keeping with current upward trends. The secured loan of £8000 taken out in 1959, was due to be repaid by 1963. In addition to this, the Club had an overdraft of £1670.

As expenses escalated, the Club was forced to seek extra finance. In 1963, the £8000 loan was renewed, with interest set at eight percent per annum. In June that year, when the Club's land was revalued, the loan was increased by £4000 to cover higher than expected costs. In June 1965, the debenture holders gave permission for the Club to borrow a further £5000, making a total of £17000 borrowed, as the cost of a new watering system had exceeded estimates and the newly enlarged course necessitated other costly expenditure – for bore water, additional ground staff and a larger machinery shed. The consolidated loan enabled the Club to repay the debenture holders and to purchase a new five-gang mower, leaving £1000 for 'working' capital.

Shire rates had increased significantly during this time – from £60 to £300. After discussions in May 1965, the Shire agreed to lower the rates to £188. At the end of 1966, the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act was applied to golf courses, limiting the rates that could be charged and the Club received a rate reduction backdated two years. The Shire tried again to increase rates for the course in 1971 and 1981. Each time, the Club was able to negotiate a satisfactory settlement.

To help meet the Club's financial commitments, in 1965 members' fees were raised and an entrance fee was introduced to provide extra revenue.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Men</i> | Entrance fee £15/- | Annual fee £10/10/- | Green-fees 10/- |
| <i>Associates</i> | Entrance fee £10/- | Annual fee £8/8/- | Green-fees 8/- |
| <i>Juniors</i> | | Annual fee £5/- | Green-fees 5/- |

In August 1965, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held to allow the Committee to 'make calls' on members for up to £10 a year. Subscriptions were again raised in January 1967.

In 1966, following a public perception that the Club had increased green-fees to discourage non-members, a number of casual golfers transferred their allegiances to Rosebud and Sorrento Downs and there was a noticeable drop in green-fee income. To encourage members to introduce more visitors to the Club, the Committee decided to charge members' guests just \$1.00 to play. The Club circulated large companies as well, inviting social groups to play the course. Toward the end of 1966, with a view to encouraging more juniors, members' children under 18 years of age were invited to play free of charge provided that their parents introduced them to the Club manager.

Annual budgets were difficult to prepare as membership levels were unpredictable. In September 1968, for instance, although nine new members were elected, thirty-two resigned and nineteen were excluded for non-payment of fees. The costs of operating the Club were also increasing. Between 1963 and 1968, wages and commissions had risen from \$6965 to \$11087 and annual costs from \$16946 to \$25486. Financial problems would beleaguer the Committee and affect course and Club House alterations and greens maintenance for the next ten years.

Course and water

The course reconstruction program kept the ground staff fully occupied for much of the early part of the decade. Prior to 1967, minor changes and maintenance projects were normally organised during informal discussions between the secretary and the curator, as they had been since the Club was first formed. However, as over one quarter of the Club's income was being spent on machinery, maintenance of equipment, chemicals and fuel, the Committee decided to take tighter control of course maintenance. The Greens sub-Committee was formed in January 1967 to advise the Committee on matters relating to the course.*

A number of problems were quickly tackled. The tracks from tees and between greens and tees were laid with wire in an attempt to prevent erosion. A new nursery below and forward of the 16th (15th) tee was sown for use on the 7th, 12th and 18th greens where couch was encroaching. The spray 'Endothal' was recommended to eradicate poa annua, which had infested the greens sown with bent grass when extending the course to eighteen holes. Undergrowth was cut, a number of trees were removed in 1968 to improve the course and over the winter many stumps were removed from the rough. Debate among members about whether or not to plant ti-tree was heated.

Peter Thomson maintained that 'shelters of whatever kind were a blot on the landscape . . . We are too pampered with our sheltered Melbourne courses'. Thomson had a holiday home near the 14th green and played the course occasionally. He accepted an offer of Honorary Membership in May 1968.

In March 1968, three years after the eighteen holes were completed, Sloan Morpeth inspected the course with Jack Relph and Colin Colston. Entering into the debate on tree planting, Morpeth stressed that Portsea should not persist with introduced trees or introduce features that would change its natural topography, as it would detract from its individuality and character. With no trees remaining between the 2nd and 13th tees, it was suggested that players might be in danger when on the 2nd tee. Morpeth would not agree to the tee being altered either, exclaiming that its emphasis was on drive placement. Nor was he sympathetic to the problem of balls rolling down into the trees on the left of the 13th fairway, although he did agree to the construction of a small embankment there. This was to suffice for the next thirty years. Morpeth had long disliked bunkers. When he inspected the 1st green area, he agreed to a bunker on the left only as a last resort, to prevent balls rolling down the hill. The controversial 6th hole was a par 4 with 228 yards to the corner and a further 232 yards uphill for the second shot. Morpeth emphasised that this was not a design fault, but rather a problem brought about because the VGA had allocated a Standard Scratch Score of 71. The hole was lengthened in the early 1980s, making it a par 5. When the associates asked whether a practice fairway could be provided, Morpeth recommended that this be constructed to the left of what was the 1st tee. Balls were played across the 1st fairway toward the left of the 10th tee, an unusual solution. Later, an audible signal at the 16th (15th) tee was recommended, as it was a blind hole where players were completely hidden once they moved over the hill. Financial constraints and Committee changes meant that a number of Morpeth's suggestions were not completed for many years. Sloan Morpeth died in March 1970.

*Colin Colston saved the Club considerable expense by assisting with machinery repairs. In March 1969, Jack Howard provided the Committee with a comprehensive report on the condition of the machinery to ensure that regular maintenance checks continued to be carried out.



K.H. (Ken) Boykett, awarded Life Membership in 1969 in recognition of over 40 years of valuable service to the Club.



The Club House from Delgany Hill – c. 1960

Most concerns documented during the 1960s related to the difficulty of maintaining an adequate supply of water to the course. Water pipes around the course had become badly corroded and the Club applied to State Rivers for permission to replace them with Fibrolite. The Committee was informed that cross connections between mains and bore water were no longer permitted. To resolve the ongoing shortage of water, another bore was sunk at what is now the lowest point in the practice fairway. It was a resounding failure.

The contractor found a reasonable flow of 2000 gallons at 80 feet but stated that if he went deeper it would be much better. At 130 feet the flow was 12000 gallons per hour but it was too salty to be used. Jack Relph's comment many years later was that the contractor must have tapped into Bass Strait! That piping is still in the ground and the £400 it cost had to be written off.

Professional advice was then obtained and the Committee installed a 15000 gallon storage tank equipped with an electric motor between the Club House and the 18th fairway. This tank could be filled by bore or mains water. Piping was laid from the tank to the tower and a new petrol-driven pump at the tower then pumped water to the course. Jack Howard and the ground staff utilised many of the old water pipes from unused parts of the course to reduce costs.

By early 1966, a State Rivers water main was installed along London Bridge Road into which the Club was able to tap. This fed water into a 3000 gallon tank next to the 3rd tee which then pumped into the Club's reticulation system. Despite these improvements the high salt content of the bore required the Club to mix ever-increasing amounts of mains water with the bore water. Even so, the grass still tended to be burnt.

In August 1969, as the cost and supply of water continued to cause concern, the Turf Institute was invited to discuss the problems with the curator and to make recommendations. The following month, the Committee voted to amalgamate the Water and Greens sub-Committees and Club member Geoff Brown spent many hours planning and improving the watering system, using various materials for the pipe work to ensure equal pressure to all points of the course. The system then worked adequately for a number of years. By the end of 1969, however, the pump at the water tower was so corroded that it was operating at half its efficiency and had to be repaired at a cost of \$832, a blow to the tight budget.

The Club House

After their parents died, Jack and Sheila Howard had moved into the newly improved residential section of the Club House, completed in 1960 at a cost of £3773/19/6. Sheila was provided with a salary of £4 per week, plus 2.5 percent of all green-fee income that she collected for the Club. Early in 1966, the Howards notified the Committee of their desire to move to their own house, which meant that the Club had to employ someone else to look after the Club House and collect the green-fees. Sheila Howard's ten years of dedication to the Club was greatly appreciated by the Committee and members. Her replacement was Norman Shaw, a local resident, who moved with his wife, Elma, into the residence in April 1966.

As conditions in the Club House improved, members increased their interest in and enjoyment of Club facilities. A refrigerator was purchased to provide storage for refreshments, although it was stressed to members that the Club could not sell liquor and that no money could change hands. Members had to purchase their own liquor and label it with their names. This honesty system worked well until the late 1980s, when licensing laws changed and the Club was able to sell alcohol.

Norm and Elma Shaw had emigrated from Ross Shire, Scotland in 1953, having been sponsored by Keith Murdoch. Norm Shaw worked for the Grimwades at their Baxter and Toorak homes as a gardener and general handyman, eventually finding his way to Portsea in 1954, where he became the caretaker and gardener at the Lord Mayor's camp. He worked as a grounds man on the course during the week and assisted Elma at the weekends collecting green-fees and selling drinks and golf balls. Norm never played golf but involved himself in the Club's activities and was a regular visitor to the School for the Deaf at Delgany. He taught the children highland dancing with the assistance of the staff and nuns. He played the bagpipes and although they were deaf, the children danced by feeling the throb of the pipes. Norm also did the night watering over summer and one night while riding the motor bike to change the hoses he found a nun who had passed out while walking around the course. He promptly put her on the back of the bike and drove her back to the school. Norm was a very sociable person who liked an occasional drop of whisky. Sometimes after competitions, he would open a bottle and various members would help him to empty it. For many, it was just as well that the .05 drink and drive laws were not in place in the 1960s.



The Club House c. 1960 – note how bare the hill on the 11th was at the time this photograph was taken.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

The 1970s

Improving financial difficulties and social activities

By the 1970s, the number of nominations for positions on the Committee was regularly greater than the number of positions available. At the AGM in 1970, which was as usual conducted at the Club House on Easter Saturday afternoon, there were eight nominations for the six positions being contested and the posts of honorary secretary and honorary treasurer became separate appointments for the first time in the history of the Club. At this meeting, the number of Life Memberships able to be granted was increased to eight, but it was placed on record that 'the Committee should only award a Life Membership to those members who have provided outstanding service to the Club'. Life Member and first honorary secretary, Herbert Taylor, died in September 1970.

At the 1970 AGM, Life Memberships were proposed for both Colin Colston and Jack Howard. Speaking in support were Jack Relph, Ken Boykett and Lloyd Collins. The outstanding contributions of these two members ensured that the motions were endorsed unanimously.

Committee meetings were held regularly every six weeks at the start of the 1970s, the venue alternating between Melbourne and Portsea. The Match and Social sub-Committee became two separate entities and Match worked with both the Greens sub-Committee and the curator to coordinate special events. A Promotion sub-Committee, chaired by Ralph Parry, proved extremely successful. It operated until he resigned the position in 1973. In eighteen months, membership increased by sixty. Socially the Club took on a new impetus also, as Ralph won the support of the associates to assist with his social agenda. Ralph Parry encouraged cooperation between members and associates:

'They are most enthusiastic . . . we need associates and I feel they have to be brought into the picture much more than in the past'. Parry maintained his interest and support for the ladies and after major events, he would personally acknowledge their 'behind the scenes' work by sharing a box of chocolates or a drink with them. In 1975, two ladies were elected to the Club's social sub-Committee.

The associates began to enjoy a greater degree of acceptance in the Club in the 1970s. In 1971, when traffic permitted, unofficially they were permitted to play nine holes on Saturday afternoons from the first tee after the last hit-off, usually after two o'clock. Not all members in 1974 were happy about 'the presence of associates in the clubroom on Saturday afternoons [which] has inhibited a few of the members'. But the complaint was dismissed, the Committee believing that 'a reasonable standard of conduct should be maintained in the Club House at all times, irrespective of whether associates are present or not'. One wonders how the disapproving members had conducted themselves prior to this. The same year, however, the Committee had reason to remind associates that they had infringed liquor laws by occasionally selling liquor in the Club House on associates' days.

By 1975, the Committee had officially acknowledged the presence of associates playing on Saturdays:

'Associates' nine hole competition on Saturday afternoons may continue and associates may complete more than nine holes . . . the practice of 'cutting in' will not be permitted.'

PETER THOMSON

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OBSERVATIONS ON PORTSEA GOLF COURSE.

20/12/71

I know of no golf course outside the City of Melbourne and within Victoria that has quite the same fine qualities as Portsea. In my estimation, if Portsea was somehow set amongst the melbourne courses it would stand very high. As it is, it is only slowly earning recognition. But I am sure this will come in time.

For one thing, it is set on some very interesting golfing country, the like of which cannot be found too often. I am sure it must be the envy of many a richer but flatter course. A golf course needs undulations which make for interesting play, and Portsea has them in just the right amount.

The late Sloan Morpeth who acted as Architect to the club did some of his finest work here at the end of the Peninsular. Altering the old layout to make way for the completeion of 18 holes, he has used soem near genius. the result is not only good golf holes, but a construction of some beauty into the bargain. For example, the view of the Bay from the 8th tee mus be one of the most magnificent views from any golf course in Australia. And what an inspiring tee shot it is too, and splendid hole all round!

Portsea stimulates me. It is in every was a champion's Course. There are interesting dog-legs, whose corners can be cut with fine driving, and greens that make fascinating targets. And after all that, it is capped off with greens that have no superiors in the State of Victoria.

Portsea is the kind of course that could set the World's top golfers a challenge. Alas we are not likely to see it in the near future but I expect some day we will. It is my view that it would earn of lot of respect. We might suddenly become aware we have an outstanding golf course on our doorstep. One to be proud of, and one to play at every opportunity.



Peter Thomson expressed his thoughts in the early '70s.

As pride in the Club and the spirit of cooperation among members increased, the Committee began to consider its public image and at the AGM in 1976, adopted official Club colours of royal blue and gold. The sea horse became the Club emblem. Social events by this time were well attended. Barbeques and theme nights became regular events. The Melbourne Cup sweep night attracted over 100 participants. The popular twilight competitions, where players provided their own picnic teas, were also introduced during this period.

The seahorse became the Club emblem after a wooden seahorse was placed in the foyer of the Club House by a member returning from overseas. After a Committee meeting Lister Mackey told Marj Jorgensen (wife of Lorrie) that the Committee was trying to think of an emblem. Rosebud had 'R' and Sorrento had the seagull. Marj said that she loved the seahorse but Lister explained that it wasn't a suitable emblem as the males gave birth to the young. Everyone would laugh at them! Despite this inauspicious beginning, the seahorse was chosen.

Loan reduction and membership growth

Despite the Committees' hard work and best intentions and even with the increased sense of cooperation among members, the Club's finances remained tight. Although any small debts owing since before 1950 had been repaid or forgiven, subsequent Committees had failed to reduce the amount of \$34000 owing since 1966. (The interest rate on this money was to rise to 12 percent by 1976 and in 1978 increased again to 13 percent per annum.)

Each sub-Committee prepared an annual budget, but expenses continued to exceed income. Lloyd Collins, chairman of Finance, in 1970 prepared a half -yearly interim financial report to demonstrate to the Committee the actual costs compared with budgeted estimates. He forecast a \$3000 deficit for 1970. As a result of this report, a \$10 'call' was made on members on top of their annual subscriptions. It was also decided to raise subscriptions to \$40 for the following year and entrance fees for members were increased from \$50 to \$80. However, membership and green-fees remained insufficient to enable reduction of the outstanding debts and Collins urged sub-Committees to think more seriously about the Club's financial position.

A number of positive suggestions proposed by the Promotion sub-Committee generated more interest in membership. Peter Thomson was asked to write his thoughts on the course; shire representatives were invited to play at Portsea; articles about the course were placed in the local newspapers (imitating Arthur Relph's earlier tactics); letters were sent to Melbourne residents who owned holiday homes on the Peninsula and flyers were placed in the scorecards of green-fee players. These promotions brought gratifying results. By March 1972, membership totalled 397, including 253 men and 97 associates. August 1974 saw this figure increase to 485, although 23 were not financial. In 1974, the entrance fee was \$100 and annual subscriptions had increased to \$60.

The Club House was upgraded again in 1975, the cost of the work estimated at \$19000. Over fifty members advanced unsecured loans of \$12750, at 6 percent per annum, repayable over five years. However, when work was completed in May 1976, the cost had increased significantly to \$27465.

In 1976, the Articles of Association were amended to read that 'the Committee could make a call or calls on members of up to 40 percent of the annual subscription in any one year'. This amendment appeared to add to the volatility of membership. That year, the Club gained 74 new members but lost 54 during the same period.

Ralph Parry was re-elected to Committee in 1976, and continued his efforts to promote the Club. He made weekly reports to the *Gazette* and also arranged for Portsea Golf Club to be featured in 'The Club of the Month' segment of *Golf in Victoria*. In no small measure due to Parry's work, there were 42 juniors by the end of 1976.

Many juniors playing on Saturday mornings were interested in becoming members. An Extraordinary Meeting after the 1979 AGM agreed to allow an increase in the number of junior members from 50 to 100.

Money remained tight and the Committee continued to stress the need for restraint. In November 1976, the Club captain, Bob Roberts, condemned the policy of repairing instead of replacing worn out and outdated course equipment, which he believed was leading to a decline in the standard of the course. But at the AGM in 1977, again the Committee stressed that only essential work to the Club House and course be allowed for in budgets and that costs not exceed budget estimates. Perhaps because of financial frustrations, there was a large turnover of Committee members at the AGM in 1977.

In 1978 at the March AGM, the retiring chairman of Finance, Roland DeGaris explained that the Club still owed \$24000 on the loan taken out in 1965 for the extension of the course to eighteen holes. It also owed \$12200 to members, an amount due to be repaid in 1980, but for which no provision had been made in the Club's budget. DeGaris emphasised the difficulties of budgeting accurately each year for green-fees, as the weather caused large fluctuations in the annual number of green-fee players and therefore had an impact on green-fee income.

As the incoming Committee took charge, a new regime of forward planning and an even tighter financial program was adopted. At its first meeting on April 2nd, 1978, Ian Thomas, the new chairman of the Finance sub-Committee, outlined a financial program to cover machinery replacement and loan repayments by way of a 'continuous cash-flow chart'. This indicated periods of high cash-flow when substantial amounts could be repaid to reduce the Club's borrowings on which 12 percent per annum interest was being accrued. During 1978, loans were reduced by \$9000. Several weeks prior to the 1979 AGM, a further loan repayment of \$5500 was made, using the liquidity gained from subscriptions received for that financial year, which ran from January 1st to December 31st. It was a turning point in the financial management of the Club.

Capital allocations at the end of 1979 for 1980 again concentrated on loan repayments. The report of annual accounts indicated that members' loans had been reduced to \$11000 and the large private loan to \$8000. By December 31st, 1980, all outstanding loans had been repaid.



The beginning of the junior program – (at rear) Ralph Parry, Lorrie Jorgensen with (from left) Danny Bainbridge, Steven Murphy and Robert McCance.

Course changes

Needless to say, financial constraints limited major course alterations in the 1970s. In 1972, the practice tee was closed and moved to the right of the 1st tee, with trees planted to define it. However, the trees had been placed incorrectly and within six months they had to be transplanted. (With the exception of a sheoak, these were all removed in 1994.)

In August 1972, the Greens sub-Committee reported that it was investigating combining the 3rd and 4th holes and placing a new short hole from behind the 5th green to just below the water tower, with the 6th tee being moved closer to the tower. Shortly before his death, Sloan Morpeth had argued vehemently that such a change would be a retrograde step and out of tune with the rest of the course, as although it might improve the 6th hole, it would mean the loss of a good, short 3rd hole. It would also reduce the distance of the course by 100 yards. Peter Thomson offered to inspect the course and look at the proposal. On Thomson's advice, the hill in front of the 16th (15th) tee was lowered some three metres to make the hole more visible and to speed up play.

In 1979, a new 6th tee was developed for the associates and a new tee positioned on the 11th. The Greens Sub-Committee also smoothed out the scrubby ti-tree in front of the 5th tee, even though approval for this had not been obtained. The Committee believed that this unauthorised alteration removed character from the hole and as the ti-tree had only extended some 40 metres in front of the tee, play would not have been affected by retaining it. A suggestion to construct a mound at the base of the moonah tree at the bottom left of the 6th fairway was deferred. Twenty years on and balls are still rolling under this tree!

Greens and water

The Greens sub-Committee spent considerable time and effort organising maintenance of the course. In May 1970, work was carried out to clear the rough at the 11th, widen the bunker on the 12th, remove ti-tree roots on the 4th green and clear around the cypress tree at the back of the 14th green. It was also recommended that the 14th tee might be widened if the Club could use army engineers and explosives to remove the limestone.

The 9th green was badly infested with *poa annua* and a new treatment was tested, mixing lead arsenate with soil for use as a top dressing. The Club could not afford full treatment of all greens and so it was decided to treat only the lightly infested greens and then to abandon further treatment and tolerate green infestation, a conclusion that had already been reached by the Greenkeepers' Association. By the end of 1971, the Committee decided to forego further attempts to combat *poa annua*, by then a worldwide problem, as new treatments were expensive and relatively ineffective. In early 1975, kikuyu grass was found to be growing strongly on the 9th, 10th and 12th holes. In 1978, the chemical Tuppersan was used to try eliminating couch from the greens, but it achieved only minimal success.

Many maintenance decisions had to be deferred because of staff shortages. Retaining experienced ground staff was an ongoing difficulty after several long-term staff retired in 1971. Jack Howard commented that with only two experienced men remaining, Jim Suttie and himself, 'we have been worked into the ground'. A number of replacement staff soon left. One bluntly objected to 'too much walking and not enough wages'. The Committee approved the purchase of a Toro/Morrison mower to reduce the number of man-hours required to mow the greens, in response to a request from Jack Howard. A bulldozer was also brought in to level tracks and tees in the belief that if the men's and ladies' tees were at the same level,

it would reduce maintenance. In 1977, a Ransome Greenmaster and a new Toro tee-cutting machine were purchased. In spite of some opposition within the Committee, a second-hand International Harvester tractor was purchased in late 1978.

The Club had to deal with a number of minor difficulties as well. School holidays were always a problem. The Mother Superior had to be contacted and informed soon after taking over *Delgany* that children were collecting the golf balls from the fairways closest to the school. In the 1970s, other children on school holidays wandered onto the course and removed tee markers. Bandicoots, like rabbits, were also a problem. A protected species, they had to be trapped and relocated, but 'they are not an easy animal to get rid of'.

Controversy arose over watering issues in 1971. Jack Howard had kept the greens watered and in excellent condition during the very dry conditions of 1970 when many city courses had failed. However, the greens sub-Committee in 1971, in an attempt to reduce water costs, decided that watering should not begin until early December. Jack Howard was required to gain the permission of the Committee members, who lived in Melbourne, before he could commence watering. It was feared by some that Jack might resign over this issue. However, the following year, the decision was reversed and Jack was given total responsibility for watering. A breakthrough occurred in early 1974 when the Club obtained permission from State Rivers to water fairways under construction, fairways that had been fertilised or repaired and new trees. State Rivers informed the Committee that additional bore water was the long-term solution to its water shortages.

In February 1979, Geoff Brown provided the Club with the information he had gathered while installing the watering system in the 1960s. He warned the Committee to make provision for the replacement of the pump and bore on the 18th, as there would be no warning prior to a malfunction and the cost of replacement would be significant. The prophecy was fulfilled two years later when the pump did break down and had to be replaced quickly at considerable cost in the hot, dry weather.

Jack Howard retired in 1976. Following his retirement, the number of ground staff had to be increased from three to four, an indication of his dedication to the Club.

From the time the eighteen holes were finished, Jack Howard had worked tirelessly to find new means of fine tuning the layout to improve the course. He recalled several changes he recommended to the Committee which were not implemented because of lack of finance but which have since been carried out by Michael Clayton Golf Design. Perhaps Jack's most interesting suggestion was that the 7th green be moved to the 8th tee area and the 8th tee be moved towards where the vehicle track is situated.

Club House activities

During this period of rapid growth, with increased membership and extended Committee activity, the role of the Club House manager also expanded. In December 1969, the Shaws complained that they were working excessive hours because the course was being used more frequently. They could not take annual holidays and only had Fridays off, during which time green-fee income was forfeited. The Shaws recommended that competitions be curtailed during holiday periods to increase green-fee income at peak times. The Committee stressed to them that members had priority over green-fee players, despite the Club's dependence on this income.

The Shaws then voiced concern about members refusing to leave the Club House until late on Saturdays. Members were informed that they were to leave by 6.30 pm, but when 'some friction' developed over members remaining longer, the Committee agreed to pay the Shaws for the extra time they worked.

In 1971, their commission on green-fees collected was also increased. Altercations with members continued, however, and after an episode during which members subjected the Shaws to some distasteful behaviour and then later there was a misunderstanding with a Committee member, they tendered their resignations. They agreed to continue until a new Club House manager could be found.

When they retired, Elma and Norman Shaw presented the associate members with a shield which has been used ever since for an annual President's versus Captain's Teams competition. The shield is always contested enthusiastically.

Lorrie and Marjorie Jorgensen took up their duties just before Christmas in 1971 and were extremely popular. In September 1978 they resigned after nearly seven years in the position. The workload of the Club House administrator had increased considerably during this period. There were thirteen applications for the vacant position. The selection Committee decided unanimously to trial Club members Ted and Yvonne Toone. After six months, they were given a five-year contract as joint administrators at the Club.

In May 1972, a House and Special Projects sub-Committee was formed to tackle constant issues arising from the inadequacies of the Club House and to establish a plan to upgrade facilities. Extensions to the members' lounge were investigated and the sub-Committee recommended doubling its size at an estimated cost of \$2800. In August the Committee accepted this solution, with the proviso that voluntary labour be used. This was to considerably prolong building works.

At the AGM in April 1974, Alan Beckwith was elected to the Committee and given the position of chairman of the Development sub-Committee. By August he had highlighted the discrepancies between the high standard of the course and the low standard of the Club House. He submitted three alternatives for the Committee's consideration:

A new two-storey Club House adjacent to the 10th tee. Estimated cost \$140,000. A new two-level Club House overlooking the 18th fairway. Estimated cost \$90000. Extensions to existing Club House, including kitchen, lounge and associates' room. Estimated cost: kitchen and associates' room \$12500, the remainder \$8000.

A questionnaire was circulated among members who indicated that they strongly favoured the third option. The Committee resolved to obtain detailed plans for the third alternative, but only for the kitchen and associates' section. After some delays, in April 1975 plans for the proposed extensions were presented. By September, the contract had been awarded to builder/member Charles Fairthorne.

The associates provided the new curtains, paid for tables and chairs and offered to install a new stove in the kitchen. They also paid for the flooring in the associates' toilet and washroom. Facilities were still primitive even though the wooden slatted bench in the ladies' room was extended and above head shelves and coat hooks were added. One wonders what the ladies' immediate response was when notified by the honorary secretary that 'flooring in associates' shower and wash room and toilets laid in mosaic tiles, contrary to instructions in letter to builder. Such actions by the associates is reprehensible and appropriate preventative measures will be taken in future'. The associates decided soon after not to purchase a new stove!

The Club House was well-utilised during the 1970s, especially once the extensions were completed - for meetings, golfing days and for an increasing number of social functions which were attended and enjoyed by young and old members alike. Proceeds from these nights were usually put back into Club House projects and purchases which included a trophy cabinet and a sound system that could also be used as a public address system.

CHAPTER TWELVE

The 1980s

A new era of professionalism

During the early 1980s, the Committee dealt with a series of separate issues which together steadily transformed the Club into a more organised and professional entity. Planning was set in place for the implementation of a single fixture book for the Club. Attitudes towards the status of lady members changed and the issue of 'equal opportunity' came to a head. A special membership 'B' category, at half the normal subscription rates but without voting rights, was created for members no longer able to play a full round. Costs were strictly controlled in the continuing drive to rid the Club of long term debt. During the decade, however, very few changes were made to the course or the Club House.

Membership

At the 1981 AGM, Max McDonald was unanimously voted Life Membership after fifty years as a member of the Portsea Golf Club. He served for many years on the Committee, five years as vice-captain. He repaired machinery on the course and provided earth moving equipment and general assistance over the many years he and his brother Jack owned a private golf course in Rye. He was also successful in many of the Portsea competitions, winning the Nepean Cup four times. Thirty-seven years had elapsed between his first and last win.

In 1981 total membership for the first time exceeded 600. Thirty-two members were attached to the Officer Cadet School and its possible closure was of concern. To encourage more local interest, the Committee invited personnel holding the position of curator of the Sorrento Golf Club, the officer commanding the OCS and the Shire president to become honorary members. Colonel G.D. Burgess, MBE, of the Australian Army OCS responded on February 3rd, 1982:

It is with great pleasure that I accept your most generous offer to become an honorary member of the Club. OCS enjoys a very special relationship with the Portsea Golf Club and we are always mindful, and grateful, of the support our members receive. I hope our relationships continue over many years.

However, the Club had begun losing associate members. One reason suggested for this was that their right to tee time on Saturdays was not being acknowledged. The Committee recommended to the Match sub-Committee that they be given the right to place their names on the Saturday time sheet. Associates continued to have few real playing rights on Saturdays until they achieved full membership.

In September 1982, a questionnaire and a request for information were received from the Equal Opportunity Board. The first members' meeting to deal with equal opportunity was held in May 1983 and preliminary discussion was later commenced between the associates and the Committee. Two levels of general membership, full and intermediate, were established for all members, both men and women. Full members were to have use of the course over seven days and intermediate members over weekdays. Associates expressed concern that it might be the men who were discriminated against if ladies who had

chosen intermediate membership were able to play in board events played mid-week. These issues were not immediately addressed, however.

From December 1985, pending Equal Opportunity Legislation, the president and captain of the associates were invited to attend Committee meetings as observers. At this first meeting, associate members again expressed concern that:

There could be some danger of mass defection from the top category to the intermediate category, which would absorb the bulk of present associates and a number of males, were we to be too liberal in the playing rights conferred.

Notwithstanding this, the majority of associates transferred to full membership, which made them eligible to play at any time on the Saturday timesheet. Representatives for associates continued to attend Committee meetings as observers until the new Articles were introduced and they became known as lady members. A Club election in October 1987 gave the ladies their first opportunity to stand for the Committee of Management. Irene Barron and Peg Sherren pioneered the way, the first lady members in Portsea's history to be elected to the Committee.

In 1989, Edna Colston and Margaret Rattray were made Honorary members. The Committee moved to recognise their hard work for the Club, even though their playing days were over. Edna was the wife of long-time captain and president Colin Colston, and had been a member of the first associates' Committee. Margaret Rattray was a stalwart of the Club for many years. She joined soon after moving to Rye in 1958, was secretary for many years and also president in 1983. A wonderful organiser, she gave herself wholeheartedly to the Club and relayed to members decisions made both at Portsea and District Committee meetings. With Grace Phillingham, she was a driving force in the Club particularly during the productive 1970s.

Finance

Ralph Parry retired as president in 1981. During the nine years in which Ralph had been on the Committee, the Club had made giant strides. Members and the Committee, in no small measure, were motivated by his enthusiasm. Ian Thomas became the new president. As chairman of the Finance sub-Committee, Thomas had overseen the repayment of all outstanding loans by December 1980, enabling the Club to be debt free for the first time. At the AGM in 1983, Tony Clarke replaced Ian Thomas as president. One of Clarke's first objectives was to formulate an overall plan for the Club. A meeting was held to which previous office bearers and members both of the Committee and the associates' Committee were invited. Keynote speakers were Alan Beckwith and Jack Relph. The following objectives were decided:

To investigate and develop a means of financing a new Club House as well as course changes and improvements, including considering the possibility of selling the land which had been subdivided in 1923;

To assess all existing buildings and recommend where a new Club House might be situated, giving consideration to the financial findings; and

To redesign the course taking into consideration the recommendations of the other two groups and to look at upgrading the watering system.

The Committee received the final report in September 1984. A lack of enthusiasm put a dampener on the project and despite meetings to explain proposals to members, the report gained little support.

By early 1985, the Finance sub-Committee proposed that the Club's fiscal year be changed to end in June rather than December, a change which had first been suggested in June 1982. This required the elected Committee to remain in office for eighteen months with fees collected in two instalments over this period. Members ratified the proposal at an Extraordinary General Meeting held prior to the 1985 AGM.

Committee meetings had become extended and reports lengthy, resulting in a number of resignations. In 1985, for the first time in the Club's history, an Honorarium was paid to the honorary secretary and his wife was granted honorary membership. This had not been done previously, nor was it continued with the honorary secretaries who followed!

In 1986, the Committee commissioned plans for the Club House and environs. The plans, produced at a cost of \$5000, were not approved. However, by 1987 the imminent appointment of a professional hastened the construction of a pro-shop at a cost of \$30000.

The Committee at its first meeting in 1987, recorded the sudden death of Jack Relph who, like his father, had played such a central role in the Club's survival over many difficult years. As a sign of respect, the Committee observed a minute's silence. Jack Relph's input over a period of sixty years is unlikely to be equalled. His ashes were scattered over the course from a helicopter.

Committee members by this time generally sought the participation of members prior to making important decisions. Increases in entrance fees and annual subscriptions were approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting in May 1989.

The proposal to purchase motorised golf carts created strenuous discussion and opposition among the members. Eventually four carts were purchased, but their use during Club competitions was restricted to those members with decreased mobility. Their usage has been further restricted in recent years because of adverse weather conditions – slippery when it is wet, and causing damage to the fairways during very hot weather.

In 1989, ownership of the leased land again became an issue as moves to renovate or rebuild the Club House were discussed. When the first 37 acres was leased from the government in 1954, the term of the lease was five years. When the additional 32 acres were leased in 1962 a five year lease was not granted until 1982. In 1989, questions were raised about where to locate a new Club House in case the government ever sold the leased land to a third party. A twenty-one year lease was in the process of being negotiated, but by this time the leased land was being transferred from Federal to State government control (when the Victorian government finally took over the lease, it increased the rent, without discussion, to \$9900 per annum. A twenty-one year lease was finally granted in 1991 at a cost of \$26000 per annum.) By the middle of 1989, the Committee thought it prudent to postpone its building program.

Greens

In June 1980, a 'Total Course Concept' was proposed and developed by several Committee members. It included a review of paths, bunkers and the practice fairway. A special meeting was held to discuss the proposals to remove the knoll on the 6th fairway at driving distance, to lengthen the 6th by 35 metres, making it a par 5 and also to lengthen the 11th by moving the green some 35 metres to the right. (This latter change had been part of Jack Howard's original plan in 1962.) Despite some objections, the proposals were accepted and the work was completed at the end of 1981.

Course maintenance by ground staff was ongoing, and the Club increasingly encouraged the ground staff to improve their qualifications and knowledge of the varying aspects of course work. Machinery was overhauled and fences, bores and pumps constantly repaired. Greens were lifted and gassed, soil replaced and fertiliser spread. Large numbers of trees were planted as well, although some members voiced concern that growing trees without an overall plan would lead to incorrect placement and long term problems.

Some capital works were carried out in the early 1980s. Drinking taps were installed at various parts of the course. A large concrete tank designed for storing fresh water, the first of several built over the next few years, replaced the corrugated iron tank on the 3rd fairway.

In the early 1980s, the Greens sub-Committee organised members to help fill divots on the course to save the ground staff considerable time and release them for other course maintenance. After a number of divot sorties, the group began to complain about the onerous nature of the task. It was decided instead to provide buckets and soil to encourage players to fill their own divots during their round of golf.

In March 1980, Rex Newman from the Turf Institute inspected the greens and recommended poisoning the *poa annua* and spraying for flea beetle. He warned the Club that preventative programs should not be allowed to lapse just to save money, concluding that 'such savings very often backfire and much heavier costs are incurred in restoration programs'. When the grass on the 8th fairway died during summer in 1984, it was thought that it might be due to drought and beetle infestation as the problem was similar to that being suffered by Royal Melbourne Golf Club. The fairways had not been fertilised the previous year and this might have exacerbated its poor condition. Members also expressed disappointment that fairway shaping had been discontinued and that areas intended to be light rough were being closely mown. The Turf Institute was invited to advise the Club on all aspects of the turf, including fairways, greens and tees. The company, Scotch Grange, was later contracted to carry out a program to eradicate clover, *poa annua*, parramatta and prairie grass in the 8th fairway at a cost of \$3000. This program was a forerunner to the Club establishing a course maintenance contract with Scotch Grange.

Greens outlay continued to dominate expenditure. By 1986, a number of expensive pieces of mowing equipment had been purchased and a new nursery alongside the 12th tee was established. (This was trebled in size in the early 1990s.) In 1987, following recommendations from the Department of Agriculture, the fairway approaching the 15th was sprigged with Santa Anna couch.

Additional earthwork was required on a new 17th tee. Excess soil was used to build up the ladies' 15th (14A) tee to the same level as the men's tee. The earthworks upset an adjoining neighbour, who threatened legal action. Eventually, the tee was moved slightly and the level of the fence was raised to resolve the matter. Objections were received from the owners of other adjoining properties about their loss of views when the 16th (15th) green was moved, but as the works had been carried out as a response to complaints

about golf balls entering neighbouring properties, the Committee's reaction was, and continues to be, that damage to property and safety remain its paramount concerns. More work had to be carried out in 1988 on the 16th (15th) green, which was not draining well. In 1989 the green was totally redesigned. A program of tee levelling was implemented in early 1989 for the 1st, 2nd and 9th tees. Associates asked the Committee to consider the 17th tee as well, as it had been repositioned around the corner and up a hill, requiring a steep climb which worried some less agile members.

Max, the border collie, was a common sight on the course during the 1980s. His owners had worked at Delgany, where Max had herded cows and followed the tractor. When they moved, Max missed the work and was allowed to stay at the golf course, where he slept in the old shed and followed the ground staff and the tractor. He was well known, especially to the mid-week players and was always assured of a good feed, warm milk and a warm spot to sleep in the winter.

A new watering system

Twenty members in 1985 volunteered to assist with finance for a new watering system. They provided the Club with a deposit of \$25000 at 11 percent interest. The remainder of the money was provided out of the normal cash flow and the bank overdraft. In 1985, a tender of \$110,705 by Victorian Irrigation Supplies was accepted, but the final cost came in \$7000 higher because of extra work undertaken. Three 20000 gallon storage tanks were built on the southern side of the water tower in March 1985. The new watering system was planned so that it could be upgraded without wasting prior installation work to main and branch lines. This proved cost effective when automatic tee watering was added to the system two years later for an extra \$23150.

Club House activities

The House Committee concentrated on Club House maintenance in the early 1980s, although in November 1980 it approved the purchase of a trophy cabinet and new refrigerators. The associates purchased an electric stove for the kitchen, the public address system was upgraded and a new and larger garage was built for the residence, the total expenditure being \$4000. In 1981, the associates also funded the installation of their new handicap board and a dishwasher for the kitchen.

In 1983 the Club donated its spare flagpole to the Nepean Historical Society for the Sorrento Museum. The Society needed it 'particularly for Victoria's 150th and Sorrento's 180th Celebrations'.

Ted and Yvonne Toone, who had occupied the Club House residence since 1978, resigned in late December 1983. Their departure, at the start of the peak summer period, could have been damaging and disruptive for the Club. However the president, Tony Clarke, took matters in hand. He arranged supervision of the shop and green-fee collection and lived in the residence himself for several weeks when the course was at its busiest. He also organised voluntary rosters for members and associates to take turns at assisting. With cooperation and goodwill, the Club managed.

Over one hundred applications were received for the position of administrator. Lawrence Heraty was appointed in February 1984. Heraty was from the USA. He had business qualifications as well as extensive golfing experience and had caddied for many years on the world golfing circuit. His wife Donna, although not a golfer, became very involved as well, assisting with the social events, with day-to-day duties in the shop and with collecting green-fees.

Lawrence Heraty inaugurated a 'Special Effort' day soon after commencing at the Club. After he returned to the USA in 1992, this day was taken over and organised by the Match Committee for the last Sunday before Christmas each year.

Heraty improved promotion of the Club and was also successful in arranging an important sponsorship deal with Carlton & United Breweries (CUB) for the Club's major annual event – the Portsea Pro-Am. In February 1987, Lawrence Heraty informed the Committee that he would not be seeking a new contract and that he would be leaving at the end of June. When Lawrence and Donna Heraty departed, over 140 people attended a farewell function for them at the Portsea Hotel.

The Committee initiated a review at this time to streamline its operations. It decided to employ a part-time administrative officer and a full-time professional who would collect the green-fees, give lessons, sell golf equipment and provide drinks and food to the public from the new pro shop. Club House security and cleaning was to be managed separately by the caretakers already living in the residence. In June 1987, John Walker was appointed administrator and Bill Branthwaite became the Club professional. These appointments were the start of a more professional approach to Club administration, which was to relieve the Committee of much of its former workload.

* * * * *



The 3rd and 4th holes and 5th tee, 2001.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Towards 2000

No longer responsible for the day-to-day running of the Club, Committee activities in the 1990s were dominated by negotiations to purchase the leased land from the government and the construction of a new Club House.

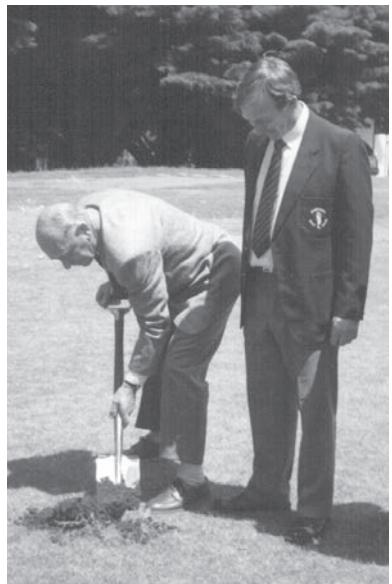
At the 1990 AGM the Committee unanimously endorsed the proposal to nominate Ralph Parry for Life Membership. His innumerable contributions and promotion of the Club, culminating in his term as President from 1979 to 1981, enabled it to achieve financial stability and a solid membership base. His guidance to younger Committee members proved of immense value and enabled them to obtain high office in the Club.

In 1990 the leased land was revalued and, without warning, the cost of renting the land was increased to \$26000 per annum. Committee members Ken Bell, Gerry Kivlighon and Syd Thomson arranged to meet officials from the Department of Conservation and Environment to discuss the alternatives. They were informed that it was highly unlikely that the land would ever be sold. The Department finally agreed to a three year staged increase in rental payments - \$15000 the first year, \$20000 the second year and finally \$26000 to be payable in the third and ensuing years. A twenty-one year lease agreement was signed in June 1991. A clause in the lease allowed the Government to review and increase the annual rental after three years. Fortunately, this clause was never employed.

A new Club House at last!

In 1991, after the new lease had been signed, the Committee decided to proceed with building a new Club House and maintenance complex, for which it had accrued funds amounting to over \$200,000. By September, a concept plan had been prepared by architects Irwin Alsop to present to members. The plan also outlined necessary changes to the course and financial obligations. A general information meeting was held on January 4th, 1992 in the marquee set up for the Pro-Am and some 240 interested members became involved in a spirited discussion. Less than two weeks later, a sixteen-page information booklet was distributed to all members eligible to cast a vote. Approximately one hundred members then attended an Extraordinary General Meeting on February 8th, 1992 to hear the result of the ballot. Of the 474 votes received, 386 voted for a new Club House and 87 were against the proposal, with only one member voting informally. This overwhelming support encouraged the Committee to forge ahead with plans to replace the 'temporary' Club House originally constructed in 1925.

The Building sub-Committee consisted of members Jack Carr, Graeme Holdsworth, Ted Porter, Alex Sturgess and Peter Jay, with Syd Thomson as chairman. They were authorised to ensure that all essentials for the Club House were included and that the project was kept within an agreed price. The \$1.2 million budget was to include architectural fees, costs of the Club House buildings and surrounds, some furniture and the relocation of the work sheds.



Club President Gerry Kivlighon watches the Flinders Shire President, Alfred (Ding) Bell, turn the first sod.



The old Club House, 1993, practice putting green in foreground.

A Finance sub-Committee was formed to review the financial options available to fund the new Club House. Chairman, Ian Thomas was assisted by co-opted members Ian Perkins, Norm Mallett, Jim Docking and Neville Bertalli. The difficult decision had earlier been reached not to sell the old subdivision to gain much-needed funds. Ian Perkins, who had a financial background, cautioned the Committee that the \$1.2 million project should be financed in such a way that the upkeep of the course would not be compromised. He recommended that borrowings be limited to fifty percent. The other half should come from members, ensuring that they supported the building of the new facilities. By September 1992, the sub-Committee had developed a financial plan which included a repayable compulsory deposit by all members which bore no interest, life subscriptions and a fixed-rate term loan from the ANZ Banking Group. A building levy was imposed on members to cover repayment of the loan over ten years. The proposal was accepted and all banking was transferred from the National Australia Bank to the ANZ Bank. The Club raised \$300,000 from compulsory deposits and a further \$110,000 from life membership subscriptions. These amounts, together with existing funds and the fixed term loan of \$500,000, gave the Club sufficient funds to finance the project. Tenders received to build the Club House were well over budget, but after much trimming back, in December 1992 Frankston builders, Mackie & Staff, were appointed to begin on a fixed price contract of \$976,478.

Building of the new Club House commenced on January 28th, 1993. Shire councillors and Club and Committee members attended a 'sod turning' which was followed by light refreshments and nine holes of golf for those wishing to play.

The Committee busied itself securing the many items required prior to the opening of the new Club House. The ladies' Council term deposit of \$3877 contributed towards new furnishings. An application had been submitted in June 1993 for a full liquor licence and it was hoped that this would be approved by



Taking shape – April, 1993



Who did that to the old Club House?
– first week, October 1993



The "Club House" for four weeks – mid October, 1993



Don't go in the bunker!



The completed Club House – c. 1994

late August. The administrator eventually had to make a dash for the office of the Liquor Commission in Melbourne to gain a licence in time for the opening of the new Club House in November 1993.



The official opening –
Peter Thomson and Club president of the day, Syd Thomson

Peter Thomson opened the new Club House at a function held on November 27th, 1993. The evening was a huge success, with 350 members and guests in attendance. Thomson, in an article in the Links in 1994, reiterated his glowing remarks about the course. I know of no golf course outside the City of Melbourne and within Victoria that has the same fine qualities ... Portsea stimulates me. It is in every way a champion's course'.

The new facilities were greatly appreciated, especially by the ladies, who, after the cramped conditions of the ladies' room at the old Club House, enjoyed the novelty of having a locker room with lockers! The Club House was also well used over the holiday season, attracting higher than projected bar sales. In

February 1994, over ninety percent of those members who regularly used the Club House voted that the area be a non-smoking facility.

After almost two years in the new Club House, several improvements were added. A cool room, air conditioning in the kitchen and additional display refrigeration were all installed. A breezeway along the walkway to the locker rooms was erected and a ramp giving a second entrance and additional decking for buggies was completed in 1997. The fireplace was altered to include shelves and a mantle and a folding scoreboard was positioned on the south wall of the Club House. When it is closed, an aerial photograph of the course is displayed. In May 1995, the local Federal Parliamentary Member, Peter Reith, visited the Club and presented members with an Australian flag.

In October 1996, permission was granted for Optus to erect a communications antenna on the top of the water tower for an annual rental of approximately \$11000. In October 1998, Telstra also approached the Club for permission to erect a Mobilenet Radio Base Station on the hill to the south west of the 2nd fairway, which Vodaphone sought permission to utilise as well. Both corporations signed ten-year leases with the right to renew at the end of the term. The Club negotiated with both parties to pay \$100,000 each at the commencement of the lease, rather than an annual rental subject to annual CPI indexation. This injection of cash enabled the outstanding Club House loan to be repaid in 1999.

Social events took on new meaning in the comfortable atmosphere of the new Club House. 'Happy Hours' were trialled and the Melbourne Cup Day event combining breakfast and lunch proved very successful, supported by over 100 members and friends. The twilight competitions, carried over from the old Club House, were also popular, with up to 80 players and guests attending each Friday afternoon. The net proceeds from raffles provided the means to purchase a large television set. A Roaring 20's night in 1998 was hugely successful, the Links reporting that guests included 'Al Capone, Bugsy Seigel, John Dillinger (with machine gun) and their 'Ladies'... Young Normy Mallett turned up dressed in trousers he outgrew at about age 12 (probably during the 20's), with braces holding them up, cap on sideways and a bloody old check shirt ... he danced all night as though he thought he really was still 12.' A number of outside organisations have hired the Club House for functions as well.

Negotiating the purchase of government land

Following a change of government, the leased land became part of the agenda again in 1995 when Tony Gilligan facilitated a meeting with the Minister for Sport and Recreation to discuss its possible purchase. The Club was informed that the land was not for sale at that time, but that it might become available at some future date. Some time later, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources indicated that it might be possible to purchase the land and in June 1998, the Minister for Conservation & Land Management gave tacit approval for the sale. By August, the Department of Treasury and Finance had advised that the land would be offered to the Club for \$1.3 million. The Club sought an independent valuation to support its view that this amount was too expensive and did not equate with a valuation that reflected an annual rental of \$26000. Following further negotiations, in May 1999 the value of the land was finally set at \$825,000.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of members held during the Queen's Birthday weekend in 1999 unanimously endorsed the Committee's recommendation to purchase the land. (Coincidentally, this meeting took place fifty years after the meeting held on the King's Birthday weekend in 1949 which agreed to purchase the original land from the Armytage family.) A new loan was organised from the ANZ Bank, made up of a \$650,000 term loan repayable by quarterly instalments of \$15000 and interest fixed for the first five years, and a bill line of \$100,000. The land finally became the property of the Portsea Golf Club on September 11th, 1999, a momentous occasion indeed in the Club's seventy-five year history.

Finance and membership

The Club began the 1990s with a solid membership base of 900, with 505 members, ninety-three intermediate members and an increasing number of junior and non-playing members. The joining fee was \$500; annual fees were set at \$410 and intermediate members paid \$310. Green-fees for 18 holes were increased at the 1990 AGM from \$20 to \$25. Members' guest fees were set at \$20. During the year, seventy-four members resigned, many of them unprepared to commit the funds required for the new Club House. Entrance fees in 1992 were increased to \$900. The Committee argued that the remaining members and new members prepared to pay the entrance fees would more than likely remain committed to the Club. The Club at the end of 1992 had a total membership of 814, including 458 full and seventy-three intermediate members. By the following year, membership was back on an even keel.



Life Members 1991 – Grace Phillingham, the first lady member to be elected, with (from left) Jack Howard, Ralph Parry, Colin Colston and Max McDonald.



Life Members at the AGM, 1996 –
(from left) Gerry Kivilighon, Ralph Parry and Syd Thomson.

At the AGM in 1991, Grace Phillingham became the first lady member to be nominated for Life Membership. Grace, who joined the Club in 1952, helped create early associate traditions. Grace Phillingham played in the first position in the early pennant teams and was described as 'that model of consistency' in weekly competitions. She put her heart and soul into ensuring that Club functions were memorable and recalls her early activities with pleasure. With a small band of associates, she worked hard for the betterment of the Club, but in return she enjoyed the camaraderie and the friendships that were formed, even under the trying conditions. Above all, she remembers, 'the ladies really enjoyed their golf'.

Of concern at this time was the considerable drop in green-fee income - \$14000 or the equivalent of some 700 players. There was a similar trend at Rosebud Country Golf Club however, and the general economic downturn was considered the most likely reason for the decrease. Despite the drop in green-fees, the Finance sub-Committee reported at the AGM in 1992 that 'the Club is in a very sound financial position'. Ian Thomas was able to report in August 1993 that the Club was in a far better position financially than the budget had forecast.

In 1995, there was no nomination at the AGM for the position of treasurer. Vice-president, Ian Perkins, who was chairman of the Finance sub-Committee, assumed the treasurer's duties. The positions of treasurer and secretary were formally removed in 1996 when a motion was accepted to reduce the size of the Committee from thirteen to eleven. The secretary/manager assumed the work of the honorary secretary.

At the AGM in October 1996, Gerry Kivilighon and Syd Thomson were nominated as Life Members of the Club. Gerry had worked tirelessly on the Committee between 1976 and 1993. Apart from Jack Relph, Syd was the only person to have held the offices of honorary secretary, captain and president of the Club. Both nominations were carried unanimously.

Municipal rates

In 1996, as had previously happened in 1965, 1971 and 1981, the council informed the Club that rates would be increased, this time from \$7000 to \$23000. Sorrento Golf Club was similarly affected. Both Clubs considered the increases excessive and the two Committees combined forces to engage legal representation to argue their case. While previously the council had agreed to a review and had ultimately lowered rates, in this case it would not negotiate, even though its decision was outside the guidelines of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act. In July 1997, a hearing at the County Court ruled in favour of the two clubs and the council was forced to reimburse \$16000, pay interest of \$1500 and costs. The Club challenged the council's valuation methodology as well and finally agreed to a formula that would ensure future rates would be calculated on an acceptable basis.

Reciprocal rights

The Club had over the years established a number of reciprocal arrangements with other golf clubs. Reciprocity had been established in 1977 with Verona in Italy and Innsbruck in Austria, although there is no record of any Portsea member playing there. By the year 2000, the Club had extended its full reciprocal rights to include Cobram-Barooga, Coomealla, Narooma, Newcastle and St Michael's in New South Wales, Gailes and Headland in Queensland, Royal Fremantle in Western Australia, the Grange and Victor Harbour in South Australia, the Tasmania and Launceston in Tasmania, Darwin in the Northern Territory, Warrnambool, Lakes Entrance, Horsham, Yarrawonga and Border in Victoria and Blairgowrie in Scotland.

Greens and water

The Greens sub-Committee was under considerable pressure to produce some form of long-term plan. By the middle of 1990, the Club was regularly seeking advice and course reports from professional organisations. In August, the Forward Planning sub-Committee recommended that the Newton, Grant and Spencer group prepare a course master plan and in September 1990, the Club entered into a consultancy contract with Scotch Grange for advice on all maintenance matters relating to the Course.

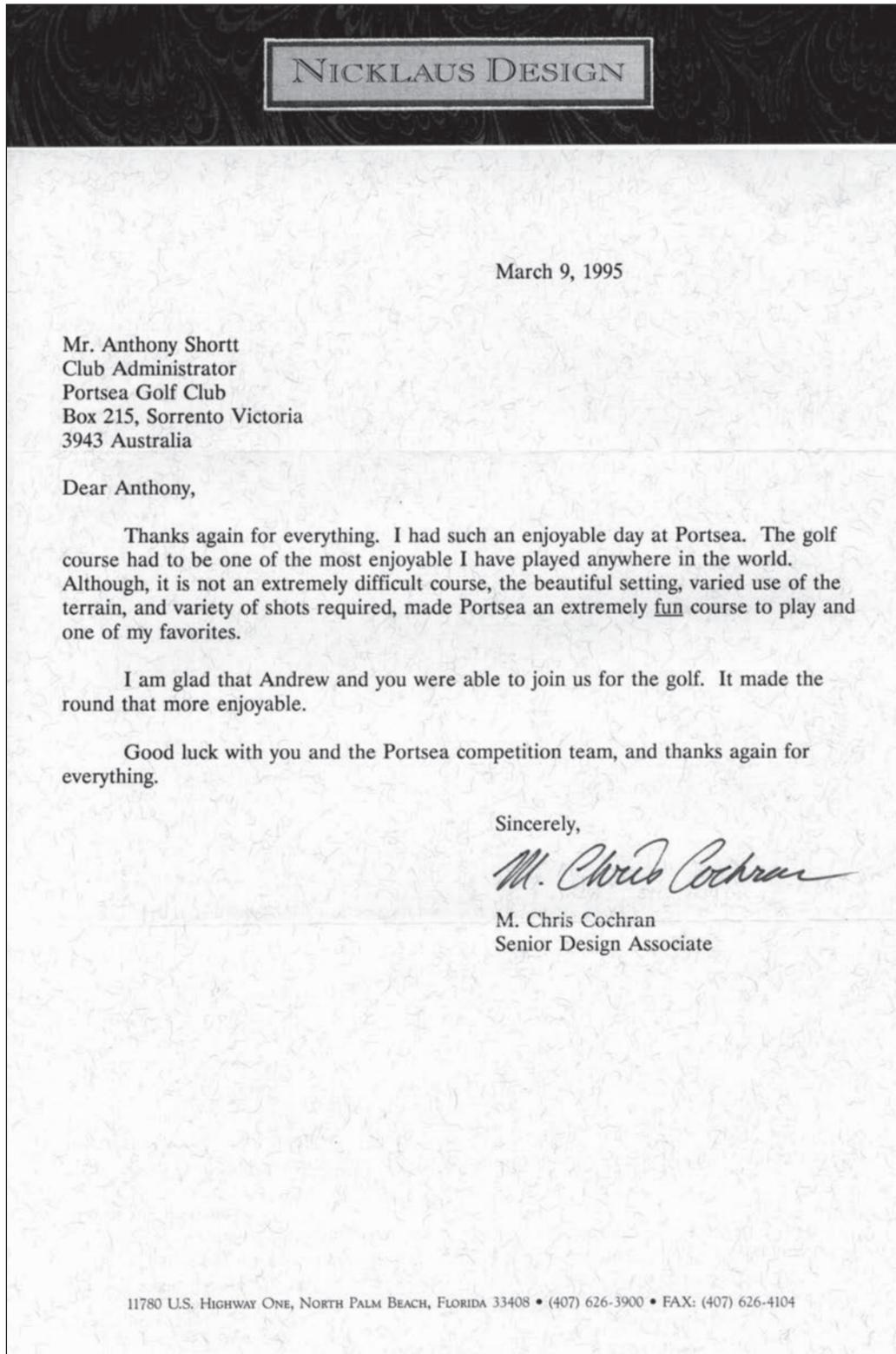
New watering methods were employed. A spray tank was purchased at the end of 1990 to spray the greens by hand. Fresh water ring mains were then installed at a cost of \$34192. To improve and regulate the watering system on the fairways, turf valves were installed on the 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th and 17th fairways in time for the 1990 growing season. By October 1991, turf valves had also been installed on the 13th, 14th and 18th and later on the 6th and the 8th fairways. To overcome staffing shortages, some fifteen volunteers assisted with planting out the 17th fairway with Santa Anna couch sprigs.

In early 1991, to indicate the distance to the front of the green, 150 metre distance fairway markers were positioned for the first time. Blue stakes were used as markers until Coastal Beard Heath trees were planted. Some time later, small concrete markers were placed in the middle of fairways 135 metres from the front of the greens. These markers were then supplemented by short pine poles placed near the shrubs.

A stringent watering and fertilising program proved successful in 'stressing' the infestation of *poa annua*, thus reducing its growth. Since this time, no greens have had to be replaced specifically because of this weed.

Egmont bent grass from the nursery proved unsuitable in the soil at Portsea, as it did not allow it to develop its correct growth characteristics. The nursery was reseeded with 1020 bent, duchess and a small area of bent (Meritima) grass. The practice fairway was sprigged with santa anna couch for use when sods were required in future fairway reconstruction. At the same time, ground staff laid out a new practice green in the courtyard of the new Club House and a new workshed was erected with fuel tanks and partitioning on the area between the 2nd green and 14th fairways.

The budget for greens in 1992-93 was set at \$393,000. However, capital expenditure ate up much of this and finances remained tight. Throughout the Club's history, working bees have engendered a strong Club spirit while also assisting to allay maintenance costs. At the conclusion of the AGM in October 1993, over thirty members lifted grass sods from sections of the course and replaced them at the front of the new 1st tee and practice fairway area. The projects carried out with voluntary labour over the years have saved the Club considerable funds.



A letter received from an executive staff member of Jack Nicklaus' company, March 1995

The editor of the Club magazine, 'Links', was one of thirty-two members involved in the working bee to lay the turf. He marvelled at the pace of Jack Howard, who, at 81 years of age, had to be told to slow down. 'Working with these people made me feel good to be there. In fact, it was worth it to see Jack Carr in "those Bermuda shorts".' Most of the work had been completed when a typical spring thunderstorm caused work to cease prematurely. Weary members and staff high-tailed it to the marquee which was being used as a temporary Club House, for a sausage sizzle and a few drinks. By late October 1993, the 1st tee, practice putting green and new 6th green were all opened for use. The bank on the side of the 18th was hydroseeded in December and on the same afternoon another huge thunderstorm washed much of it away. It was reseeded several weeks later, but again mother nature intervened and the bank again had to be reseeded. In June 1994, the old machinery shed was moved from its existing site between the 1st and 18th fairway to the old tip area between the 8th tee and 12th green with the assistance of a tractor and the labour of some twenty members.

After some six months of negotiations, a course maintenance contract was signed in February 1994 with Scotch Grange to control maintenance activities and costs, rather than relying on the continually changing voluntary Greens sub-Committee. The Committee secured re-employment of all staff and guaranteed their entitlements as part of the negotiations. The results were almost immediate. The March 1994 issue of *Victorian Golf* depicted Portsea as its 'Club of the Month'. Four officials from the USA PGA played the course in November 1994 once it had improved its ranking to be one of the top fifty golf courses in Australia. They were extremely complimentary about its excellent condition.

A complete review of machinery was undertaken and obsolete equipment replaced when the Scotch Grange contract was implemented. In the latter part of 2000, it was resolved that all machinery be leased, rather than owned by the Club. Paths have been covered with equi-track, and black beetle, a menace to couch, has been brought under control. Most greens now contain eighty to ninety percent pure bent grass.

The 'Links' reported that:

The local bird life also enjoys the course. The Peninsula Bird Observers Club in July 1998 spotted fourteen species, including a Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike Thrush and an Eastern Yellow Robin. The spectacular Flame Robin can also been seen occasionally on the eighth fairway.'

A course masterplan

In March 1996, the Committee resolved to make several significant changes to the course. One involved moving the 9th tee some 30 metres to the north, a proposal which had been put forward by Jack Howard in 1963. Another proposal was to revamp the last 50 metres of the 18th hole. This included additional fairway bunkers and recontouring the green. Shortly after these changes, the Club commissioned Michael Clayton Golf Course Design to produce a master plan for the course. In March 1997 the Committee resolved to 'adopt the overall principal and concept of the master plan... subject to stage by stage financial and budgeting approval'.



The beginnings of the new 17th tee, 1997

Several alterations have since taken place. In 1997, a new par 3 hole was built between what was the 16th green and the 17th tee, with the relocation of the 17th tee some 50 metres to the north. This hole was thus lengthened by approximately 50 metres. The new par 3 hole replaced the 15th hole that Sandy Cunningham and Jack Howard constructed in the 1930s. These alterations were ready in time for the 1998 Pro-Am. They were then closed for several months to allow them to consolidate.

Jack Howard, whose contributions were so vital to the successful development of the course, died in February 1998. Jack, who was born in Sorrento in 1912 and lived at Portsea as a child when his father was attached to the army base, was the only living member to have witnessed the opening of both the Portsea Club Houses. In his latter years, Jack played with the 'nine-holers' and remained interested in the Club until the very end. Jack had a number of favourite stories he used to tell about the Club. One funny incident involved three golfers playing in semi-darkness. When they approached the 14th tee near Delgany, several nuns from the convent came over the rise, their white habits flowing. The golfers took off. They thought they were seeing ghosts. Another time, while Jack was playing a round, his playing partner bit off from the old 8th and the ball rolled down the hill and finished up beside a water pump. The hapless golfer stepped back one club's length and dropped the ball over his shoulder, only to find that it was promptly lost down a bandicoot hole! Jack's passing has severed the last surviving link for the Club with its early history.

In July 1998, the 13th fairway, which had always caused difficulties, was recontoured. The 13th green was also enlarged and reshaped. This required the removal of the cypress trees, including those near the 14th tee, which was also reshaped. This fairway and green were opened for play during the Spring Tournament. In June 1998, two emergency stations were positioned on the course to provide rapid contact between players and the Club House.

Club House administration

Anthony Shortt, who had been the assistant manager at Kingswood Golf Club, was appointed the new Club administrator at Portsea in August 1992. The duties of the administrator were revised and remuneration increased in consideration of his new responsibilities, which included the bar and catering activities. A bar manager, Noel Johnson, was appointed to establish the bar facility and when the caterers resigned, he also accepted responsibility for catering.

Following complaints by members about tee booking times over the summer, a problem which had caused the Committee much grief over the years, the Match Committee introduced a new system whereby members were able to book three days in advance, while the public could only make bookings two days in advance. The Club received many requests for membership information during this period.

Bill Branthwaite, the course professional, had his contract reviewed in 1994 after seven years of employment, as his responsibilities had altered considerably. As the first professional appointed on a full time basis at the Club, Bill had witnessed many changes. Apart from organising the new shop when he was



Jack Howard photographed in 1993

first appointed, he had to adjust to its temporary removal when the new Club House was constructed and then set up the new pro shop in the Club House complex in 1993. He resigned as professional in August 1996, giving the Club three month's notice to find a replacement. His farewell function attracted a large number of well-wishers. Twenty-seven applications for the position were received and Michael Barry was appointed to the position.

Anthony Shortt resigned in February 1999. His replacement, Chris Barnett, resigned after only six months to become manager of Kooyong Tennis Club. Portsea Golf Club was fortunate at this time that Amanda Schafer, who had been employed first of all in the office and then as house manager, was prepared to take on the role of acting manager until April 2000, when Ken Manders took over as manager. Ken had previously managed Victoria Golf Club.

During the last fifteen years, there has been a distinct shift in the Club's management style. The change of direction, from voluntary management, to part time and then full time paid administration and contracted course management, has reduced the day-to-day demands on Committee members. They are now able to concentrate less on administration and more on planning financial and long-term contingencies for the Club. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, financially well-positioned and with a solid membership, the Portsea Golf Club has the security and support to develop fully and promote its vital and exciting golfing reputation.



CHAPTER FOURTEEN

The Associates



Portsea Golf Club has always had lady members. Of the original thirty-three members when the Club was formed, ten were ladies and by September 1926, there were thirty-two lady members, mostly from the city. Lady members were known until 1986 as associates. After the end of the second world war, there was renewed interest by local ladies in joining the Club and also in forming their own Committee. In early December 1950, a resolution was passed 'to circulate the Committee concerning the proposed formation of an associates' Committee'. The first formal meeting was held on December 30th, 1950. Of those present, Mesdames Quick, Morgan, Hallam, Hill and Miss Burrowes had all joined in 1950.



The cloth badge was also used by some men, sewn on blue jumpers or 'track suit'-type jackets. The badges were apparently known as 'poached eggs' because of the colours.

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting of Ladies held at the Club House to form a Ladies Committee, on December 30th, at 3 pm

Present: Mesdames Quick, Weston, Morgan, Hallam, Hill, Colston, Burt, Bernadou and Miss Burrowes.

Business: The Secretary of the Club opened the meeting and gave a resume of events leading up to the holding of this meeting explaining that a number of Associate members had been interested in the possibility of forming a ladies' Committee, and following this, he had contacted Miss Fradgley who had made suggestions relative to the formation of a Committee and felt that it would be an excellent idea to proceed with.*

After discussion, and following advice given by Mr P.B.O. McCutcheon on the requirements at the inaugural meeting, it was resolved to ballot for a temporary Chairwoman, and this resulted in Mrs H. Quick being elected to that position.

At this juncture, the Secretary and Mr McCutcheon retired and the ladies continued their meeting.

At the conclusion thereof, Mrs Hill requested that a list of Associate members with addresses be sent to her care of Stringer's Stores, Sorrento.

Pauline Powell has compiled the notes for the history of lady members by researching the Committee of Management minutes, the yearly syllabus books, honour boards, the local Southern Peninsula Gazette, recollections from older and former members, and the ladies' records from 1991.

*Miss Fradgley was the secretary of the Victorian Ladies Golf Union (VLGU), later known as Women's Golf Victoria.

Not all applications for associate membership were successful. Applications had to be proposed by a Club member (i.e. male) and statements were required regarding the length of time the applicant had been known. Associates were also unable to attend Committee of Management meetings and had no voting rights.

In 1950 there were no facilities in the Club House for ladies and after the formation of a ladies' committee, the associates immediately arranged for the installation of a secure cupboard with a power point. They then purchased an electric jug and an urn. After this, they were able to cater for guest days and charity fundraising days.

When the Mornington Peninsula District Golf Associates' Association (MPDGAA) Pennant competition was formed in 1951, the Portsea associates soon set a precedent. Bringing everything from home, they served scones and pikelets with morning tea before going out to play. For lunch, after matches were completed, they provided home-made casseroles and sponge cakes. Later, they were given permission to use the kitchen in the residence during the winter months to prepare lunches, although only for Pennant matches. The associates rapidly created a lively presence in the rather austere surroundings of the old Club House.

In June 1954, the associates harassed the Committee about the deplorable state of the Club House. Two months later, a stainless steel sink was installed in the ladies' room and a second sink was promised for the kitchen. It was then possible to offer improved hospitality and guest days became a regular feature of their annual calendar. Despite the fact that the Club House boasted only one main room, the associates created a convivial atmosphere for their guests who spilled out onto the verandah in favourable weather. They were later given permission to use the two inner rooms of the residence, one of which had a fireplace – an absolute luxury!

Everything had to be provided - food, cutlery, crockery, vases, flowers and even the washing-up materials were brought in washing baskets. The Portsea associates became renowned for their hospitality and their home-made specialities. Their basic menu included cold meat and salads, trifle, fruit salad and pavlova, all prepared and carried to the Club House for midweek guest and charity events. For open days, when the Club House was too small, the associates were given the use of the Nepean Hotel. They would still arrange everything and bring the food themselves!

In 1954 the associates gave the Captain, Flo Newton, a mahogany occasional table at her kitchen tea. At her wedding, which was the first in the Portsea Presbyterian Church since it had been built 57 years previously, Portsea Golf Club associate members formed an archway of golf clubs through which the bride walked.

The associate's Committee quickly organised their Wednesday golfing calendar and by the end of 1954, their numbers totalled eighty-one, the majority from Rye, Sorrento and Portsea.

At about the same time as the Howards were employed, the associates increased their interest in improving conditions in the Club House generally. In 1957, Min Wright-Smith (formerly Burrowes), a great



The Associates formed a guard of honour at Flo Newton's wedding

worker, built shelves and hung curtains. She also built a padded bench seat for the ladies' room and a desk for the associates' captain who, prior to this, had carried out her work under duress without adequate furniture. In August, the associates invited to lunch and golf the newly affiliated Rosebud associates from the recently established Rosebud Golf Club, now Rosebud Park. By 1959, more substantial improvements to the Club House, encouraged and partly funded by associate members, were commenced.

Apart from enjoying their golf, associate members actively set out to raise money. When the practice fairway was completed, the Committee of Management passed over the cost of the practice nets to the associates for their consideration. Grace Phillingham and Joan Murphy made and raffled cakes at the Club on men's Pennant days to raise money and the associates also provided meals for the men's Pennant. Fondly remembered are Grace Phillingham's famous minestrone soup and Edna White's scones and sponges.

By the 1960s, the associates were holding regular charity events to raise money for community projects. In 1961, £15 was sent to the new Southern Peninsula Hospital Appeal after a guest day. In 1962, again funds were raised for the hospital when the Portsea and Rosebud associates played at Sorrento Downs.

In 1962 a fun day cleared £15/13/- for the Hospital Appeal. Apart from the usual trophies, the 'Crazy Putting Competition' demonstrated the skills of Nan Hartley and Jimmy Gwynne of Portsea and Alma Coleman of Rosebud, who gave an exhibition of how to putt. Alma swept the way clear with a straw broom with Nan lying flat out to measure every angle to get the ball in the hole, while Jimmy chased the ball. Another charity day in 1964, despite bad weather, still managed to raise over £10 for the Southern Peninsula Ambulance Auxiliary.

In 1961, associate Committee member Olga Hill asked that the Committee of Management consider demolishing the wall between the lounge and kitchen. She argued that this would add much needed space for associate meetings. The associates were prepared to contribute half the cost, amounting to £40, as well as an extra £11 for fly-wire screens. Olga explained that with the ever increasing number of associates joining the Club, the facilities were not big enough to cope and further requested that the Committee agree to extending the main room to take in the verandah on the southern end. This added £150 to the cost.

In 1966, the associates again organised for alterations to the lounge room. At the AGM in April 1966, the chairman referred to their desire to have the lounge room extended at no cost to the Club. By April 29th, a quotation of \$870 had been obtained for the alterations. Min Wright-Smith provided an interest-free loan of \$600 and the associates quickly met the remaining costs by fundraising. They organised raffles, the Open day and a number of dinners, including one very memorable spaghetti night at the Nepean Hotel where they even made check tablecloths to improve the atmosphere. By August 1966, the extension was completed and the ladies were granted permission to purchase seagrass matting for the lounge floor.

On occasions, the associates helped Jack Howard by weeding the greens. They afterwards would have a barbecue and a drink and consider it a 'good fun day'. Jack would reciprocate by making sure the course was in its best condition for the associates on their special days. In their notes in the Gazette, thanks would often be given to 'the curator, Jack Howard'. For some time in the 1970s, Clive Bardsley, a professional golfer and son of Bessie Bardsley, a very active associate member, conducted clinics for ladies before golf. Clive sometimes worked with Jack Howard on the course and assisted the nuns at the Delgany School for the deaf, teaching the handicapped children.

The associates increasingly catered for men's and ladies' major events at Portsea. Many ladies gave up their golf to host players from other clubs, setting up, washing and clearing up after meals and thus enabling the Club to earn the money to improve facilities and to finance the ladies' golf program. Their voluntary contributions and monetary donations were considerable. In 1978 alone, \$2000 was raised and given to the Club.



Some of the Portsea Associates, c. 1968

Standing (from left) – Gwen Graysan, Roma Hancock, Doris Redman, Grace Phillingham, Nan Garland, June McDonald, Margaret Rattray, Pauline Powell, Joan McWilliam, Flo King, Phyl Grubb, Ness Sheridan.
 Kneeling – Min Wright-Smith, Beryl Burns, Billie Rowley.

The Articles of Association until 1976 defined an associate member as a 'lady amateur golfer over the age of 21, or under that age if the wife of a full member'. After 1976, associate members were able to propose and second applications for membership and associate numbers that year increased to 135. The following year, their status was again improved when, on Wednesdays, the associates' Committee was given permission to use the official car parking spaces set aside for the Club's president, captain and secretary. By 1979, the Committee of Management had passed a resolution that members other than full or life members be allowed to be present at AGMs as non-participating observers. This gave associate members the opportunity to attend and learn more about Club business.

Interestingly, in the late 1970s one associate member, after corresponding with the Committee, paid the men's fee. Rather than create a controversy, the Committee recorded the amount as a donation and she remained an associate member! The matter of equal rights and the official status of the associates were not addressed until the 1980s when 'equal opportunity' legislation was applied generally to sporting organisations.

Portsea associates began to enjoy an improved standing in the Club in the 1970s, however, as their golfing successes and fundraising abilities began to be appreciated. In the eighteen months between 1979 and 1981, they handed over \$11,500 to the Committee, reimbursing the Club and raising sufficient funds to purchase extra items for the Club House – a hot water urn, an electric stove and dishwasher for the kitchen, heating and shelves and a new handicap board. They also assisted with the Club's monthly social functions, supplying food for film nights, dinner dances and special crayfish and wine and cheese nights.

The Open charity day organised by the ladies in 1981, raised \$900 for the Southern Peninsula Search and Rescue Squad (SPSRS). After this success, the associates decided to hold a fundraising day for the SPSRS each year, some years handing across up to \$1600. At some of these events, the SPSRS helicopter would land on the first tee and a raffle was conducted for rides. At the end of each year the associates also ran a mixed day for the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club.

In 1982, the Victorian Ladies Golfing Union (VLGU) junior girls' camp was held at the Lord Mayor's Camp and participants played on the Portsea course. The state squad helped with a junior promotion on the Sunday and the Portsea associates entertained the VLGU President, Miss Burtta Cheney and senior players, including Australian champion Jane Lock, who helped the juniors as they played the course with them.

At the beginning of 1982, the associates invited all former associate members to a very successful morning tea at which time many photographs were taken. Now in albums in the associates' room, these photographs provide a record of many of the early associate members.

The ladies had, in 1984, provided \$1000 for two new practice nets, originally located under the cypress trees at the left of the then first tee. In 1986 they purchased new carpet tiles for the old Club House and at last, in 1988, after almost eight years of petitioning for a toilet on the course, the Committee of Management agreed to its construction near the seventh tee. The ladies paid the total cost of its construction – over \$3000 and considered they were 'pennies well-spent!'

Full membership was offered to both men and women in 1986 as a result of equal opportunity legislation. Most associates became full members, which enabled them to place their names on the Saturday timesheet for a separate competition for the ladies.

In 1987 Irene Barron and Peg Sherren became fully elected members of the Committee of Management, the first female Committee members in Portsea's history. Irene Barron did not renominate in 1988 and Peg Sherren and Janice Ainslie were elected for the next two years. In 1999 Lynn Bassett was elected junior vice-president of the Committee of Management, the first lady to hold an official position. At the AGM in 2000, when this position was abolished, she was re-elected to the Committee.

The work of lady members catering for Club events was more fully appreciated by the Committee after 1986 when it tried employing an outside caterer for the men's Portsea Open amateur tournament. Following this event, the Committee stated that 'the expertise our ladies have in catering should be recognised in future.' The same year, Honorary memberships were conferred on Nin Watson and Betty Canning. They were unable to play due to ill health, but this recognised their years of work contributed to the Club.

Nin Watson joined in the 1960s and was a keen golfer and a good representative in all teams. She was president in 1981/2 and secretary in 1984/5. On guest days, she was always to be found 'up to her elbows in the fruit salad'. Betty Canning was a wonderful organiser, purchasing the best specials and coordinating her band of willing workers in the kitchen. She made sandwiches to sell on Saturdays and provided sandwiches and sponges for ladies' pennant lunches. Willing workers had to be 'approved' and do things her way, otherwise they were told in no uncertain manner. With Grace Phillingham, Betty would also arrange flowers in the Club House for special occasions. For her 79th birthday in 1984, the Club presented Betty with a Portsea pullover.

The ladies continued to purchase items for the old Club House, tables, chairs and a microwave oven. However, as plans for a new Club House were by the early 1990s well-advanced, no large capital items were purchased. Following the move into the new Club House, the ladies raised funds to furnish their section which they believed was bare and uninviting. After struggling to make do for over forty years in the old Club House, however, the lady members revelled in their new Club House facilities. But they had to come to terms with the new systems set up, whereby lunches were purchased from the bar and caterers prepared the food for 'special' activities. For many ladies with busy schedules, this was something of a blessing, leaving them with more time to enjoy their golf. For others however, the extra leisure time was tinged with some regret. They no longer have an opportunity to offer their services or demonstrate the wide range of skills which provided so many benefits for the Club and the community. Still, they retain their happy memories. And a few of the old traditions remain. The ladies have sewn new tablecloths for the tables and table arrangements and flowers are still considered important, giving the clubroom a distinctive and welcoming atmosphere.

In 1995 the VLGU changed its name to Women's Golf Victoria (WGV) in line with Women's Golf Australia and all the other states followed suit. Val Peppler, on the staff of the Army School of Health and treasurer of the Ladies' Council, was co-opted to the Committee of Management. The same year, the trophy cabinet from the previous Club House was 'rescued' and converted for storage use and for a history display. Photograph albums were purchased and a serious effort made to document the ladies' history. Unfortunately, this has been made more difficult by the loss of the ladies' records, which disappeared somewhere in the move from the old to the new Club House.

The ladies have always appreciated having use of the course and Club House and have made the most of their surroundings, even in the early days when conditions were rough. More recently, in January 1996, while no longer responsible for catering, they organised the parking for the Pro-Am, braving the cold, wet and windy conditions to raise money for furniture for the clubroom. Members can now relax on the comfortable new seating placed strategically around the fireplace, creating an inviting atmosphere.

Peg Sherren retired from the Committee of Management at the AGM in 1996. She joined the Club in 1980, serving as associates' handicap manager, vice-captain and then captain in 1985/6. She was elected to the Committee in 1987, working on greens, match and membership sub-Committees. After 1990, she was chairman of membership. She helped produce the Links newsletter and for some years successfully organised the popular Friday evening Twilight Competitions. She was Portsea representative on the ladies' District Match Committee when its two-year term came around.

Traditionally the last event of the year for the ladies was the Christmas party lunch, a day when the members entertained the ladies' Committee – their 'Appreciation Day'. However, the ladies agreed that a change should be made and in 1998, the annual meeting, presentations of trophies and the Christmas luncheon combined with the Committee appreciation, were held altogether on the one day, the luncheon fully catered for by the Club.

From the 1950s the Christmas party lunch had been a highlight of the year. Drinks, mostly casks of wine, large bottles of beer and orange juice, during the many years that they were unavailable for sale at the old Club House, were brought in and stored in the large refrigerators. The tables were set with great care for detail, the Committee sitting at the head and their every want attended to. They always had Peg Fletcher's cream sponge kisses, Ann Dowd's ginger fluff sponge and June McDonald's small savoury quiches at their table. Anything exotic – they had it! Naturally, the special punch made by Grace Phillingham created a happy, talkative atmosphere at the small Club House which had been decorated by the ladies under instructions from Grace. The Christmas tree was the special duty of (Pat) Trish Pearson, the bell ringer for many years. Trish and her mother, Win Pearson, were staunch members. Win was secretary in 1977-79, 1981, 1986-7 and 1990-91. The last Christmas party lunch, preceded by golf, was held in December 1997. Innovative ideas were arranged for the conduct of the golf for the day, including Father Christmas (alias Yvonne McGain) appearing on a motorbike, driven by Jenny Jeffreys across the first fairway.

At the AGM in 1998, the By-Laws relating to the lady members were changed for the first time since 1975. During the year the Committee asked the ladies to reduce the number of lady councillors to one, to close their separate bank account and transfer their funds to the general bank account. The ladies no longer maintain control of their finances.

Despite their very modest beginnings, the Portsea ladies have played a major part in the development of the Portsea Golf Club. Much has always been expected of women, with their strong sense of duty and self-help, when they become involved in community organisations. The fundraising capabilities of the associates is well documented and especially in the 1960s and 1970s, the money raised was a significant boon to the Club. They also organised their committees, their golf and their social functions in a most professional way, with little assistance from the Committee of Management whose business in those early years was mostly organised from Melbourne. The associates played golf together and happily supported new and younger players during the period when there was no professional assistance and it was therefore important for more experienced players to nurture new members. Most importantly, despite their many different personalities, skills and abilities, the associates developed a strong comradeship and took pleasure in working for the betterment of the Club, the course and the community while also thoroughly enjoying their golf.



1998 saw the combination of AGM, presentations and Christmas luncheon. In 1999 the ladies gathered for a group photograph.

SECTION THREE



Playing golf
1950 – 2000



CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Club golf

The *raison d'être* for organising a golf club and building a superlative golf course is, of course, to play golf. The Committee members who implemented changes over the years at the Portsea Golf Club spent a large amount of time organising the Club and facilitating improvements to the course. But of paramount importance to them was enjoyment of the game of golf, at both social and competitive levels.

Prior to 1950, the Committee showed little interest in organising Club competitions even though a group of local members played regularly on a Sunday morning. At the beginning of the 1950s, vice-captain and Club handicapper, Harry Quick, who worked at the quarantine station, organised local golfing and acted as captain for the friendly unofficial inter-club competition – 'social Pennant'. The only official Club competition was the regular tournament organised around the Armytage Cup.

Formal competition within the Club began slowly. At the AGM in May 1952, at around the time that the Peninsula District Golf Association (PDGA) was being established, members urged the Club to improve its golfing program. Les Masters, the new Club handicapper, suggested that a regular Club competition could be held for a one shilling entry fee, the trophy perhaps a silver spoon. The House sub-Committee, of which he was a member, was given authority to arrange and supervise suitable Club competitions. On May 31st, 1953, a competition was conducted at the Club for a 'coronation medal', which had been struck for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

That month, Colin Colston was invited to join the Committee. Jack Relph still held the offices of both secretary and captain, but from this time Colin, who was frequently at the Club, provided increasing input into matters which would normally have been the captain's responsibility. He immediately set about drawing attention to some of the Club's deficiencies – the dirty tee boxes which were also without water, the need for an improved noticeboard for rules interpretations, a Club blazer, a hole-in-one board and a display cabinet for trophies. Despite these faults, the course during this period must have been well patronised, as it was decided to place two ball races at the first tee, one marked for 'members only', to ensure that they had priority at designated times.



The first Championship Trophy – won by Walter Scott in 1956

Colin Colston was authorised to deal with any matters arising from the local fixtures. On March 31st, 1956, he was elected captain, a position he was to retain for twenty years, during which time he propelled Club competitions towards a regulated and organised format.

Early Club competitions had been held on a Sunday, with the men's events in the morning and mixed events in the afternoon. By 1956, Geoff Fiedler suggested the need for the Club to purchase honour boards for Club champions, presidents, captains and Armytage Cup winners. Although no written records of the first Club championship event in 1956 have been found, Walter Scott was the winner, defeating Ken Kenyon at the 19th. In November 1957, the second championship

was played. A 28-hole qualifying round was held and Jack Relph was the top qualifier on 116. Tied on 119 for second place were Walter Scott, Bill McGrath, Ken Kenyon and Jack Howard. As only four could compete in the match play, there was a play-off on the following Saturday over 14 holes. The final, which was refereed by Reg Weir, saw Ken Kenyon defeating Walter Scott 3/2, the reversal of the result for the previous year.

By 1957, fixtures had been set for the full year and the number of Club activities had increased. The first junior championship event was held in 1957, the trophy donated by Colin Colston. The qualifiers were R. Colston 67, J. Relph Jr. 68, G. Boykett 71 and K. Watts 73. R. Colston defeated K. Watts 6/4. In that year as well, a 'Golf Day' was held in October, which included men's, ladies' and mixed events with trophies for nett and gross scores.

In 1958, there was an interchange of visits between Medway Golf Club and Portsea. On March 23rd, the two club captains, Colin Colston and R. Miles teamed up and won the four ball event, achieving six birdies in 14 holes.

Competition times alternated between morning and afternoon and varied between 14 and 18 holes. The Committee was asked in 1958 to consider limiting hit off times for Sundays in order that the winner could be ascertained earlier. It was also suggested that Sunday afternoon events be cancelled as these, along with 18-hole events, were not popular.

In April, T. Mangan and R. Colston, both juniors, took out first and second in the monthly medal. The local newspaper report in the *Southern Peninsula Gazette* suggested that the handicapper would be taking a keen interest at the nett 48 by the winner as par was 52 for the 14 holes. A father and son event was held on Easter Sunday, the Nepean Cup in early September, the Captain's Day in October and the President's Day the following week. Club president, Ken Boykett, although not a regular competition golfer, welcomed each player individually to the first tee on President's Day.

Championship events were held again in November. The qualifiers were Messrs Kenyon, Sharrock, Fitchett, Scott, Gardiner, Howard, Day and Southwell. Quarter and semi-finals were played on the Saturday and Sunday. The final between Mike Fitchett and Ken Kenyon was played the following Sunday. The local *Gazette* reported:

The match created great interest. Its spectators were treated to a terrific struggle between our two top golfers. After being 2 down with 3 to play Fitchett staged a terrific recovery to win at the 20th. Fitchett owes his victory to a magnificent second shot to the green on the long 16th. The junior final was won by T. Mangan 1-up against C. Watt.*

Colin Colston was responsible for formulating the annual program, which he printed on a cardboard sheet each year. As Club competitions increased in popularity, the task became more demanding. For several months in 1961 while Colin was away, Max McDonald filled in as captain. He required the assistance of Reg Weir, Bill Harris and Jack Relph to complete the job. It was around this time that the Club championship became a stroke event with no match play component.

The result of the 1961 Club championship created some controversy as Colin Colston had informed a junior member, Ian Schlipalius, that he was not eligible to win the senior event. This decision had been reversed without Colin's knowledge and Ian was told that he was the winner. Advice had to be sought from the VGA to clarify the issue. The VGA indicated that there were a number of precedents which covered this situation and that the correct decision had been made.

*This was the second hole which was played from near the current 9th green to the 1st green

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| <p>Complaints All complaints should be made in writing to the Manager of the Club, who, if unable to satisfy them, shall submit them to the General Committee.</p> <p>No employee of the Club shall be directly reprimanded by an individual member.</p> <p>Members Please see that all competition cards are returned to the office immediately on completion of round. Cards must be signed by Marker and countersigned by Competitor. Members whose cards not lodged within 30 minutes thereafter are liable to disqualification. Every player is responsible for his own card. Enter your name in book before commencing to play. See that your card is correctly dated, signed and countersigned, then enter completed score in competition book.</p> <p>"A" Division: 15 Strokes and under, "B" " 16 " over.</p> <p>All ties shall be decided in such manner as the Match Committee may from time to time determine.</p> <p>In the event of a play off it shall take place on the date specified by Match Committee, and shall be played from the back tees.</p> <p>All matches in knock out competitions must be played from the back tees on or before the specified dates, and on handicap at date of play.</p> | <p>Handicap Revisions Handicap revisions take place on 1st January and 1st July.</p> <p>Close attention to the Rules of Golf and the etiquette of the game will ensure that you avoid disqualification and make the game pleasant for those who follow.</p> <p>All Monthly Medal Competitions to be played off back tee.</p> | <p><u>PORTSEA GOLF CLUB</u></p> <p><u>1957</u></p> <p><i>M. Weston</i> Member's Signature.</p> |
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| <p>1957 Syllabus</p> <p>PROGRAMME - 1957</p> | |
| 31 March - Monthly Medal | 7 July - Portsea 1 v Frankston |
| 5 April - 18 Holes Stroke | Portsea 2 - Bye |
| 14 April - Easter Sunday - Stableford | Sunday morning Competition - |
| 21 April - Trophy by W. Butler | 14 holes (Bogey) |
| 28 April - Monthly Medal - morning 14 holes | 14 July - Portsea No. 2 v Flinders 1 |
| Start of Pennant (1.00 p.m.) | Portsea 1 - Bye |
| Portsea No. 1 v Flinders at | Sunday Competition 14 holes Stroke |
| Flinders | 21 July - Semi-Finals V.G.A. |
| Portsea No. 2 v Flinders at | Sunday Competition - to be |
| Portsea | nominated |
| 5 May - Portsea No. 1 v Portsea No. 2 | 26 July - Next Meeting V.G.A. (Peninsula) |
| Sunday morning Competition | 28 July - Finals V.G.A. |
| 14 holes (Bogey) | Sunday morning Competition - to |
| 10 May - Peninsula Amateur Championships | be nominated |
| at Mornington | No Monthly Medal |
| Sunday morning Competition | 4 Aug. - District Finals at Emerald |
| 14 holes (Bogey) | 10 Aug. - District Championship Handicap |
| 19 May - Portsea 1 v Flinders No. 2 | at Mornington |
| Mornington No. 1 v Portsea No. 2 | 11 Aug. - Semi-Finals |
| Sunday morning Competition | 18 Aug. - Final - Social <i>Meeting</i> <i>at</i> <i>Frankston</i> |
| 14 holes (Bogey) | 25 Aug. - Monthly Medal - 14 holes |
| 26 May - Get-Together at Flinders | 1 Sept. - Nepean Cup - 18 holes |
| (no Monthly Medal) | 8 Sept. - 14 holes Stroke - Koonya Hotel |
| 1 June - Mornington 1 v Portsea No. 1 | Trophy - A. Hulme |
| Portsea 2 v Sorrento | 15 Sept. - Foursomes Championship and Con- |
| Mornington Competition 14 holes | current Handicap at Sorrento |
| (Stableford) | 22 Sept. - Stroke Event 14 holes - Continental Hotel (Hill and Scott) |
| 9 June - Queen's Birthday | 29 Sept. - Monthly Medal <i>at</i> <i>Lynch</i> <i>Meeting</i> |
| Armytage Cup (Sunday morning) | 6 Oct. - Captain's Trophy - 14 holes Stroke |
| (18 holes) | 13 Oct. - 14 holes (Bogey) Trophy <i>at</i> <i>Frankston</i> <i>Meeting</i> <i>1957</i> |
| 10 June - Morning - Men's Foursomes | 20 Oct. - President's Day (Trophy) |
| Afternoon - Mixed Foursomes | 14 holes (Stroke) |
| 16 June - Portsea 1 v Mornington 2 | 27 Oct. - Monthly Medal - 14 holes Stroke |
| Rosebud v Portsea 2 | 3 Nov. - Club Championships (same as last |
| Mornington Competition 14 holes Bogey | year) - (2-14 holes, 1st 4 |
| 23 June - Sorrento v Portsea 1 | qualify and play off) |
| Frankston v Portsea 2 | 5 Nov. - Cup Day |
| Mornington Competition 14 holes Stroke | 8 Nov. - Amateur Foursomes C'hip or Vic. <i>Meeting</i> |
| 30 June - Rosebud v Portsea 1 | 10 Nov. - Afternoon Mixed Foursomes |
| Mornington v Portsea 2 | 14 holes (Trophy by M. McDonald) |
| Monthly Medal - 14 holes (Stroke) | Morning Competition (Bogey) |

Members are requested to observe the following rules for Sunday play which are subject to alteration at the discretion of the Committee.

Men's Four Ball Matches have full rights over all other matches which must give way when such matches are approaching.

Playing Rights of Members are displayed in Club House and on Notice Board.

Members are reminded that Etiquette of Golf demands -

- (i) Should a ball be lost the match following must immediately be called through and the players must remain in their position until the match playing through is out of range.
- (ii) Slower matches must always call faster matches through.

Please inspect the Notice Board before start of play for temporary local rules and other information.

Car Parking

In consideration of others, members are requested to strictly observe the Parking Rules. Cars should be carefully parked in such manner as to enable the greatest possible number of cars to be accommodated.

Personal Property

The Club is not responsible for the loss of or injury to property or person of any member in or about the premises. Valuables should be handed in for safe keeping.

In 1962, the Committee changed the Club competition day from Sunday to Saturday, despite objections from a number of local members involved in other weekend pursuits. The fields averaged twenty for the Saturdays, just a few less than the Sunday fields in 1961. Saturday events began at 12 o'clock and Sunday events at 9 o'clock. As men's events were held over 18 holes on Saturday and 14 holes on Sunday, ladies were not permitted to play 18 holes at the weekends.

For some time the Committee deliberated whether to reconstitute Sunday for the main event. In June 1962, the Committee resolved that:

1. Club events as listed in the Fixture List be held on Sunday mornings over 14 holes.
2. Competitions as may be arranged by Match Committee from month to month to be held on Saturday afternoons over 14 or 18 holes.
3. Club championship. Two rounds of 14 holes – Sunday.
4. Armytage and Nepean Cups, 18 holes – Saturday.

Over the next few years this format rarely changed.

Saturday competitions in the early 1970s usually had fields of about thirty although numbers increased over summer. After circulating members to promote the advantages of Saturday competitions and to invite their participation, in the mid 1970s numbers increased to between seventy and ninety players each week.

The Committee decided to conduct the 1971 Club championship over a Saturday and Sunday, a format which continued until the late 1970's. The winner in 1971 was Hans Greenfield, winning with 154 over the two days in windy conditions.

After 1972, the fixtures were printed in booklet form which included rules regarding course use, etiquette and by-laws. The fixture list for 1974 included a mixed competition every month, although during the Pennant season, it was limited to twelve holes.

The Club championship for some years at this time was dominated by Russell Scott and Phillip Jewell. Russell won for the fourth time in 1976, defeating Phillip who had been successful for the previous three years. Russell won by one shot over the two rounds after Phillip had put his drive from the first hole into the cypress tree on the corner in both rounds. This resulted in him taking 8 and 7 on the hole over the two days. In 1977, Phillip regained the title from a field of eighty-six with the event played over two consecutive Saturdays for the first time.



Ken Boykett presenting Ian Schlipalius with the 1961 Club Championship – Jack Ralph second from right

Two new board events were initiated in early 1978 to honour two previous Club captains who had both served over twenty years in that position. The first, the Arthur W. Relph Trophy, was to be awarded to the member who had the best nett aggregate score over three specified 18-hole events, a stroke, stableford and par. All scores were to be converted to par. The second event, the Colin Colston Cup, was for the best nett aggregate score over three consecutive stroke monthly medal rounds. Both events were to be held concurrently with normal Saturday events. (In 1991 the Club captain, Lawrence Heraty, gained approval from the Match sub-Committee to change the format of the Relph and Colston trophies to par and stableford events respectively, owing to the increased fields and interest.)

In 1978, the Club championship was changed back to matchplay for the first time since 1961 so that the players with the top four scores after two stroke rounds played match play to decide the champion. The semifinals were played the following Saturday, with the final on the Sunday. One semifinal was won by Mike Dore from Alan Bullas, the other was a walkover by Ron Bergman when Jim Kirby was unable to play. On the Sunday of the final, Ron Bergman was also unable to play and Mike Dore was declared the winner. This was a disappointment to everyone concerned and the Committee resolved that in future, if qualifiers were unavailable, then the player with the next best score would take their place. Alan Bullas, after losing that year, went on to win twelve Club championships over the next seventeen years.

During 1980, concerns were raised that some groups of two seemed to report unusually good results in board and monthly medal events. The Committee after this resolved that for these events, play must be in threes or fours unless special permission was granted and also that all grades of the Club championship events should be decided by matchplay finals.

The Club was honoured with a visit, on July 16th, 1979, from the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Winneke and seven other players, to play against eight members from Portsea in a four-ball better ball challenge.

Jack Mountford had taken over from Gerry Kivlighon as handicapper by 1979. John White then accepted the job in June 1979 and was followed in the 1980s by Des Matthews. Handicapping remained onerous and time consuming until 1991, when the Club installed a computerised handicapping program.

The Club championship in 1982 was won by Craig Thomson, the first junior to win since 1970. He defeated Alan Bullas 3 and 1 in the 36 hole final. Alan had won the three previous years and would go on to win the following three years. (In 1985, Alan was again A-grade champion, Norm McKinlay won B-grade and Maurie Myles prevailed in D-grade. Because of a disputed score, C-grade remained undecided for several weeks, after which time Graeme Burte was declared the C-grade champion.)

Two new board events were instigated during 1987. The first, the Houghton Trophy, was named after Life Member, Tom Houghton, who had helped ensure the survival of the Club during the difficult war and post-war years. The event is played over six monthly medal rounds. The second, the Easter Cup, is a stroke round.

Booking times were becoming an increasingly contentious issue. Some members objected to the Club allocating blocks on the time sheet for Pennant practice, which involved some thirty-five players and four teams. However, as the Committee pointed out, Pennant players were also members and had as much right to reserve times as the objectors. Time sheets were introduced on a trial basis during the early 1980s with a number of blank times left for those members who had not organised games prior to arriving on the Saturday. The Match sub-Committee began to seek explanations from members who did not arrive at their

booked tee-off time and players who did not return cards after competitions. In 1991, the Club championship dates were changed so that unfinancial members could not enter. Because of the number of members playing Saturday competitions in January, it was decided that no guests could play during members' times.

Slow play added to difficulties on the course and eight members were singled out specifically for refusing to speed up. One member complained that he was being coerced by a 'military model of golf administration'. When it was found that the same names continued to appear, all members were required to show on their cards the hit off time, time finished and time taken. This not only confirmed who the slow groups were, but made all players aware of how long they were taking for their rounds.

Rules were altered in 1991 to allow Army School of Health members to be eligible for all board events as well as the Pro-Am. The Senior championship was introduced and run in conjunction with the 1991 Club championship events. To be eligible, players had to have turned 50 years of age prior to the date of the event. A non-member Bruce Taylor, the son of Herbert Taylor, the first honorary secretary of the Club, donated a perpetual trophy in 1991 in honour of his father. It became known as the Father and Son Trophy.

Three generations of Scotts have won Club championships since the 1950s – Walter, Russell and Craig. Audrey, wife of Walter, mother of Russell and grandmother of Craig, also excelled, winning the associates' championship in 1957 and 1958.

Mid-week competitions

The forerunner of the mid-week competitions commenced in the 1960s, when up to fifteen members, most of them businessmen from Rye, began playing over 14 holes on Tuesday afternoons. When the course was enlarged, they played 18 holes. They would play their game and then retire to the Portsea Hotel where the scores were computed. Players who did not win the main competition went out one shot. Winners were penalised a shot. A record of these 'club handicaps' was kept and updated each week. The group also had a 'secret seven' where the barmaid would be asked to think of seven numbers between 1 and 14 and the best score for those seven holes determined. Tuesday and then Friday competitions became more popular under the leadership of Geoff Roe and Harry Pickup in the 1970s. In early 1984, the majority of mid-week players voted to change the men's regular Friday competition to a Thursday to create a break before weekend competition.

The 'nine-holers'

Towards the late 1970s it was apparent that some members were unable to play the full eighteen holes at one time. In 1982, a new category of membership was introduced. This allowed members who could not complete the eighteen holes to play during the week, playing only nine holes at any one time. From this small beginning, a group calling themselves the 'nine holers' was formed. They now play on Tuesdays and Fridays, alternating between the first and second nines. Most of these players are restricted because of age or medical conditions. However, members from other categories frequently join them in a game. They conduct many concurrent events and social activities and enjoy the camaraderie.

Juniors

The Club became increasingly interested in encouraging junior members in the late 1970s. Ralph Parry spent considerable time and energy talking to local schools and Syd Thomson, assisted by several other members, organised Saturday morning competitions. Eventually some thirty-five juniors played nine holes on Saturday mornings. Clinics were also organised during school holidays with Bruce Green and other professionals assisting. Participants were not required to be members but many did join as a result of the early encouragement received.

In early 1981, between six and ten junior players were being supervised by Gordon Beeney each Saturday morning and by 1982, the Peninsula district had organised a junior Pennant competition. Portsea was asked to provide one team of five plus two extras for a composite team with Carrington Park Golf Club. Although the Club fulfilled these obligations, they proved difficult to sustain as there were many alternative weekend activities appealing to juniors. Late in 1984, the Gordon Beeney Trophy was instigated. The trophy was supplied by a generous Club member who recognised the esteem in which Gordon was held by the juniors. The early junior clinics resumed when member support for a junior development fund enabled a professional to be employed for a day during the May school holidays and during 1991, regular junior clinics were conducted. The fund also financed pullovers and shirts for the junior Pennant players.

When it was considered in 1996 that the juniors would benefit by playing on other courses, matches were organised with Queenscliff and Moorabbin Golf Clubs. Several visits to Royal Melbourne Golf Club were also arranged in the September school holidays. Royal Melbourne allowed the juniors to play at a concessional green-fee.



Juniors showing the way – (from left) Adam Cervi (C-Grade 2000 Champion), Ryan Grant (B-Grade 2000 Champion), Craig Scott (Club Champion 2000) and Louise MacDonald (Lady Champion 1999).

FIRST JUNIOR GOLF CLINIC AT PORTSEA

Portsea Golf Club staged its first Open Junior Golf Clinic on Friday 13th May when instruction was given by leading professionals Brian Twite from Metropolitan and Bruce Green from Peninsula. Mark Wickenden assisted.

The clinic, attended by 23 boys, was a great success and will be repeated on Friday 26th August. After the clinic the juniors were divided into two groups and played in a nine and 18 hole competition for balls presented by Slazengers.

The Club was very pleased with the enthusiasm shown by the juniors and Committeeman Syd Thomson expressed the feelings of everyone when he remarked "Golf Clubs must do more to encourage youth".

Many of the boys asked to be included in the squad of juniors who are guests of the Club for 18 holes (with an option of 9) commencing at 9 every Saturday morning.

Junior promotion is to be a feature of Club activity in the future with special clinics in school holidays.

All young people interested in learning to play golf should call Portsea Club Administrator at 84 2909.

Victorian Golf – June 1977



Participants in the Junior Clinic held in May 1977 – Professionals: Brian Twite, Mark Wickenden and Bruce Green.

Twilight events

Friday night twilight events commenced over the 1975-76 Christmas and New Year period and became a very popular Club event. At first, guests at these nights did not have to pay a green-fee. However, this concession was later discontinued as some members were unable to secure a game. Twilight events have undergone some changes, from mixed to medley to singles events, and support has varied over the years but they have attracted wide support since the mid 1990s with fields of more than sixty players.

In the old Club House, members brought their own meals, already on plates, in baskets. It was often difficult to find a place in the 'fridge' for the plates. The twilight events are remembered as being good fun, even though the large number of players meant that people had to squeeze together to be seated. Peg Sherren organised the twilight events for many years in the late '80s and early '90s. When support began to dwindle after moving to the new Club House, pro-shop staff helped to promote the night. Since 1994, Jack Carr has organised them, with support from Rob Dunball since 1997.

Presentation nights

Presentation nights were held for many years at the Nepean Hotel. During the 1970s, when some two hundred attended, the Rye Civic Hall became the venue. Presentation nights are now held in the new Club House. In 1996, the Club captain discussed with the ladies' captain the need to have a combined Club presentation night to further cement the "togetherness" brought about by equal opportunity. The first night proved to be highly successful, with Royal Melbourne professional Bruce Green the after dinner speaker.

In the 1950s, medals were presented each month. These medals later became inscribed pewter tankards and were distributed at presentation nights. They reverted to medals in 1997 and were presented on the day of winning or soon after if the winner was not able to be present.

Open competitions

Open competitions had been part of the Portsea calendar since the inception of the Club although events were suspended during the second world war. Nor did an open meeting take place in 1950 or 1951. However, Ray Wright organised an open tournament for June 1952. During the meeting, an exhibition game was staged between Ossie Pickworth, Jack Harris, Ray Wright and Walter Scott. Participation in the tournament was small, players deterred by the Club's relatively long distance from Melbourne, the short daylight hours available for play in winter and the limited capacity of the course. As a result, the Club incurred a considerable loss. The Committee decided not to hold a tournament in the winter of 1953, taking into account also the loss of potential green-fee revenue and the expense of printing, advertising and professional charges. Instead, it decided to hold the next tournament, which would include the Armytage Cup, over the 1954 New Year weekend. This tournament did not take place because of falling revenues, but the Armytage Cup was held over 12 holes on January 2nd, 1954.

On Saturday February 11th, 1956, a professional purse of £100 was played for, the money raised by donations from members. Twelve holes were played in the morning and a further twelve in the afternoon. The winner of the event was Colin Campbell who shot 86. Runners up were Ossie Pickworth and J. Sullivan with 87.

The Gazette reported that 'the day boasted a giant marquee, a bar and three barbeques'. Entry was five shillings and ten shillings, the proceeds of £150 being donated to the Southern Peninsula Hospital. During the day an Austin 7 was auctioned for £56/17/6. A ladies wrist watch and a golf club were donated by Jock Young for a raffle.

A Professional Day was organised to commemorate the opening of the new fourteen hole layout on January 20th, 1957, the £100 professional purse sponsored this time by Oscar Mayer Smallgoods. Entrance money was donated to the Dominican Nuns at Delgany. Fourteen holes were to be played in the morning and again in the afternoon. Pickworth, Harris, Campbell and all the leading professionals entered. Ossie Pickworth 52-48 100, was the winner, followed by Jack Harris and Brian Twite.

Brian Twite recalls the day well:

Playing in a Pro-Am at Portsea Golf Club with Ossie Pickworth and Jack Harris, we came to the last hole which was a Par 3 and I was a shot in front of Ossie Pickworth. It was a lovely day with wind behind. Pickworth went first and hit a great shot to within 10 feet of the flag. He turned around to Jack Harris and said in a very loud voice, "Jack that is the greatest five iron I have ever struck". Not ever having played the course before, I also hit a five iron, straight over the pin but alas it went 20 yards over the green. I turned around at Pickworth, and with the widest grin I've ever seen, he just said, "Twity, I hit mine very softly." I took 4, he got a 2 and I was beaten by one shot.

The *Gazette* reported:

Ossie Pickworth's 40 foot putts at three holes running was the most impressive feature of his game. He was extremely impressed with the condition of the course especially the three new holes and paid fine tribute to Mr Jack Howard who has come back to do such a fine job as curator of Portsea. So satisfied were the committee with the result of the contest, plans were mooted for a purse of up to £500 next year.

PORTSEA GOLF CLUB

NEPEAN HIGHWAY, PORTSEA
TELEPHONE: (059) 84 2909



Administrator:
MR. LORRIE JORGENSEN

INAUGURAL OPEN AMATEUR SPRING TOURNAMENT

(Under the auspices of the Victorian Golf Association and Peninsula District Golf Association)

9th to 13th November, 1977

SATURDAY, 12TH NOV. ARMYTAGE CUP 18 HOLES HANDICAP

WEDNESDAY 9TH ASSOCIATES EVENTS

5818 METRES SAND BELT COURSE — EXCELLENT GRASS GREENS —
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

ENTRIES CLOSE WEDNESDAY, 26TH OCTO

THURSDAY 10TH

WEDNESDAY, 9th NOV.

Events 1, 2, 3. 18-holes Stroke.
4, 5, 6. 9-holes Stroke.
7, 8, 9. 27-holes Stroke

ASSOCIATES EVENTS

A. B. C. Events 10, 11, 12. 18-holes Stroke A. B. C.
A. B. C. 13, 14, 15. 9-holes Stroke A. B. C.
A. B. C. 16, 17, 18. 27-holes Stroke A. B. C.

THURSDAY, 10th NOV.

Handicaps — A grade to 18, B grade 19 to 29, C grade 30 to 36.
36-hole events concurrent with events 1 to 6 and 10 to 15.
36-hole events concurrent with events 1, 2, 3, and 10, 11, 12.

TROPHIES: Wednesday and Thursday —
A grade: Best gross 18 and 27 holes; best nett 9, 18, and 27 holes.
B and C grades: Best nett 9, 18, and 27 holes.
A, B, and C grades 36 holes — Best gross and best nett.

NOTE: A player is unable to receive best gross and best nett trophies in the one event.

FRIDAY, 11th NOV.

EVENT 19:

18 HOLES MIXED (MEDLEY) STABLEFORD
An individual event. Groups may consist of 4 men, or 4 Associates, or 3 men and 1 Associate,
etc. Trophies for A. B. & C grades, men and Associates

SATURDAY, 12th NOV.

EVENT 20:

18 HOLES STROKE ARMYTAGE CUP HANDICAP EVENT

Trophy for best gross. Trophies for best nett A. B. C. grades.
Handicaps — A grade to 12, B grade 13-24, C. grade 25-32.

SUNDAY, 13th NOV.

EVENT 21: 18 HOLES MIXED FOURSOMES PINEHURST STROKE

Trophies for best gross, best nett.

SOCIAL EVENINGS TO BE ARRANGED

President, C. B. COLSTON
Captain, R. G. PARRY
Secretary, W. E. ROSE

ASSOCIATES: President, Mrs. J. McDONALD
Captain, Mrs. J. MCGILL
Secretary, Mrs. H. P. PEARSON

However, the £500 event did not eventuate. No open tournaments were held in the 1960s and in early 1970 the PGA was informed that the Club would be unable to accede to their request to hold a purse on their behalf. The structure of the Committee at that time meant that the captain and the Match sub-Committee ran all social events, an onerous task which included accounting for all monies and ensuring profits were passed on to the Club. It was not until 1976 that another tournament for professionals was arranged – the Portsea Pro-Am.

The Armytage Cup and Spring Tournament

On Sunday June 3rd, 1956, the Armytage Cup was played for the last time over 24 holes. The next year the new 14 hole layout was in play and on the Saturday of the Queen's Birthday weekend, the Armytage Cup was won by Ron Stringer after a play-off against Norm Watts. A 14 hole foursomes event played on the Monday morning was won by H. Farnsworth and J. Nunan with nett 41. The afternoon mixed foursomes was won by Mr and Mrs J. Nunan with nett 47. Jim Nunan was the headmaster at Rye Primary School.

The Armytage Cup was held again on the Queen's Birthday weekend in 1958. The result was a tie between Max McDonald and Doug Forbes. This was decided the following week with Doug having a nett 70 off 21, defeating Max with a 73 off a handicap of 8. Several weeks later it was found that Doug had played a few holes for practice in the morning of the play-off. However, as the result had been declared, it was allowed to stand.

In 1977, when the first Spring Tournament was organised, the Armytage Cup became part of the Saturday program. In 1984, it was removed from the program, tournament director Dave Watson stating that he considered it should be for Club members only. Jack Relph explained that it had been donated by the Armytage sisters in 1931 for open competition. It was therefore returned to the Spring Tournament program and remains a highlight of the Portsea open golf calendar. It has continued to attract large numbers, although weather conditions were so inclement during the 1993 tournament that the Armytage Cup had to be postponed.

Open Amateur (Nepean Open)

The inaugural open amateur event in 1979, restricted to single handicap golfers, was an outstanding success. Over thirty clubs were represented in the field of seventy-two and it seems fitting that Portsea member Alan Bullas was successful in this first event. Ivo Whitton status was granted prior to the event and it has grown in stature ever since, becoming a major component of the State's amateur calendar, with many winners going on to become successful touring professionals. By 1981, there were eighty-seven entries for the open amateur event, a number regarded as the absolute maximum. It was decided for future events that a qualifying round would be held on the Friday prior to the event to give all players the chance to qualify. In 1982, thirty-six players on handicaps of 7, 8 and 9 tried for ten places. The average handicap of all players was 4.6. This system continued up until 1999, when the event was held over three days and all players were able to gain a place in the field, with the cut being made for the final 36 holes on Sunday.

In 1983, the open amateur event gained further status when the state team competed. The event was renamed the Nepean Open when it was held over 72 holes in 1986 with 36 holes being played alternately at Sorrento and Portsea on the Saturday and Sunday. The 72 hole event had been suggested by a VGA official who could see the benefit for top State golfers being able to compete at a time when most city clubs were very wet. Organising the event with Sorrento proved difficult however, as this was the first time

Portsea had attempted to stage the event on the two courses. Over the ensuing years there were administrative differences between Portsea and Sorrento Clubs and playing rights had to be arranged for members at neighbouring courses. The joint event was held for six years, after which time the Sorrento Golf Club informed Portsea that it would no longer be participating. In 1992, the Match Committee resolved to rename the event the Portsea Open, with the 72 holes to be played at Portsea only. Some 136 entries were received in 1994 and such was the strength of the field that those on handicaps of 1 and over had to prequalify on the Friday.

An annual match between Portsea and Sorrento Golf Clubs began in March 1997. In the 1970s an annual match had been played between the two Committees, but this had lapsed. As a result of inviting the captain, Tom Hinton, to play in the Pro-Am, incoming president Norm Mallett and captain Taffy Richards were invited to play at Sorrento with the Sorrento captain and president. Taffy asked the Committee why there was not a closer relationship with Sorrento. Vice-president Ian Perkins volunteered to pursue the matter with the Sorrento Committee and following further meetings, both Committees proposed an annual event, the 'Settlers' Cup'. The captains decided the format, a mixed 4BBB stableford, with teams of twelve players, most of them Committee or sub-Committee members. Unfortunately, Tom Hinton died prior to the first event being played.

Trainee Pro-Am

In October 1975, as arrangements were being finalised for the first Portsea Pro-Am, the Committee decided to conduct a trainee professional's day on Monday December 8th. This was later postponed until December 22nd, 1975. The Trainee Pro-Am has been in existence ever since. By 1981, forty-six members and guests were playing alongside forty-four trainees, although by the mid 1980s the event was struggling financially. The December 1986 event was organised mainly by Peg Sherren and Irene Barron, who also arranged catering by the ladies. The fortunes of the Trainee Pro-Am had improved by 1990, when it was held over 36 holes. It has continued to attract approximately ninety players, with members and trainees now playing 18 holes.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Peninsula District Golf

(PDGA) at Portsea

Pennant

PDGA Pennant, as it is now known, did not begin until 1954. Prior to this members of a number of golf clubs in the Peninsula area, including Flinders, Sorrento, Mornington, Dava, Frankston, Portsea and Rye organised among themselves a competition which was termed 'social' Pennant. This was not recognised as an official inter-Club game, but rather was viewed as a friendly interchange between local members of these golf clubs.

The first Club acknowledgment of 'social' Pennant was at the AGM on January 28th, 1950, when it appeared in the agenda under the heading of 'winter Pennant'. It was considered that a vice-captain of the Club should be elected, preferably a member of the winter Pennant team, to carry out the functions of team captain. Harry Quick was elected, his duties being to select players, make presentations, organise the hospitality and assist the various clubs with the dates and places of competition.

Once the PDGA was formed in 1952, it was accepted that district golfing activities, among them Pennant, would be organised by the PDGA for its member clubs. However, a number of difficulties had to be overcome. In May 1953, the Portsea Committee directed its attention to the involvement of members in the unofficial 'social' Pennant competition, over which it possessed no official control. It was loath to dictate policy regarding district Pennant while there was such strong support for the existing social fixture and resolved that some members of the Committee should meet as soon as possible with 'social' Pennant players to discuss the matter and give the views of the Committee. After receiving the 1953 fixture for district Pennant only a few days prior to the competition beginning, president Ken Boykett explained that it was too late to organise a team and the Club decided to reconsider the matter the following year.

It is unclear when Portsea began to compete in district Pennant. Results in the *Gazette* in 1955 refer to the competition as the 'Peninsula Social Pennant Golf Association'. Teams still included Sorrento RSL, Rye Country Golf Club and Flinders Sports and the wind-up was held at Portsea with the 'social' Pennant dinner for 130 guests at the Portsea Hotel. In 1956, the report in the *Gazette* was headed 'PDGA and Social Pennant'. The first semifinal was won by Portsea 4/3 over Mornington. Members of the team were Messrs McGrath, Gardiner, Weir, Howard, McDonald, Kenyon and Colston. Both the *Peninsula Post* and the *Gazette* reported that:

The Governor Sir Dallas Brooks watched Portsea and Mornington in the Peninsula Social Pennant. Reg Weir and Bill Gynell drove off under the Governor's experienced eye and it was nice to see him taking such an interest in the local players.

Over forty years later Reg Weir remembers that both drives were 'very ordinary'. Portsea lost the final the following week to Flinders 4/3. The *Gazette* stated that there would be a wind up for 'social' Pennant at

Portsea the next Sunday and there would be lots of events for ladies and gentlemen. A later report in the *Gazette* stated:

In perfect weather the Social Pennant wind up benefit held at Portsea Golf Links last Sunday exceeded all expectations both socially and financially and drew crowds from all around the Peninsula. Commenting on the day, President of social Pennant Mr Dave Riley, thanked all present for their attendance and help and the splendid way in which they rallied to the appeal.

By the end of 1956, new Club captain Colin Colston recommended to the PDGA that there should be two sections with four teams, with six home and away matches, the top two teams of the southern zone to play off in semifinals against the top two teams of the northern zone. While this may not have taken place in 1957, it became the format over the next few years.

The *Gazette* in May 1957 recorded the results of PDGA Pennant golf as a win to Portsea 6 with Flinders 1. Members of the team included Messrs Kenyon, Gardiner, Howard, Weir, McDonald, Colston and Stringer. Several weeks later McGrath and Fitchett were in the team as well. In July, the team won the semifinal against Rosebud at Sorrento but lost the final to Mornington.

During the 1958 season, when Portsea A-Grade played against its B-Grade team, W. Mangan and C. Colston played against their sons. It would seem that they had coached them too well as both fathers were the only losers from the top side. In July that year, the *Gazette* included the results of 'VGA and Social Pennant':

Portsea No. 1 Pennant team completed a fine double last Sunday having previously won the V.G.A. section of the pennant, they defeated Frankston four matches to three to take out the Social Pennant. With three matches all square the result depended on the outcome of the clash between M. Fitchett of Portsea and C. Wilson of Frankston. Going to the 18th Fitchett was 1-up but a fine testing down grade putt by Wilson squared the match. The 19th was played in par figures. A power-packed tee shot and a beautiful iron put Fitchett on the green at the long 2nd (20th) giving him victory with a birdie 4 to Wilson's 5. Congratulations to both these players who treated a large gallery to a fine exhibition of golf.

In 1959, Portsea again proved their strength, winning the Southern Zone against Flinders. It lost to Montuna, however, in the inter-zone final.

The Club continued to participate actively in Pennant over the next few years, but there were no flags won. Roy Holbrook remembers playing against Rosebud Country Club in the early 1960s, when only 9 holes were in play. Preferred lies had to be used as the course was still being built and there was only grass on the middle of the fairways. After the match they all went back to the Rosebud captain's home, as there was no Club House.

In 1964, Ray Marshall was appointed captain of the A-Grade team and Ken Jones captain of the B-Grade team. In 1965 Reg Weir and Ray Marshall were the respective captains. This was the year that Portsea won its first recognised PDGA A-grade flag. There were ten matches played between April and June and the semifinal was played against the Northern division. Beacon Hills was Portsea's opponent at Mornington. The final on July 18th was played between Portsea and Rosebud at Sorrento, where so many finals were to be played. Portsea won, the scores six and one. Jamie Relph, grandson of the late Arthur Relph, lost his game and was fortunate that it wasn't the 1980s when it became the tradition for the vanquished to do the washing up after the meal. During this period, however, the Club House was small and the players would often meet for the meal afterwards at the Nepean Hotel, which at the time was owned by Reg Weir.



The 1965 PDGA winning team: standing (from left): Doug Forbes (vice-president), Kel Garner, Jamie Relph, Roy Holbrook, Colin Watson, Ian Schlipalius, Leon Riley, Ken Boykett (president). Seated: Reg Weir and Col Colston.

The members in that 1965 team (with handicaps in brackets) were Reg Weir (4), Kel Garner (5), Colin Watson (5), Ian Schlipalius (5), Colin Colston (7), Leon Riley (9), Jamie Relph (9) and Roy Holbrook (8). Reg Weir playing at number one was undefeated for the entire season. Roy Holbrook who played at number seven in the final, had to sink a 15 foot putt to go down the 19th, where he eventually won. It is interesting to note that between 1959 and 1965, five young players had joined the team.

During the 1960s, light relief was provided for Pennant players by Ray Marshall and his brother Len, who played the saxophone and clarinet – getting into the swing of things, one might say! Ray was a bit of a character and at one time during a competition when Colin Colston hit a ball through him, he promptly bit it back and was threatened with suspension.

There were also times of team drama. On one occasion, Colin Colston dropped a player just before a match. Some of the younger players disagreed with the decision and threatened to withdraw. To avoid a confrontation, Colin feigned a twisted ankle and the dropped player was reinstated in his place. Needless to say, after the match the players who had threatened to pull out were warned in no uncertain terms never to repeat their antics.

In 1968, the Pennant season was shortened and the following year, as the popularity of the competition increased, the district implemented three grades. The captain of A-Grade in 1970 was John Fitzgerald and the team included a new member, Tony Clarke, who is still heavily involved thirty years later.

In 1973, the Club won its second A-Grade flag against Rosebud 4/3, the team captained by Tony Clarke. Other team members during the season included Hans Greenfield, Neil Longden, Ron Bergman, Jim Kirby, Vince Burns, Brian Watson, John Fitzgerald and Geoff Stevens. Rosebud had beaten Portsea in the home and away matches, making the victory even sweeter.



1974 C-Grade Pennant Team winners (from left): David Whately, Alan Beckwith, Fred Dinnie, Andy Relph, Colin Bannister, Bob Roberts. Centre: John Galty.

anniversary celebrations included original participants David Whately, Andrew Relph and Colin Bannister along with two originals still playing, Fred Dinnie and John Galty.

The A-Grade final was played against Beacon Hills in 1976 at Rosebud and Portsea took the honours, the captain Hans Greenfield, supported by team members Phillip Jewell, Alan Bullas, Brian Watson, Colin Watson, Ron Bergman and Mike Dore. The flag was decided on the 18th with Colin Watson winning his match.

Success again in 1978! Colin Watson was captain. The team members were the same as in 1976, apart from Chris Neill and Jim Kirby replacing Brian Watson and Hans Greenfield. The 1978 final was played at Sorrento against Mornington with the scores even until Chris Neill sank a three-metre putt on the 18th to clinch the flag. The B-Grade team in 1977 defeated Devil Bend at Flinders. Brian Watson was captain. The team during the year included Robert Worthington, Barry Emmerson, Syd Thomson, Jim Kirby, Peter Heffernan, Peter Brennan and Graeme Worthington. As the number of members eager to play Pennant had increased, a third team was reintroduced, with David Whately as captain.

In 1979, Portsea had its most successful year. By this time there were four teams and the B, C and D-Grades all won their sections. The A-Grade team was runner-up in its division. C-Grade was again

Hillsea Shield

As a result of the B-Grade team winning the Pennant against Beacon Hills in 1974 and the fellowship which had developed between the teams, it was requested by the B-Grade captain, David Whately, that an annual competition be held between the two Clubs. The Match Committee approved the idea provided it was held during the Saturday competitions. This event, the Hillsea Shield, has been played each year since then, the winner being the Club which has the highest aggregate stableford points over the two rounds held at each Club. In the year 2000, the 25th



Portsea – Winners 1976 A-Grade final – (standing, from left) Philip Jewell, Colin Watson, Tony Clarke, Alan Bullas, Ron Bergman, (kneeling) Hans Greenfield, Mike Dore and Brian Watson.

successful in 1981 with David Whitely captaining the team. A-Grade was successful in 1982. Final scores against Mornington at Sorrento were four and two with one match halved. The team comprised Mike Dore as Captain, Craig Thomson, Ian McDonald, Mark Abeyaratne, Syd Thomson, Tony Clarke and Grahame Neck, with 'Zoe' Hill playing several games during the season.

Between 1983 and 1989, not one team brought home a flag, although they played in a number of finals. Four teams participated during the 1987 Pennant season with thirty-three players representing the Club. In 1989, Pennants proved elusive even though A and C-Grades reached the semifinals. Despite these results, the Club has never been relegated from the top division. Members during this time retain fond memories of the camaraderie and friendly competition which was established as they strived to win for the Club.

Tony Clarke was to become president of the Peninsula District in 1986, the first Portsea member to attain this office. In February 2000, Syd Thomson emulated Tony in becoming president of the District.

Success returned at last in 1990 when both the A and B-Grade teams were victorious. A-Grade was captained by Stacey Meeking with team members during the year including Brad Harris, Brad and Ryan Meadows, Craig and Syd Thomson, Tony Clarke and Brendon Richardson. The final was played at Rosebud against Flinders with Brad Harris sinking a 1.5 metre putt on the 17th to clinch victory. So many finals were won or lost by one match and many times this was on the 17th or 18th hole. The B-Grade team defeated Rosebud at Flinders and members of this team were the captain Peter Jay, Bruce Grant, Ernie Draper, Norm Mattison, 'Zoe' Hill, Adrian Richardson and Mike Dore.

Again for several years flags were elusive, but in 1995 Portsea's C-Grade team took out the honours. This team comprised Haywood (Taffy) Richards, Tony Clarke, Peter O'Dwyer, Brad Armstrong, John Meadows, Karl Bexon, Cameron Gilchrist and Ian Ogilvy. And from 1996, for the first time the A-Grade team won three flags in succession, a feat only achieved by two other clubs. The finals were played at Sorrento each



Portsea – Winners 1982 A-Grade Pennant – (standing, from left) Ian McDonald, Tony Clarke, 'Zoe' Hill, Mark Abeyaratne, Craig Thomson, Grahame Neck, (kneeling) Syd Thomson and Mike Dore.

time, Portsea defeating Rosebud twice and Mornington once. The captain was Brad Harris and over the three years the players included Marino Colombo, Scott McLean, Ron Moylen, Ken Sheppard, Robbie Kerr, Ben Hayes, Peter O'Dwyer, Brad McManus and Andrew Williams. The flag was also won by the B-Grade team in 1998, with Rohan Mann as captain and his team Robbie Kerr, Brad Armstrong, Steve Howe, Craig Scott, Taffy Richards and Adrian Kleitz. The formula for this success can be attributed to the attitude and club spirit generated by Pennant manager Tony Clarke.

Portsea Golf Club has been fortunate over the years to have won numerous Pennant flags in all divisions. Some players have gone on to professional ranks or to play with metropolitan clubs. But perhaps the most important outcome from Pennant competitions has been the many long term friendships which have been formed, within the Club itself and also with players from opposing teams. Such friendships are a consequence of being able to enjoy the game of golf, even in the competitive arena.

Peninsula District Championships

District championships between 1966 and 1999 were held on nine occasions at Portsea. In 1966, the first time Portsea hosted the district championship, it was won by Walter Scott. The same year, Colin Watson won the junior championship. During 1970, at the district championship events held at Beacon Hills, Colin Watson became the first player to win both the senior and junior championships. In 1974, Vince Burns was successful in winning at Portsea from 108 entrants.

In 1976 Alan Bullas won the district championship played at Flinders and Ron Bergman and Phillip Jewell took out the district foursomes championship at Rosebud. In 1991, Lawrence Heraty and Ilse Troy won



Portsea – Winners 1990 A-Grade team – (from left) Brad Harris, Brad Meadows, Ryan Meadows, Craig Thomson, Stacey Meeking, Tony Clarke, Brendon Richardson and Syd Thomson.



Portsea – Winners 1997 A-Grade Pennant – (from left, back row) Ken Sheppard, Marino Colombo, Scott McLean, Peter O'Dwyer; (front row) Andrew Williams, Brad Harris and Ben Hayes.

the district mixed foursomes championship held again at Portsea and that year Alan Bullas won his fifth district championship title.

When the district championship event was held at Portsea in August 1992, the wintry weather conditions made scoring very difficult. The first six places all went to Portsea members and Ryan Meadows won both the senior and junior championships, only the fifth player in the district to achieve this feat.

The standard of Portsea players continued to be high. In the district event, the 1993 Thewlis Bowl, the team comprising Peter Jay (6), Andrew Williams (4), Geoff Larkins (6) and Brad Harris (4) won the nett by 15 shots and the gross by 10. Brad Meadows emulated his brother Ryan's feat two years previously by winning both the senior and junior district championships when they were held at Portsea in September 1994. Craig Scott completed the double at Mornington in 2000.

Country Week

Records for Country Week are sparse. The Committee found itself in a quandary in March 1952 over the status of its greenkeeper, Bill McGrath. He was a very good golfer and the district wanted him to represent it at Country Week. However he was not a member of the Club, a prerequisite to playing for the district team. It was considered that allowing an employee member status might create complications. Although the outcome to this dilemma was not recorded, Bill McGrath went on to represent the district, as did Walter Scott who was curator at the Sorrento Golf Club. Walter was made an honorary member of Portsea. Bill McGrath was probably given honorary membership at Portsea once he left to work at Sorrento Golf Club, as he played in Portsea's Pennant teams over many years.

Over the ensuing years, many Portsea members have been selected to represent the district during Country Week, the highest honour golfers can attain in district competitions. Some members who featured significantly have included Colin Watson, Vince Burns, Alan Bullas, Marino Colombo, Mike Dore, Brad Harris, Ben Hayes, Steve Howe, Kristian Keily, Harry McGain, Scott and Craig McLean, Stacey Meeking, Peter O'Dwyer, Craig, Russell and Walter Scott, Craig and Syd Thomson and Andrew Villinger. Craig Scott is the third generation in his family to be involved in Country Week.

The Club has always been heavily involved in both District and Victorian golf. It is seen as an important vehicle for the Club to enhance its identity throughout the community and to progress the better players to higher achievement.



The first team to represent the PDGA at Country Week (photographed at Commonwealth Golf Club, 1952) – (from left, back row) Harold Smith, Tom Gardiner, Ken Lucas, Keith Redman, Alf Glouce; (front row) Bill McGrath, Walter Scott, Eric Lucas, Bill Darley and Arch Finney.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Portsea Ladies' Golf



The establishment of a separate associates' Committee in 1950 was an auspicious occasion which also heralded the organisation of regular ladies' competitions. Although the associates' competitions were necessarily limited because of the size of the course and because associate members played only on Wednesdays, the ladies were quickly organised.

Twelve ladies, most of them locals, normally played in the early 1950s – Ann Baker and her sister Win Riley, Doll Spinner, Sybil Morgan, Flo Newton, Hilary Quick, Olga Hill, Grace Phillingham, Ella Armstrong, Min Wright-Smith, Nell Burley and Edna Colston. Grace Phillingham, a relative of the Cain sisters, recalls being encouraged by Ella Armstrong to join in 1952. In those early years, the daily competition was decided from week to week, just prior to play. Hilary Quick would say before hitting off: 'We will play stroke/bogey/stableford today'. It was the duty of the first lady to arrive at the Club in those early days to call at the Nepean Hotel and collect Reg Weir's dog, which was used to chase away the magpies that constantly swooped on the players.

In 1951, the Portsea associates' team was one of the four original teams to join the Mornington Peninsula District Golf Associates Association (MPDGAA) Pennant competition, which was formed well before men's Pennant. Guest days and open days also became an early institution.

By 1953, the Committee of Management had agreed to print separate score cards for the associates and the ladies had purchased a fine cup as a perpetual trophy for their inaugural championship. June Kilborn was the first winner, defeating Doll Spinner in the final. The format was two qualifying stroke rounds, then match play. (The oldest known Portsea Golf Club ladies' trophy, on display in the foyer of the new Club House, was won by Jean Cunningham in 1933.)

There were eighty-one Portsea associates by 1954, the majority of them local. That year they held their first annual presentation night at the Portsea Hotel. Later they used the Rye Hotel, the Nepean Hotel and then different venues between Portsea and Rye.



1933 trophy won by Jean Cunningham

The first presentation night created a precedent. Olga Hill played the piano for 'God Save the Queen' and later for community singing. Grace Phillingham and Jean McDonald sang a song, then Grace acted the 'toreador' with Doll Spinner's fur coat! (maybe they were celebrating Arthur Relph confronting the bull!) They were lively nights! Each year the husbands would arrive at the end of the night but would wait outside the door – too apprehensive to confront their wives and be dragged into the celebrations. Presentations of trophies won over the whole year were awarded. The ladies' Committee worked hard buying, sorting, writing cards and arranging all the tables. Jo Moody, a member since 1938, each year

presented posies of lily of the valley to Committee members. The captain shopped for the trophies, trying to present players with practical items. Grace Phillingham recalled that: 'Min was presented with a saucepan, because that's what she needed. Because we didn't have anything local, we used to go to the undertakers in Mornington. His wife, Mrs Muir, had a gift shop next door and we would get some lovely things there for trophies. I remember getting a beautiful pavlova plate.'

In 1955, the Portsea associates fielded two teams in district competitions, one Pennant and one inter-club. Rounds of the silver spoon and Mona MacLeod brooch were also played. Later in the year, a silver spoon round was played for non-spoon winners. This seems to have been a feature for some years, probably to give all members the opportunity to win a Club spoon, although they were not eligible to compete in the Club final to determine who should represent the Club in the state play-off for the case of silver spoons. Then, as now, Club representatives in the state play-off each receive a WGV silver spoon.

In September 1955, forty guests played on Guest Day and in October the associates combined with the Portsea State School Mothers' Club in a charity golf day to raise funds for the school.

A historic day was recorded on May 17th, 1956 when the associates defeated Sorrento – their very first Pennant match win. Grace Phillingham, Nell Burley, Olga Hill, Jean Johnson and Jo Moody were in the team. Following their annual dinner at the close of the competition year in 1956, sixteen associate members travelled to Beacon Hills for Canadian foursomes and an end-of-year picnic.

By the end of 1956, to accommodate the increasing numbers of competitors, two divisions in Club competitions were formed with an earlier starting time on Wednesdays. Pennant and inter-club matches were played at the same course, in the home and away format. Advance notice of events was printed each week in the local *Gazette* newspaper. Individual Pennant scores were also published – a proud moment for the winners, but rather daunting for anyone beaten too easily!



1965 – Portsea wins the Pennant for the first time, (from left, rear): Min Wright-Smith, Sheila Kennedy, Associates' President Grace Phillingham, Joan McWilliam, Nell Burley, Associates' Captain Peg Fletcher, (front) Dot Kilby, Barbara Gallagher, Joan McGill.

In September 1957, captain Olga Hill donated an elegant cup, the Hill Cup, as a perpetual trophy to be held by the winner for twelve months. The cup initially was contested annually on the third Wednesday of September in an eighteen hole stroke (nett) off union marks. The type of play for this event has varied over the years, for some time combined with the first round of the Mona Macleod brooch and the silver spoon, the winner being the player with the best nett score. In later years, it has been played with a round of the Club championships, and is always keenly contested.

Eventually the associates organised a yearly program, and in 1961, the first syllabus in booklet form was printed, some years earlier than for the men. That year, the president's team triumphed at the President's and Captain's Day. After the respective trophies were awarded to the best player in each team, a delicious afternoon tea was enjoyed by everyone in the associates' room, which was reported to have 'looked very gay'.

Mrs S. M. Weir, the licensee of the Nepean Hotel at Portsea, donated a silver rose bowl to the ladies in 1963 for competition. It was decided to make this the annual singles knockout. Mrs Weir was thanked at the annual dinner and presented with flowers. The *Gazette* reported that the revellers were then entertained by those 'Two Troupers – Bess Bardsley and Nan Hartley'. The Weir bowl has been contested each year since then.

In 1965, fourteen years after the inception of district Pennant, the Portsea team won its first Pennant, defeating Rosebud on the final day. It was a moment of glory for the enthusiastic team members – Nell Burley, Barbara Gallagher, Sheila Kennedy, Dot Kilby, Joan McGill, Joan McWilliam and Min Wright-Smith.

The inter-club team won the B-Grade cup the same day. The B-Grade cup for the ladies Club championship and the play-off for medallist of the year were both introduced that year. The best nett score of the year's monthly medal winners was awarded a 'special annual gold medal'. The first winner was Betty Nixon, who in 1999 donated the medal to the Club for permanent display.

The associates were given permission by the Committee of Management to establish the Portsea Challenge Bowl in 1967. They purchased a handsome bowl for the inaugural 'challenge' and organised lunch and presentations afterwards at the Nepean Hotel. Fifteen teams entered and the winner that first year was the Mornington Country Club. Portsea has sent teams to numerous other Challenge Bowl competitions each year, giving associates the opportunity to play on other courses. The ladies were moderately successful over the early years but since 1995, they have improved immeasurably, winning at city clubs.



Barbara Gallagher

In 1966 Barbara Gallagher won her eighth championship in succession – a feat which had not been equalled in the Club's history. Barbara twice won the championship at Rosebud, in 1966 and 1968. As a member at Huntingdale she played off a handicap of 6 and reached the semifinals one year, being defeated by Burtta Cheney, three times Victorian champion.

As the district in 1967 was investigating the possibility of playing Pennant matches on Mondays, the associates applied to the Club for use of the course that day. But Monday was maintenance day and so their application was refused. The inter-club team won the cup for the second time in 1967. This was the year the Club gave their approval for the associates to wear slacks or bermuda shorts, provided that they conformed with VLGU regulations.

By the end of 1970, there were ninety-nine associate members. Three of them triumphed in the MPDGAA district championships that year – Joan McWilliam took out A-Grade, Bebe Stringer won B-Grade and Muriel Mortimore succeeded in C-Grade.

The Portsea associates continued to be represented on district Committees as well. Ann Dowd, who was associates' president in 1971/72, became vice-president of the district and then president in 1973/74, the first Portsea member to hold that office.

In 1973, the top Pennant team was increased from five to seven players, although B-Grade still consisted of five players. Bessie Bardsley and Shirley Lever won the B-Grade district foursomes. The associates were invited by the Club captain, Colin Colston, to play 18 holes on the Saturday of Captain's Day that year. This eventually led to the mixed foursomes championship being established in 1975. Again in 1974, the ladies showed their style, Joan McWilliam with Edna Lucas of Flinders winning the MPDGAA district foursomes championship. As the number of ladies increased, a C-Grade cup was purchased in 1976 for the Portsea associates' championship rounds.

Olga Hill, who was beginning her third consecutive year as captain, resigned because of ill health during

PORTSEA GOLF CLUB ASSOCIATES

NEPEAN HIGHWAY, PORTSEA

TELEPHONE: PORTSEA 84-2909

Golden Jubilee Tournament



Wednesday, 12th, Thursday, 13th November, 1975

LARGE MAGNIFICENT MANICURED GREENS AND WELL GRASSED FAIRWAYS
5818 METRES SAND BELT 18 HOLES CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE

ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY, OCT. 31, 1975



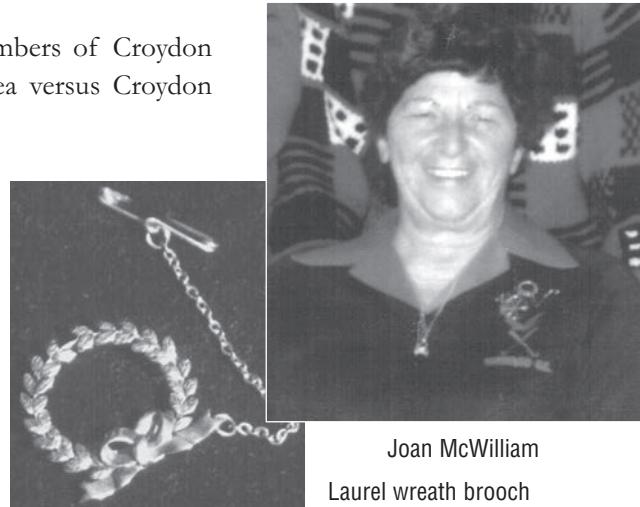
Standing (from left): Edna White, Maisie Harris, Grace Phillingham, Billie Rowley, Margaret Rattray and Jo Moody, (kneeling): Olga Hill and Peg Fletcher (c. 1968).

this period. She had been the first secretary of the associates' Committee in 1951 and 1952, was president in 1957 and from 1960 to 1962, and captain from 1973. Grace Phillingham replaced her as captain. At this time, the associates' by-laws were varied to include a vice-captain.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Club was marked by a ladies' Golden Jubilee Open tournament. It was a great success, held over two days in ideal conditions in November, 1975. Each day the ladies played for nett trophies over 18 holes, and then another 9 holes in A, B and C-Grades. There was a concurrent 36 hole trophy and gross trophies for 18, 27 and 36 holes. Not everyone entered the afternoon events, but many, after playing the 18 holes in the morning, enjoyed it so much that they went out again for the afternoon 9 holes! A cocktail party rounded off the final day. This day led to the inaugural Spring Tournament, first held in 1977.

A number of Portsea associates had previously been members of Croydon Golf Club and still had strong ties with Croydon. Portsea versus Croydon challenges between members of the associates' Committees began in 1976, with Portsea winning the first challenge. A Selangor pewter vase has been played for each year since then on alternate courses.

Joan McWilliam was awarded the WGV (VLGU) laurel wreath brooch in 1977. It is given to an amateur player the first time she betters the course rating of a WGV course played at its rated length in an official open or club competition. Joan achieved this at Sorrento, Portsea being her 'home' club.



Joan McWilliam

Laurel wreath brooch



The McDonald Trophy's first winner, June Opie, with Max (left) and Jack McDonald.

For the second Spring Tournament in 1978, brothers Jack and Max McDonald donated a silver tray for a perpetual trophy for the ladies' stroke (nett) event. Called the McDonald Trophy, the first winner was June Opie. For many years Max 'shouted' a drink for the players at the end of the round. Over 100 ladies played on each of the two days.

Colin Colston, the former captain and president, donated a perpetual trophy as well for the ladies. The Colston Trophy is played each year, over three rounds.

Bessie Bardsley was elected president of the district in 1978 and held the office for three years. When the Shaws went overseas on holiday, Bessie looked after the Club House, took the green-fees and looked after the general day-to-day duties, arriving each day from her home. She was a member of the Club and previously with her husband, had the lease of the now defunct Sorrento Downs Golf Club. She was also 'number one Life Member' of the Carlogie Golf Club, now Eagle Ridge.

In 1979, the district Pennant format was altered from grades to divisions and the B and C-Grade cups were not presented. Portsea ladies won divisions two and five that year. The division two team of Fleur Bolden, Nancy Dawes, Jean McDonald, Joan McGill, Rill Pilkington and Nin Watson also won the North/South zone play-off. Irene Barron, Jean Creighton, Joan Dent, Peg Fletcher, Laura Richardson and Shirley Williams were in the division five team. Joan McWilliam and Jean McDonald also won the district foursomes championship. In 1981, Joan Wilson, a member of Portsea as well as Sorrento, became vice-president of the district. Joan McWilliam took out the MPDGAA district championship for the fourth time in 1981, represented Portsea in the country team that won B-Grade, and in 1982 won the Portsea championship for the eleventh time.



Winning the 1983 MPDGAA Division One Pennant – (from left) President Joan Wilson presenting VLGU pennant cup to team captain Jenny Jeffreys, with Joan McGill, Margaret Beckwith, Anne Meehan, Nancy Dawes, Dot Abschinski, Pam Hiskins and Nin Watson.

By far the most exciting part of 1983, however, was the success of the Pennant teams. After eighteen years Portsea again won the MPDGAA division one pennant. The team over the season included Dot Abschinski, Margaret Beckwith, Nancy Dawes, Pam Hiskins, Jenny Jeffreys, Joan McGill (also a member of the 1965 team), Anne Meehan and Nin Watson. Division three also won their section with Peg Fletcher, Jean Jones, Pat Pearson, Peg Sherren, Eunice Watson, Shirley Williams and Marie Wood. Division two, after the final round, finished on equal matches and games with Rosebud Country Club. Unfortunately, Portsea lost in the play-off. Also in 1983, the Portsea team of Margaret Beckwith, Margaret Fletcher and Peg Sherren won the MPDGAA Fairbairn Bowl for the first time.

The Paula Cayzer Memorial Trophy was established in 1984. It is played for on the day set aside each year when all money raised from entry fees and the proceeds of a large raffle are donated to the Anti-Cancer Council.

For the first time in 1984, the Pennant teams wore the Portsea uniform – a yellow shirt, navy jumper and skirt or slacks. The ladies always paid for their own and their caddies' lunches, as well as providing their own uniforms. Eventually the ladies' Committee paid for the players' lunches, and later also for the caddies.

The division one Pennant team of Nancy Dawes, Margaret Fletcher, Jenny Jeffreys, Joan McGill, Diane O'Connell, June Opie, Rill Pilkington and Louisa Scott again brought home the MPDGAA Pennant for 1984.

In 1985, Marilyn Wilde won the MPDGAA C-Grade championship. Pauline Powell was elected vice-president of the district. Another division one Pennant win was chalked up to Portsea in 1986. The matches were played 'off the stick', rather than on handicaps. The team included Nancy Dawes, Margaret Fletcher, Jenny Jeffreys, Joan McGill, Diane O'Connell, June Opie, Pauline Powell and Louisa Scott. It was a great year for the ladies, with division two also winning. This team was represented during the season by Janice Ainslie, Jeanette Coote, Joan Horton, Jean Jones, Rill Pilkington, Peg Sherren, Roma Staines and Marie Wood. Jeanette Coote also won the MPDGAA B-Grade championship.

The division two team again won the Pennant in 1987, as well as the play-off between North and South zones. Those who played in the team during the season included Janice Ainslie, Jeanette Coote, Marilyn Court, Eva Green, Jean Jones, Rill Pilkington, Peg Sherren, Eileen Price and Marie Wood. That year, Lorna Wilde took out the MPDGAA C-Grade championship and Jenny Jeffreys and Nancy Dawes the MPDGAA foursomes championship.

The District Past Captain's Association was formed in 1987. All members gather at a pre-arranged venue for golf and lunch and those who no longer play golf just attend for lunch. A silver plate is contested by teams from each club represented.

The ladies were averaging fifty players per week by 1988 and the division one Pennant team had the honour of winning the MPDGAA Bi-Centennial Pennant competition, after being placed last the previous year! The players during the season were Jeanette Coote, Nancy Dawes, Margaret Fletcher, Jenny Jeffreys, Joan McGill, Anne Meehan, June Opie, Diane O'Connell and Pauline Powell. Team captain Diane O'Connell had presented the team with an old wooden spoon in 1987 – the team displayed great pleasure in giving it back to her! Anne Heine won the MPDGAA C-Grade championship that year and Glad Furneaux brought home the Secretaries' Cup for the scratch match play (B-Grade). The Delgany Plate was donated by Herman and Faye Schneider of *Delgany* in 1988. This is contested in the ladies' gross event held during the Spring Tournament.

Division two team in 1989 won the Pennant and the play-off between North and South zones. Players included Janice Ainslie, Bonnie Bishop, Maureen Downie, Eva Green, Joan McGill, Rill Pilkington, Rachel Richards and Peg Sherren.

By 1990, on average, fifty-five ladies played on Wednesdays. The championship events were still based on the format of two qualifying rounds, followed by match play. On the Open day in March, 120 ladies played. For the first time, lady Pennant players were given blue shirts embroidered with the Club monogram.



The 1988 Division One Pennant team: (standing, from left), Jeanette Coote, Joan McGill, Margaret Fletcher, Anne Meehan and Nancy Dawes, (seated) June Opie, Pauline Powell, Diane O'Connell (captain) and Jenny Jeffreys.



The 1989 division two Pennant team: (standing, from left), Joan McGill, Peg Sherren, Bonnie Bishop and Maureen Downie, (seated) Eva Green, Janice Ainslie, Rill Pilkington and Rachel Richards.

The district foursomes championship was won by Jenny Jeffreys and Margaret Fletcher in 1991, the same year that Joan McGill was appointed a district selector for country teams. She served in that position until the end of the 1999 season.

The format for the championship events changed from two qualifying rounds followed by match play to three stroke rounds in 1992. In district events, Jenny Jeffreys again won the scratch match play championship and Lynn McMaster-Smith the '36ers' championship. But inter-club competitions in the district were discontinued in 1992 due to lack of interest. It was a difficult year as the building of the new Club House was started and progressively, areas to work in or use were fast disappearing. The average number of players on Wednesdays at Portsea was also decreasing. Despite these difficulties, the Portsea team in division four won the Pennant, much to the excitement of team members Maureen Downie, Muriel Holden, Dorothy Pinnell, Jenny Roberts, Peg Sherren, Val Symons and Eunice Watson. Alison Bell, who had joined as a junior member and had been supported and encouraged by the Portsea ladies at VLGU junior camps and tournaments, won both the district championship and the scratch match play championship.

The VLGU delegate attended Portsea to rate the course after the new works in 1991 and in 1992 the par for the ladies was officially re-rated 73. In 1994, however, the lady members were surprised to learn that the course was rated 71. No amount of reasoning could make the District Course Rating Committee change its mind. This low rating was to bring dividends in 1995, as most ladies' handicaps went out.

In 1994, the Committee of Management provided the Pennant players with new lemon-coloured shirts, which did not, however, bring the teams any luck! The Club also provided a \$500 subsidy to the ladies' Committee to assist with payment of lunches for players and caddies, as caterers by then prepared all the food at the Club House and the ladies were unable to raise funds from catering. Alison Bell and Keryl Paez won the district foursomes championship.

Bill Branthwaite, the Club professional, was very supportive and regularly held clinics for the Pennant teams. He was rewarded when the division one team of Nancy Dawes, Jeanette Coote, Margaret Fletcher, Jenny Jeffreys, Joan McGill, Diane O'Connell, June Opie and Pauline Powell again won the Pennant in 1990.

In the MPDGAA events, Anne Heine again triumphed in the C-Grade championship, the Portsea team of Maureen Downie, Glad Furneaux and Bernie Laycock brought home the Fairbairn Bowl, while Jenny Jeffreys won the Life Members' trophy for the scratch match play championship.

The VLGU in 1995, following the example of Women's Golf Australia (WGA), changed its name to Women's Golf Victoria (WGV). The year started well for Portsea ladies, with Alison Bell winning the Sorrento ladies' Open tournament and Jenny Jeffreys runner-up in the Sunday Herald Sun match play challenge. Anne Meehan and Val Peppler also won the Beacon Plate. This trophy was given to the district by four ladies from Beaconhills Golf Club, in appreciation for the monetary assistance received after losing property during the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983. The Portsea team of Maureen Downie, Peg Sherrren and Pauline Powell won the district's Fairbairn Bowl and the team of Bonnie Bishop, Grace Phillingham and Pauline Powell brought home the trophy after the district Past Captains' Day.

Twelve district events and challenge bowls were won during 1995. These were the MPWGA Beacon Plate, Southern GC Bowl, Rosebud G Bowl, MPWGA Fairbairn Bowl, Sorrento GC Salver, Long Island GC Bowl, Mornington GC Bowl, Flinders GC Bowl, Woodlands GC Bowl, Rye Dunes GC Bowl, Mount Martha GC Bowl and MPWGA Past Captains' Salver. The division three team, which won the Pennant, included Margot Bullen, Jane Carter, Di Greagg, Marjorie Kellaway, Jenny Roberts and Marie Wood – all played during the season. This year the number of players in Pennant teams was reduced to five, as smaller clubs were finding it difficult to field teams within an acceptable range of handicaps. A 'Pennant wind-up dinner' was held at the Club House, with most lady members attending and making it a great success.

For the first time in 1995, the ladies' foursomes championship was played on a Saturday, on the same day as the men. Although this change met with a mixed reception, it has continued each year since then, with all playing in a block and finishing in a group, instead of being spread through the field. The final night-time ladies' presentation dinner was held at the Club House this year as some ladies did not like going out at night and attendances had dropped considerably. Even a number of trophy winners were failing to attend. After this, the Club decided to combine the ladies' and men's presentation nights.

The WGV Country Tournament is held twice a year in different locations around Victoria. In October 1996, over two hundred lady golfers from all over the state played over two days, one round at Sorrento and one at Portsea, both courses used on both days, with players changing to the alternate course on the second day. Portsea was chosen to be the venue on the final day for all the presentations made by the WGV president, Mrs Anne Court. The tournament secretary, Maureen Downie, had retired the previous year as Portsea's lady captain. During this event, the players on single figure handicaps all expressed concern at the course's degree of difficulty. Their scorecards backed up their comments. As a result, the State Course Rating Committee visited some time later and re-rated the course 72, giving an extra stroke.

Grace Phillingham donated an attractive silver bowl appropriately named the 'Grace Bowl' in 1996, as a perpetual trophy for the very popular four ball knockout, a competition which has been on the syllabus for many years.

Portsea Lady Captain Margot Bullen (left), with Tournament Secretary Maureen Downie and Portsea Lady President Pauline Powell.





Presentation Night, 1996 – Captain Haywood Richards (left), Lady Champion Jenny Jeffreys, Club President Norm Mallett, Club Champion Ben Hayes and Lady Captain Margot Bullen.

The division four team won the Pennant in 1997. The ecstatic team consisted of members Bonnie Bishop, Jenny Bishop, Julie Draper, Jeanette McComb, Lynn McMaster-Smith, Gwen McKenzie, Terri O'Callaghan and Peg Sherren. Maureen Downie and Jenny Roberts represented Portsea and again won the Beacon Plate. Pat Matthewman also won the district '36ers' handicap event at the district championships. Jenny Jeffreys won her twelfth Portsea championship in 1997, a Club record. A silver ice bucket was donated by Pauline Powell as a perpetual trophy for the ladies' foursomes championship.

In 1998, Pennant teams were introduced to a new format, promotion and relegation, to be trialled for three years. Portsea was allotted divisions one, two and five, but the teams were all unsuccessful, and the second division team was relegated to third division.

Portsea and Sorrento ladies' Committees commenced an annual get-together and match play for the Dolphin Trophy in 1998, to be played each year on alternate courses. Portsea was the winner of the first match, the ladies lunching together at the host club. The inaugural event for promoting the district juniors, the MPDWG Sorrento Plate, was won in 1998 by Portsea captain Marjorie Kellaway and Louise MacDonald.

There was further excitement in March 1999, when Portsea hosted the district's Hiscock Salver, something the Portsea ladies had never won. This had been donated to the district in 1969 by the Misses Hiscock of Sorrento, for a play-off between the North and South divisions of the Pennant. In 1972, the competition was changed to a teams stroke event with the total of the four nett scores to count and with members having to have been in the Pennant teams the previous year. Portsea was successful at the 1999 event and the very excited team of Rachel Richards, Jeanette Coote, June Opie and Pauline Powell were presented with the salver and individual trophies after a gruelling day in gale force winds.

Club members were also successful in district and state events. Bonnie Bishop, Jane Carter and Gwen McKenzie brought home the Mornington Country Golf Club Challenge Bowl and Bonnie Bishop, Jenny Bishop and Maureen Downie the Mount Martha Bowl. The Sorrento Plate for junior promotion was won by Dot Huddle and Wendy McLean.

The MPWG formed a Past Presidents' Association in 1999, organised in a similar way to the Past Captains' Association. Junior Louise MacDonald, with Tanya Fleming of Rosebud Country Club, was successful in winning the Victorian state junior foursomes. With her partner Yarra Yarra junior Dean Bryant, Louise won the Dallas Brooks mixed foursomes, a prestigious state event for all age groups and the MPDWG junior championship. She was also selected in the Victorian state junior team.

Many Portsea lady members have experienced the high honour of being chosen to represent the district in country teams, in which they have had considerable success. Players have included Barbara Gallagher, Leisha Woods, Joan McWilliam, Margaret Beckwith, Pat Hodder, Jenny Jeffreys, Diane O'Connell, Alison Bell, Keryl Paez and Rachel Richards. The Portsea ladies have always made a point of providing assistance and support for their representatives. In 1999, the district presented Jenny Jeffreys with a trophy for her seventeen year involvement with country teams.

2000 and beyond

As we entered the year 2000, and to prove it was no surprise in 1999, Lynn Bassett, Jeanette Coote, June Opie and Rachel Richards were again successful when the team travelled to Beaconhills to contest the Hiscock Salver. June Opie had the best score in Bronze division. For Easter 2000, Dot Huddle donated a Ladies' Easter Cup. The first winner was Marjorie Kellaway.

Junior Louise MacDonald continued to represent Portsea with distinction during the year. Among her many achievements were playing captain of the Victorian schoolgirls' team, the number two ranked junior in Victoria, winner of the state average ranking, and the Victorian secondary schools' 'Sporting Blue' award - the only person in the state representing golf.

Bonnie Bishop won the inaugural MPDWG Delegate's Cup - given for the district C-Grade match play championship. She brought further honour to Portsea by being elected by the district clubs to the position of delegate to WGV, the first from Portsea, and the first outside the Mornington Country Club.

To mark the fiftieth year of the formation of organised ladies' golf at Portsea, Bonnie Bishop, the captain, donated a clock for a special trophy to mark the occasion. This was won by Elaine Morrison for the best nett score in a stroke round.



Former member Edna White with youngest member Louise MacDonald, cut the anniversary cake.



Some past Lady Champions, (from left) Barbara Gallagher, Jenny Jeffreys, June Kilborn, Margaret Beckwith and Diane O'Connell.

One of the highlights of the year was the special 50th anniversary luncheon arranged on the ladies' Council appreciation day by five former council members - Grace Phillingham, Pauline Powell, Eunice Watson, Jeanette Coote and Marjorie Kellaway. Fifty-five former members returned to join present members for a memorable day. One hundred and five ladies sat down to lunch in the beautifully arranged clubhouse, looking a picture with the flower arrangements, the tables with colourfully wrapped presentation glasses and all ladies' trophies, photographs and memorabilia on show all around the room. Following older traditions, punch, to Life Member Grace Phillingham's recipe, was

served on arrival. Special welcomes were given on behalf of the COM by vice President Haywood Richards and Captain Bob Dunball. The 2000 ladies' Council was welcomed as they moved to the head table, gifts from the current lady members were presented to each one and the toast to the Council was proposed by Eunice Watson and honoured by all present. During the lunch, the toast to Portsea Golf Club was proposed by Peg Sherren and the response was given by Grace Phillingham. Pauline Powell spoke of various highlights over the last fifty years, of the early members who set the standard and worked hard to improve conditions in the Club, and of the achievements of the ladies in club, district and state events. The anniversary cake made and decorated by Grace was cut by the oldest lady present, Edna White and the youngest, Louise MacDonald. Friendships and memories were re-kindled and all voted the day a fitting climax to the past half century of the ladies of Portsea Golf Club.

The ladies have come a long way since they first formed an associates' Committee in 1950. Over the past fifty years, they have enjoyed their golf and have enjoyed the improved status gained by competing for the Club. Looking towards the next fifty years, it is imperative that the ladies continue to progress. Women's golf in Australia is very strong, with great support from the state and Australian bodies. Ladies' golf at Portsea is under the general umbrella of the Club, but its organisation remains very different from men's golf. Ladies' Council members, with foresight, experience and dedication, will continue to guide the Portsea ladies in an interesting golfing program which encourages participation and pride in representing the Club in all competitions and district events.



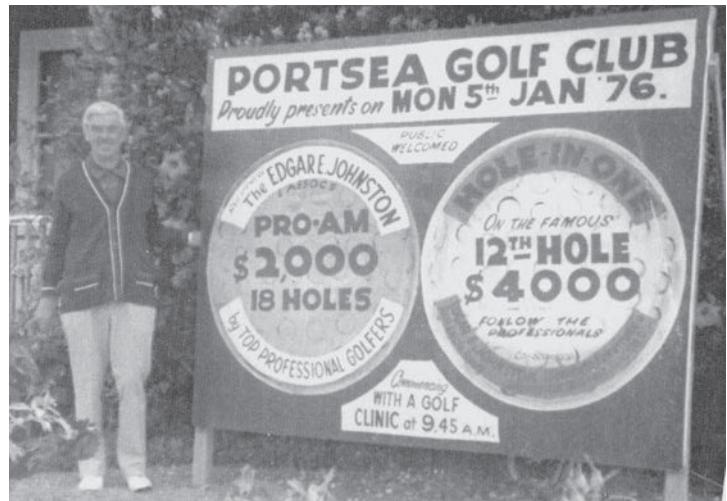
View of Clubroom during the Ladies' 50th Anniversary Luncheon – December 2000.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

The Portsea Pro-Am

Simply the best

In January 1975, the Match sub-Committee informed the Committee that it had been approached by several professionals to organise a Pro-Am. Colin Colston moved that the Match Committee should prepare plans for such a day and that a special sub-Committee be formed to make all the necessary arrangements. It was felt an event like this would promote the Club and encourage membership. Captain Bob Roberts and vice-captain Alan Beckwith concurred enthusiastically and by March 1975, approval had been granted by the PGA to conduct a Pro-Am on January 24th, 1976. A special sub-Committee comprising Bob Roberts, Alan Beckwith, Ralph Parry, Colin Colston, Gerry Kivilighon, Bill Rose and Lorrie Jorgensen was set up. In June, the date was altered to overcome a clash with a Pro-Am to be held in Sydney. Edgar Johnston of Sorrento Real Estate agreed to be the sponsor for the first Pro-Am, providing \$2000 prize money. By October, the date had again been changed to January 5th.



Edgar Johnston, the first Pro-Am sponsor

First hit off on January 5th, 1976 was at 11.00 am, the amateurs playing an individual stableford event as well as a four ball with the professionals. A golf clinic had been held prior to the event at 9.30 am on the 18th fairway. Frank Conallin, the professional at Sorrento and Kel Garner who had been a member at Portsea prior to becoming a professional, conducted the clinic. The VGA raised the course rating from 68 to 70 in December 1976, after a request from the Club citing the scores from the January Pro-Am. The winners of the inaugural Pro-Am were Peter Thomson and Steve Caldow.

This first event was so well received that the Club decided to conduct a similar event the following year. Canberra Television agreed to sponsor the Pro-Am for the next two years. Members dropped brochures into letter boxes and shop windows from Dromana to Portsea advertised the Pro-Am. When, in September 1979, after fulfilling its contract, Canberra Television



Peter Thomson, hoping to share a beer with Jack Relph.



Peter Thomson putting for course record – January 1977

withdrew its sponsorship, a meeting was called to decide whether or not to continue with the event. The sub-Committee unanimously decided to retain the Pro-Am, as it provided the Club with invaluable publicity and while no direct evidence of increased membership could be discerned, it was believed that a number of new members had joined because of the Pro-Am.

Five local businesses offered to become sponsors - Ivan Croad Motors, Ray Nightingale Pharmacy, Sorrento Real Estate, Rosebud Paint & Paper and Twiggy's Shoes. Without their support, the Portsea Pro-Am may have lapsed. Noted professional golfers, Ian Stanley and Bob Shearer, both great supporters of the Pro-Am, suggested that invitees pay to play, thus assisting with expenses and prize money.

The Pro-Am continued to be successful, but it was believed that an increase in prize money would improve its status. As a further inducement to attract sponsors in 1982, sponsors were offered playing rights on a social basis for the year of their sponsorship. These rights have been varied over the years to include full playing rights, with the exception of monthly medals and board events.

The 1983 event was supported by several outside companies introduced by Club members. As a consequence of the very large field of 244 players, the last competitors did not finish until after 8 pm. The only time a larger field played was in 1993, when there were 256 players.

Lawrence Heraty, who had been appointed Club administrator in February 1983, was very active in the Pro-Am promotion and succeeded in attracting the support of Carlton & United Breweries (CUB) as the principal sponsor for 1984. There were also four 'middle tier' and ten 'lower tier' sponsors. Mainly due to his efforts, the prestige of the Portsea Pro-Am began to increase. Improvements in sponsorship packages and prize money followed, the beginning of a solid base of financial support for what has now become one of the longest running Pro-Am events in Victoria.

The 1985 Pro-Am was the first to include musical entertainment after the event. Tim Evans, television host and a keen golfer, started the players on the first tee. The Sorrento Lions Club offered to undertake the organisation of parking, which had also expanded. In 1986, one sponsor even paid in June for the following year. CUB continued as the major sponsor but as well, by 1987 a number of smaller sponsorship packages were offered. A special sub-Committee including the president, captain, secretary and the administrator was formed to deal with the increased workload. For the first time, tiered seating was arranged behind the first tee for spectators and the first tee was placed 80 metres in front of the normal tee, which ensured that the first hole was straight and about 300 metres in length.

By 1988, almost three thousand people provided an enthusiastic audience for the competitors. Concerns were expressed, however, that although the Club was making a profit that covered the loss of green-fees for the day, some sponsors were actually receiving a greater benefit for the amount paid than Club members. The playing rights of Pro-Am sponsors created heated debate. Because many were unknown at the Club, it was difficult to police their use of the course. However, over the years many who began their golfing at Portsea as sponsors, have retained Club membership even though no longer sponsoring the event. Nowadays, sponsor packages are costed to ensure that the amount paid reflects the benefits received.

Lawrence Heraty, after resigning as administrator, joined the Committee and chaired the Pro-Am sub-Committee. It is also widely recognised that much of the Pro-Am's success during this period was due to the organisational work of Jeff Wilde (Glyn Burns and Brad Armstrong have continued Jeff's work over the past years). In 1990 the event was set again for January 2nd. This date now remains fixed, regardless of the day on which it falls. A new CUB sponsorship contract was negotiated for a further three years starting in 1990. Entries by members exceeded the capacity of the field that year and those with higher handicaps were balloted out. Many non-participating members volunteered to be allocated tasks on the day to ensure its success.

In 1991, a parachutist was flown in as a feature, prior to the start of the afternoon field. Journalist Scot Palmer's punchlines in the *Sun* after the event described it as 'the best event of its kind in the nation'.

Late in 1991, CUB indicated that it would like to renew its contract and sponsor the Pro-Am for the foreseeable future. The CUB was given naming rights and since 1992 the event has been titled the Carlton & United Portsea Pro-Am. The event, in return, was provided with a greater degree of security and since then has developed into the biggest one-day Pro-Am in Australia. Lawrence Heraty continued to chair the sub-Committee and Norm Mallett, who had filled a casual vacancy on the Committee in 1991, joined the sub-Committee which also included Jeff Wilde, Peter Jay, John Medley, Peg Sherren and Bill Branthwaite. In 1992, a concerted effort by Norm and Jeff resulted in new sponsors and a significant rise in income.



Robert Allenby putting – 1997

The morning and afternoon shot-gun start was tried again in 1994, but because of the large inflow of spectators at the conclusion of play, it proved difficult to provide good drink and food service in the tented hospitality area. In 1995, the two tee morning and afternoon starts were reintroduced. The marquee was placed on the lower part of the practice fairway but it was generally agreed that this was not the best position, particularly as noted pro Robert Allenby drove his tee shot into the tent. As a result, the area near

to where the old worksheds were originally situated, is now designated as the position for the hospitality tent. It was decided also that fields of about 216 were the optimum number for the event, although with sponsorship demands this number is generally increased to 224.

The event in 1997 included perhaps the strongest field ever for Portsea and many of the professionals playing were, or had been, members of the European Tour.

A corporate marquee was used and for the first time the tent was moved down the first fairway on to the flat area. This was deemed necessary as, shortly after the Pro-Am, the builder was due to commence construction of the new Club House.

In 1993, Portsea experienced four seasons in several hours, including fog, stifling afternoon heat and humidity, late afternoon lightning and then cold, windy conditions with heavy rain. The size of the field and the inclement weather conditions resulted in a number of professionals having to return the next day to finish their rounds. After the 1993 event, several alterations were suggested. These included two shot-gun starts, the event to be par, not stableford, the field to be limited to 216, and a handicap limit for members.

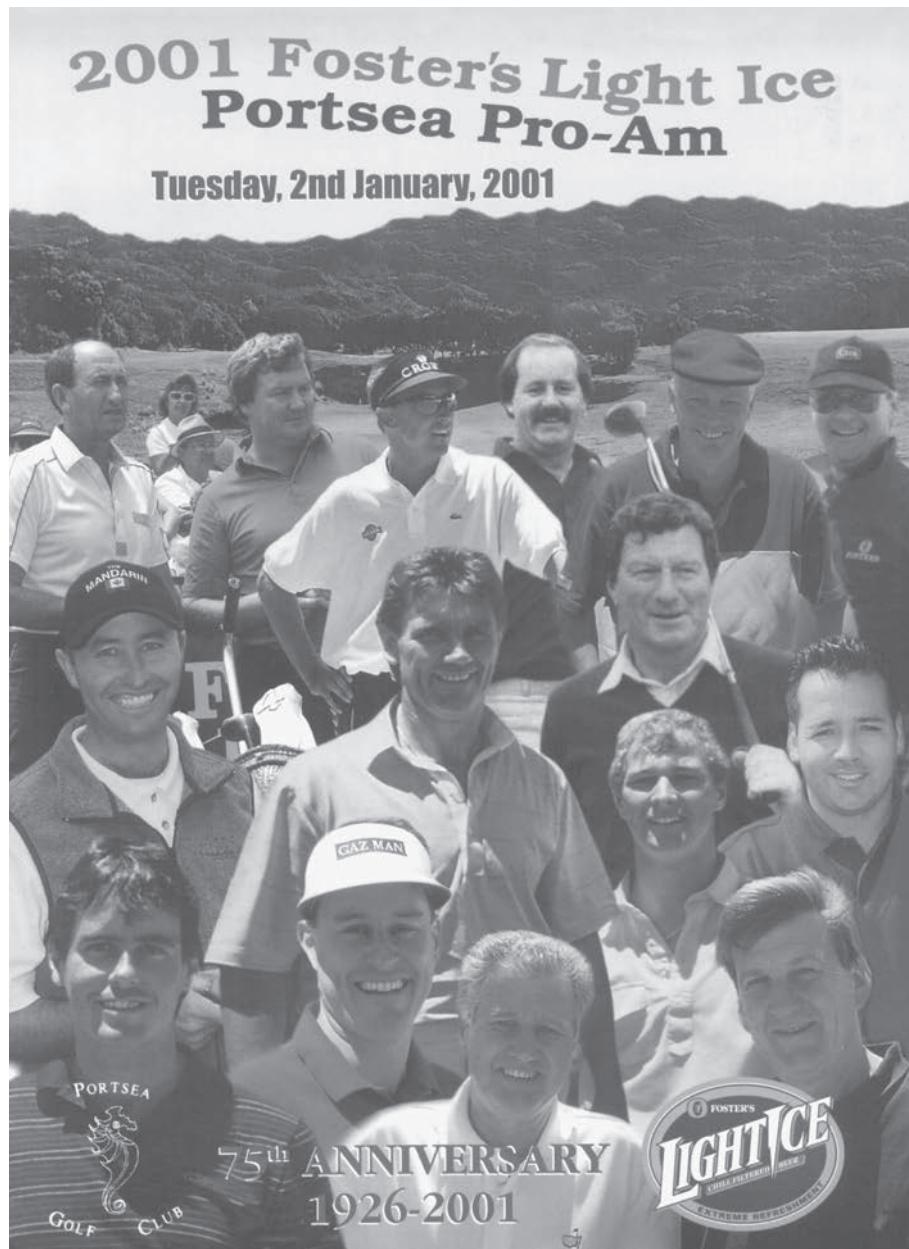


Prior to afternoon start – 1994

The PGA introduced 'Pro-Am Awards' in 1995, Portsea winning the first two in 1995 and 1996. Portsea was again awarded the prestigious 'Pro-Am of the Year' award in 1999 and 2000.

Portsea Golf Club has fine-tuned the Pro-Am to a point where it is now being used by the PGA as a model for other clubs seeking to organise a similar event. The Pro-Am will continue to be a highlight at Portsea for as long as the Club can sustain sponsorship levels and the support of the many members who assist with all aspects of the event.

With its fine tradition for organising superlative golfing events, a tradition which can be traced back to Arthur Relph's organisation and promotion of events in the 1920s, the expansion and quality of the golfing program at the Portsea Golf Club seems assured.





The 1st fairway and green at Portsea. The perfect opening hole for a memorable round of golf.

Office Bearers, Championship and Perpetual Trophy Winners

MEN'S GOLF

Presidents

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1926 | H. Armytage | 1979-81 | R.G. Parry | 1993-95 | S.A. Thomson |
| 1927-46 | A.O. Barrett | 1981-83 | I.L. Thomas | 1995-98 | N.C. Mallett |
| 1947-50 | C.L. Kimpton | 1983-85 | B.A.R. Clarke | 1998-2000 | I.T. Perkins |
| 1951-72 | K.H. Boykett | 1985-88 | E.J. Turner | 2000- | J.P. Kellaway |
| 1972-76 | J.M.F. Relph | 1988-91 | K.F. Bell | | |
| 1976-79 | C.B. Colston | 1991-93 | G. Kivlighon | | |

Captains

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1926-48 | A.W. Relph | 1979 | A.H. Beckwith | 1990-92 | P. Jay |
| 1949-55 | J.M.F. Relph | 1979-81 | K.F. Bell | 1992 | L. Heraty |
| 1956-75 | C.B. Colston | 1981-83 | S.A. Thomson | 1993-95 | A.F. Williams |
| 1975-77 | R.J. Roberts | 1983-87 | G. Kivlighon | 1995-2000 | H. Richards |
| 1977-79 | R.G. Parry | 1987-90 | D. Watson | 2000- | R.G. Dunball |

Secretaries

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| 1926-44 | H.O. Taylor | 1973-77 | K.G. Coldrey | 1989-90 | S.A. Thomson |
| 1944-65 | J.M.F. Relph | 1977-83 | W.E. Rose | 1990-91 | R. Bowtell |
| 1965-67 | J.A. Relph | 1983-84 | S.A. Thomson | 1991-94 | J.C. Medley |
| 1967-72 | R.A. DeGaris | 1984-88 | R.R. Dowel | 1994-97 | J.W. Carr |
| 1972-73 | F. Comer | 1988-89 | P. Fox | | |

Club Championship

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|---------------|------|------------|
| 1956 | W.R. Scott | 1971 | H. Greenfield | 1986 | C. Thomson |
| 1957 | K.W. Kenyon | 1972 | H. Greenfield | 1987 | A. Bullas |
| 1958 | M.K. Fitchett | 1973 | P. Jewell | 1988 | A. Bullas |
| 1959 | M.K. Fitchett | 1974 | P. Jewell | 1989 | A. Bullas |
| 1960 | M.K. Fitchett | 1975 | P. Jewell | 1990 | C. Thomson |
| 1961 | I. Schlipalius | 1976 | R. Scott | 1991 | B. Meadows |
| 1962 | R.W. Weir | 1977 | P. Jewell | 1992 | A. Bullas |
| 1963 | M. Murphy | 1978 | M. Dore | 1993 | B. Meadows |
| 1964 | W.R. Scott | 1979 | A. Bullas | 1994 | A. Bullas |
| 1965 | M.K. Fitchett | 1980 | A. Bullas | 1995 | A. Bullas |
| 1966 | R. Scott | 1981 | A. Bullas | 1996 | R. Meadows |
| 1967 | C. Watson | 1982 | C. Thomson | 1997 | B. Hayes |
| 1968 | R. Scott | 1983 | A. Bullas | 1998 | R. Meadows |
| 1969 | R. Scott | 1984 | A. Bullas | 1999 | C. Scott |
| 1970 | C. Watson | 1985 | A. Bullas | 2000 | C. Scott |

B-Grade Championship

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|--------------|
| 1958 | C. Wright | 1973 | M. Dore | 1988 | B. Meadows |
| 1959 | T.G. Gallagher | 1974 | A. Relph | 1989 | E. Draper |
| 1960 | A. Morrison | 1975 | M. Dore | 1990 | R. Bowtell |
| 1961 | R. Marshall | 1976 | R. Worthington | 1991 | J. Wilde |
| 1962 | R. Marshall | 1977 | G. Worthington | 1992 | R. Lawerson |
| 1963 | R. Riley | 1978 | N. McKinlay | 1993 | A. Carnegie |
| 1964 | C. Watson | 1979 | J. Solway | 1994 | C. Thompson |
| 1965 | A. Rennie | 1980 | E. Toone | 1995 | C. Morris |
| 1966 | F. Garner | 1981 | C. Thomson | 1996 | N. Mattison |
| 1967 | V. Peddle | 1982 | J. Kellaway | 1997 | J. Quinn |
| 1968 | J. McDonald | 1983 | P. Jay | 1998 | A. Colliver |
| 1969 | P. McNeil | 1984 | Not known | 1999 | S. Armstrong |
| 1970 | B. Watson | 1985 | N. McKinlay | 2000 | R. Grant |
| 1971 | N.C. Longden | 1986 | D. Basterfield | | |
| 1972 | M. McDonald | 1987 | D. Thomas | | |

C-Grade Championship

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------|------|-------------------|------|------------|
| 1970 | P. Watson | 1980 | J. Docking | 1991 | G. Lyon |
| 1971 | R. Parry | 1981 | J. Relph | 1992 | C. Ogilvy |
| 1972 | G. Beeney | 1982 | W. Brown | 1993 | R. Lumsden |
| 1973 | P. O'Sullivan | 1983 | D. Richardson | 1994 | J. Galtry |
| 1974 | J. Carr | 1984 | J. Lever | 1995 | A. Topp |
| | B. Chitty | 1985 | G. Burte | | F. Troy |
| 1975 | R.J. Roberts | 1986 | P. Ridder | 1997 | P. Cocker |
| 1976 | W. Roger | 1987 | J. Galtry | | F. Troy |
| 1977 | P. Watson | 1988 | J. Galtry | 1998 | |
| 1978 | C. Bannister | 1989 | R. Pearce | 1999 | S. Latimer |
| 1979 | W.E. Rose | 1990 | B. McMaster Smith | 2000 | A. Cervi |

D-Grade Championship

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|-------------|
| 1973 | W. George | 1981 | T. Gamble | 1989 | P. Jones |
| 1974 | G.A. Farrell | 1982 | D. Morrison | 1990 | K. Horsey |
| 1975 | L.J. Hodder | 1983 | R. Brushett | 1991 | S. Connelly |
| 1976 | J. Kennedy | 1984 | J. Fletcher | 1992 | S. Latimer |
| 1977 | W.R. Twaddle | 1985 | M. Myles | 1993 | Not played |
| 1978 | L.T Barron | 1986 | K. Heine | 1994 | S. Latimer |
| 1979 | W.R. Twaddle | 1987 | L. Griffiths | 1995 | S. Latimer |
| 1980 | W.R. Twaddle | 1988 | B. Lindsay | 1996 | B. Baxter |

Foursomes Championship

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 1976 | A. Skinner & J. Carr | 1985 | M. Dore & A. Bullas | 1994 | B. Harris & A. Bullas |
| 1977 | J. Kirby & A. Bullas | 1986 | T. Lewis & A. Williams | 1995 | K. Keily & C. Bassett |
| 1978 | J. Kirby & A. Bullas | 1987 | H. Richards & W. Keily | 1996 | M. Colombo & B. Hayes |
| 1979 | C. Watson & C. Neill | 1988 | B. Harris & A. Bullas | 1997 | M. Colombo & B. Hayes |
| 1980 | M. Dore & S. Thomson | 1989 | B. Harris & A. Bullas | 1998 | M. Colombo & B. Hayes |
| 1981 | B.A. Clarke & A. Bullas | 1990 | B. Harris & A. Bullas | 1999 | P. O'Dwyer & C. Scott |
| 1982 | I. Thomas & D. Cohen | 1991 | B. Harris & A. Bullas | 2000 | P. O'Dwyer & B. Hayes |
| 1983 | M. Dore & A. Bullas | 1992 | B. Harris & A. Bullas | | |
| 1984 | M. Dore & A. Bullas | 1993 | K. Keily & C. Bassett | | |

Thomas H. Houghton Trophy

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|--------------|
| 1987 | W. Court | 1992 | G. Burns | 1997 | B. Harris |
| 1988 | R. Meadows | 1993 | D. Czarnecki | 1998 | A. McKendry |
| 1989 | F. Troy | 1994 | R. Taylor | 1999 | M.J. Schafer |
| 1990 | W. Wood | 1995 | C.J.L. Gilchrist | 2000 | D. Czarnecki |
| 1991 | B. McMaster-Smith | 1996 | G. Woodhams | | |

Father and Son Trophy

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|----------------|------|-----------------|
| 1992 | J. & R. Winters | 1995 | R. & R. Janes | 1998 | D. & A. Topp |
| 1993 | S. & D. Thomson | 1996 | E. & D. Draper | 1999 | T. & M. Grant |
| 1994 | C. & L. Price | 1997 | E. & D. Draper | 2000 | S. & C. Thomson |

Armytage Cup

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------------|------|-----------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|
| 1931 | H.J. Blight | 1953 | Not Played | 1969 | R. Bell | 1985 | K. Bell |
| 1932 | A.O. Barrett | 1954 | R. Meldrum | 1970 | J. Docking | 1986 | R. Manchester |
| 1933 | A.W. Relph | 1955 | T.B. Armstrong | 1971 | F. Wohlfahrt | 1987 | K. Wilson |
| 1934 | D.C. Kimpton | 1956 | P.F. Wallace | 1972 | J. Tomlinson | 1988 | A. Stephens |
| 1935 | B.W. Kimpton | 1957 | R.D. Stringer | 1973 | M.G. Bedford | 1989 | A. Sinclair |
| 1936 | A.J. Terdich | 1958 | D.J. Forbes | 1974 | K. Richardson | 1990 | T. Denby |
| 1937 | B. Roth | 1959 | D.J. Forbes | 1975 | J. Hogan | 1991 | J. Carroll |
| 1938 | V.J. Matthews | 1960 | J. Heil | 1976 | W. Richardson | 1992 | J. Mark |
| 1939 | A.C. Meckiff | 1961 | D.J. Forbes | 1977 | G.W. Roe | 1993 | M. Jackson |
| 1940-46 | Not Played | 1962 | G.B. Barton | 1978 | H.L. Hay | 1994 | D. O'Gorman |
| 1947 | K.G. Halley | 1963 | A.J. Loone | 1979 | R. Penny | 1995 | N. McKinlay |
| 1948 | L.H. Stevens | 1964 | F. Smith | 1980 | W. Groves | 1996 | B. Fitcher |
| 1949 | R.J. Williams | 1965 | I. D. Mitchener | 1981 | R. Keegan | 1997 | A. Hunter |
| 1950 | Not Played | 1966 | J. Nicholls | 1982 | R. Drury | 1998 | R. Chitty |
| 1951 | F.W. Mangan | 1967 | R. Player | 1983 | A. Stephens | 1999 | T. Sheffield |
| 1952 | J. Cuffe | 1968 | J.C. Simmons | 1984 | F. Fortescue | 2000 | M. Young |

Nepean Cup

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------------|------|----------------|------|--------------|------|----------------|
| 1937 | M. McDonald | 1960 | C. Wright | 1974 | C. Bannister | 1988 | E. Turner |
| 1938 | J. Knight | 1961 | W. King | 1975 | A. Beckwith | 1989 | P. Day |
| 1939 | M. McDonald | 1962 | J. Thoms | 1976 | M. McDonald | 1990 | E. Porter |
| 1940-49 | Not Played | 1963 | T. Gallagher | 1977 | W.E. Court | 1991 | G. Wilson |
| 1950 | E.J. Moody | 1964 | J.A. Relph | 1978 | J. Twentyman | 1992 | J. Uhe |
| 1951 | Not Played | 1965 | F.J. Watson | 1979 | A. Skinner | 1993 | S. Thomson |
| 1952 | L.P. Hill | 1966 | J. Nicholls | 1980 | N. McKinlay | 1994 | F. Staples |
| 1953 | L.G. Masters | 1967 | H. Rouse | 1981 | J.A. Docking | 1995 | B.M. Armstrong |
| 1954 | M. McDonald | 1968 | R. Roberts | 1982 | S. Thomson | 1996 | J. Solway |
| 1955 | Not Played | 1969 | R. Cook | 1983 | H. Wilde | 1997 | E. Draper |
| 1956 | K. Sharpley | 1970 | L. Collins | 1984 | A. Hunter | 1998 | S. Howe |
| 1957 | T.S. Gallagher | 1971 | J.E. Tomlinson | 1985 | C. Thomson | 1999 | A. McKendry |
| 1958 | T. Mangan | 1972 | F. Dinnie | 1986 | A. Stephens | 2000 | D. Opie |
| 1959 | D.J. Forbes | 1973 | J. Galtry | 1987 | D. Watson | | |

Portsea Cup

| | | | | | | | |
|------|-------------|---------|--------------|------|----------------|------|--------------|
| 1960 | A. Morrison | 1970 | C. Watson | 1981 | G. Hulston | 1991 | A. Bullas |
| 1961 | R. Marshall | 1971 | R. Parry | 1982 | D. Morrison | 1992 | P. O'Dwyer |
| 1962 | J.A. Relph | 1972 | G. Beeney | 1983 | L. Blair | 1993 | A. Scott |
| 1963 | C. Watson | 1973 P. | O'Sullivan | 1984 | R. Worthington | 1994 | R. Armstrong |
| 1964 | C. Watson | 1974 | J. Carr | 1985 | K. Wilson | 1995 | L. Edwards |
| 1965 | M. Murnane | 1975 | R.J. Roberts | 1986 | G. Burte | 1996 | F. Troy |
| 1966 | V. Peddle | 1976 | W. Rogers | 1987 | B. Harris | 1997 | P.J. Carter |
| 1967 | V. Peddle | 1977 | N. McKinlay | 1988 | T. Garby | 1998 | J. Solway |
| 1968 | G. Weston | 1978 | N. McKinlay | 1989 | A. Richardson | 1999 | C. Scott |
| 1969 | P. McNeil | 1979 | W.R. Twaddle | 1990 | L. Edwards | 2000 | C. Thomson |
| | | 1980 | J. Tomlinson | | | | |

Colin B. Colston Cup

| | | | | | | | |
|------|---------------|------|--------------|------|----------------|------|------------|
| 1978 | M. Dore | 1984 | J. Wilde | 1990 | L. Edwards | 1996 | B. Baklien |
| 1979 | C.A. Thomson | 1985 | G. Kivlighon | 1991 | W. Court | 1997 | J. Keegan |
| 1980 | J. Sims | 1986 | E. Draper | 1992 | R. Riley | 1998 | B. Hayes |
| 1981 | J. Wilde | 1987 | R. Meadows | 1993 | L. Edwards | 1999 | S. Howe |
| 1982 | L. Fitzgerald | 1988 | J. Galtry | 1994 | D. Basterfield | 2000 | G. Lyons |
| 1983 | W. Court | 1989 | R. Meadows | 1995 | B. Hayes | | |

Easter Cup

| | | | | | | | |
|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|
| 1987 | S. Latimer | 1991 | T. Vining | 1995 | F. Dinnie | 1999 | E. Porter |
| 1988 | S. Vaiopoulos | 1992 | K. Keily | 1996 | J. Medwin | 2000 | B. Harris |
| 1989 | A. Klietz | 1993 | P. Williamson | 1997 | R. Knott | 2001 | C. Taylor |
| 1990 | M. Duhamel | 1994 | P. Williamson | 1998 | G. Seedsman | | |

Pro-Am Winners

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|------------------|------|--------------|
| 1976 | P. Thomson | 1986 | I. Baker Finch | 1994 | S. Brodie |
| | S. Caldow | 1987 | D. Smith | 1995 | M. Harwood |
| 1977 | P. Thomson | 1988 | M. Colandro (US) | | S. Laycock |
| 1978 | R. Wood | | B. Officer | 1996 | R. Stephens |
| 1979 | P. Mills | | W. Meikle | 1997 | S. Allan |
| 1980 | P. Thomson | 1989 | W. Case (US) | | D. Cole |
| | R. McNaughton | 1990 | P. Boulton | | G. Joyner |
| 1981 | I. Stanley | | R. Cooney | | P. Moloney |
| | R. Shearer | 1991 | R. Shearer | | J. Norris |
| | M. Humphries | | P. Powell (NZ) | 1998 | S. Laycock |
| 1982 | S. Montgomerie | 1992 | B. Jackson (UK) | | R. Byrd (US) |
| 1983 | P. Croker | | M. Colandro (US) | 1999 | A. Rogers |
| 1984 | M. Cahill | | B. Hughes | 2000 | B. Burns |
| 1985 | M. Clayton | 1993 | D. Capaldo | 2001 | D. Diaz |

Portsea Open Amateur

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------------|-------|------|---------------|-------|------|-------------|-----|
| 1980 | A. Bullas | 147 | 1987 | B. Hughes | 298 | 1994 | J. McCallum | 289 |
| 1981 | A. Lehner | 144 | 1988 | P. Moloney | 291 | 1995 | G. Ogilvy | 283 |
| 1982 | M. Abeyaratne | 147 | 1989 | J. Wade | 289 | 1996 | A. Webster | 286 |
| 1983 | M. Smyth | 148 | 1990 | J. Beveridge | 289 | 1997 | C. Percy | 281 |
| 1984 | P. Moloney | 146 | 1991 | D. Armstrong | 288 | 1998 | C. Percy | 279 |
| 1985 | M. Wishart | 149 | 1992 | J. Beveridge | 292 | 1999 | J. Wallis | 282 |
| 1986 | D. Diaz | 2 9 3 | 1993 | P. Fitzgibbon | 2 9 0 | 2000 | M. Fraser | 280 |

Arthur W. Relph Trophy

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| 1978 | S.A. Thomson | 1986 | J. Carr | 1994 | L. Whittingslow |
| 1979 | W.H. Wood | 1987 | L. Whittingslow | 1995 | P. Sheffield |
| 1980 | W.H. Wood | 1988 | L. Whittingslow | 1996 | N. McKinlay |
| 1981 | M. Dore | 1989 | C. Barton | 1997 | D. Vance |
| 1982 | H. Wilde | 1990 | J. Greagg | 1998 | K. Horsey |
| 1983 | F. Casey | 1991 | R. Healy | 1999 | C. Scott |
| 1984 | G. Kivlighon | 1992 | D. Basterfield | 2000 | R. Grant |
| 1985 | J. Carr | 1993 | G. Hartley | | |

Junior Championship

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|------------|
| 1957 | R.J. Colston | 1972 | C. Jewell | 1987 | B. Harris |
| 1958 | T. Mangan | 1973 | B. Watson | 1988 | B. Harris |
| 1959 | T. Mangan | 1974 | A. Bullas | 1989 | B. Harris |
| 1960 | I. Schlipalius | 1975 | A. Bullas | 1990 | B. Harris |
| 1961 | I. Schlipalius | 1976 | R. Worthington | 1991 | B. Meadows |
| 1962 | I. Schlipalius | 1977 | G. Worthington | 1992 | R. Meadows |
| 1963 | I. Schlipalius | 1978 | R. Worthington | 1993 | B. Meadows |
| 1964 | I. Schlipalius | 1979 | R. Worthington | 1994 | B. Meadows |
| 1965 | K. Garner | 1980 | S. McCraw | 1995 | B. Hayes |
| 1966 | R. Scott | 1981 | M. Abeyaratne | 1996 | P. O'Dwyer |
| 1967 | C. Watson | 1982 | C. Thomson | 1997 | P. Carter |
| 1968 | R. Scott | 1983 | C. Thomson | 1998 | C. Scott |
| 1969 | R. Scott | 1984 | C. Thomson | 1999 | C. Scott |
| 1970 | P. Jewell | 1985 | C. Thomson | 2000 | C. Scott |
| 1971 | N.C. Longden | 1986 | B. Harris | | |

— Mixed Foursomes Championship —

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| 1975 | P. Jewell & Mrs J. McGill | 1988 | B. Harris & Mrs I. Troy |
| 1976 | Mr & Mrs A. Beckwith | 1989 | B. Harris & Mrs I. Troy |
| 1977 | S. Thomson & Mrs P. Hodder | 1990 | B. Harris & Mrs I. Troy |
| 1978 | S. Thomson & Mrs P. Hodder | 1991 | B. Harris & Mrs I. Troy |
| 1979 | S. Thomson & Mrs P. Hodder | 1992 | K. O'Connell & Mrs D. O'Connell |
| 1980 | S. Thomson & Mrs D. Abschinski | 1993 | K. O'Connell & Mrs D. O'Connell |
| 1981 | P. Jewell & Mrs J. McGill | 1994 | P. O'Dwyer & Miss A. Bell |
| 1982 | S. Thomson & Mrs D. Abschinski | 1995 | P. Jay & Mrs M. Fletcher |
| 1983 | P. Watson & Mrs J. Jeffreys | 1996 | B. Harris & Mrs I. Troy |
| 1984 | L. Heraty & Mrs L. Scott | 1997 | S. McLean & Miss K. Paez |
| 1985 | L. Heraty & Mrs L. Scott | 1998 | B. Harris & Mrs I. Troy |
| 1986 | P. Jewell & Mrs J. McGill | 1999 | R. Grant & Miss L. MacDonald |
| 1987 | B. Meadows & Mrs J. Jeffreys | 2000 | B. Armstrong & Miss K. Paez |

* * * * *



The communication tower erected behind the 5th green in 1999. Although relatively unobtrusive, Club coffers received a substantial boost after the installation of this and another tower.

LADIES’ GOLF

Lady Presidents

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1951 | Mrs Hilary Quick | 1966-69 | Mrs Min Wright-Smith | 1986-87 | Mrs Irene Barron |
| 1952-53 | Miss Min Burrowes | 1970-72 | Mrs Ann Dowd | 1988-89 | Mrs Shirley Williams |
| 1954 | Mrs Olga Hill | 1973-74 | Mrs Maisie Harris | 1990 | Mrs Audrey Hardwicke |
| 1955 | Miss Min Burrowes | 1975-76 | Mrs Thelma Dellow | 1991-92 | Mrs Dorothy Pinnell |
| 1956 | Mrs Josephine Moody | 1977-78 | Mrs June McDonald | 1993-94 | Mrs June Opie |
| 1957 | Mrs Olga Hill | 1979 | Mrs Pat Hodder | 1995-96 | Mrs Pauline Powell |
| 1958-59 | Mrs Ann Baker | 1980 | Mrs Vivienne Parry | 1997-98 | Mrs Lynn McMaster |
| 1960-62 | Mrs Olga Hill | 1981-82 | Mrs Nin Watson | 1999-2000 | Mrs Dorothy Pinnell |
| 1963-64 | Mrs Gwen Grasyan | 1983 | Mrs Margaret Rattray | 2001 | Mrs Judy Jabara |
| 1965 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1984-85 | Mrs Eunice Watson | | |

Lady Captains

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1952-54 | Miss Flo Newton | 1973-75 (part) | Mrs Olga Hill | 1991 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys |
| 1955 | Mrs Ella Armstrong | 1975-76 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1992-93 | Mrs Bonnie Bishop |
| 1956 | Mrs Sybil Morgan | 1977-78 | Mrs Joan McGill | 1994-95 | Mrs Maureen Downie |
| 1957-60 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1979 | Mrs Margaret Beckwith | 1996-97 | Mrs Margot Bullen |
| 1961-62 | Mrs Jean McDonald | 1980-81 | Mrs Rill Pilkington | 1998 | Mrs Marjorie Kellaway |
| 1963-65 | Mrs Peg Fletcher | 1982-84 | Mrs Pauline Powell | 1999-2000 | Mrs Bonnie Bishop |
| 1966-68 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1985-86 | Mrs Peg Sherren | 2001 | Mrs Dot Huddle |
| 1969-70 | Mrs Joan McWilliam | 1987-88 | Mrs Janice Ainslie | | |
| 1971-72 | Mrs Bessie Bardsley | 1989-90 | Mrs Faye Young | | |

Lady Secretaries

| | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1951-52 | Mrs Olga Hill | 1966 | Miss Betty Nixon | 1988-89 | Mrs Lorna Wilde |
| 1953-54 | Mrs June Kilborn | 1967-68 | Mrs Nan Garland | 1990-91 | Mrs Win Pearson |
| 1955-56 | Mrs Nell Burley | 1969-76 | Mrs Margaret Rattray | 1992-94 | Mrs Margaret Newton |
| 1957-59 | Mrs Maisie Harris | 1977-9 | Mrs Win Pearson | 1995-96 | Mrs Aileen Thompson |
| 1960-61 | Mrs Nan Garland | 1980 | Mrs Margaret Rattray | 1997-98 | Ms Jenny Roberts |
| 1962 | Mrs Ena Lovett, | 1981 | Mrs Win Pearson | 1999-2000 | Mrs Rosemary Ungar |
| | Mrs Min Wright-Smith | 1982-83 | Mrs Eunice Watson | 2001 | Mrs Aileen Thompson |
| 1963 | Miss Betty Nixon | 1984-85 | Mrs Nin Watson | | |
| 1964-65 | Mrs Margaret Rattray | 1986-87 | Mrs Win Pearson | | |

— The Portsea Ladies’ Championship —

| | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|---|---------|--|
| 1953-54 | Mrs June Kilborn | 1975-79 | Mrs Joan McWilliam | 1992-93 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys |
| 1955-56 | Not played | 1980 | Mrs Margaret Beckwith | 1994 | Mrs Ilse Troy |
| 1957-58 | Mrs Audrey Scott | 1981 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys | 1995 | Miss Alison Bell |
| 1959-66 | Mrs Barbara Gallagher - eight years in a row, which has not been equalled | 1982 | Mrs Joan McWilliam - her eleventh championship | 1996-97 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys - a record twelve championships |
| 1967 | Mrs Min Wright-Smith | 1983-86 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys | 1998 | Mrs Rachel Richards |
| 1968-72 | Mrs Joan McWilliam | 1987 | Mrs Diane O’Connell | 1999 | Miss Louise MacDonald |
| 1973-74 | Mrs Margaret Beckwith | 1988-90 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys | 2000 | Mrs Ilse Troy |
| | | 1991 | Mrs Diane O’Connell | | |

— Ladies’ Foursomes Championship —

| | | | |
|---------|--|---------|--|
| 1983-84 | Mrs Joan McWilliam & Mrs Joan Wilson | 1991-92 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys & Mrs Margaret Fletcher |
| 1985 | Mrs Nin Watson & Mrs Jenny Jeffreys | 1993 | Miss Alison Bell & Miss Keryl Paez |
| 1986 | Mrs Jeanette Coote & Mrs Marie Wood | 1994 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys & Mrs Margaret Fletcher |
| 1987 | Mrs Jeanette Coote & Mrs Joan McGill | 1995-96 | Miss Alison Bell & Miss Keryl Paez |
| 1988 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys & Mrs Margaret Fletcher | 1997-98 | Mrs Ilse Troy & Mrs Rachel Richards |
| 1989 | Mrs Nancy Dawes & Mrs June Opie | 1999 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys & Mrs Margaret Fletcher |
| 1990 | Mrs Ilse Troy & Mrs Rachel Richards | 2000 | Miss Keryl Paez & Miss Alexandra Czarnecki |

— Ladies’ Medallist of the Year —

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 1965 | Miss Betty Nixon | 1977 | | 1989 | Mrs Shirley Williams |
| 1966 | | 1978 | Miss Cath Baldwin | 1990 | Mrs Eunice Watson |
| 1967 | Mrs Bebe Stringer | 1979 | Mrs Laura Richardson | 1991 | Mrs Bonnie Bishop |
| 1968 | Mrs Margaret Rattray | 1980 | Mrs Jean Jones | 1992 | Mrs Maureen Downie |
| 1969 | Mrs Nan Garland | 1981 | Mrs Joan McGill | 1993 | Mrs Margaret Fletcher |
| 1970 | Mrs Bebe Stringer | 1982 | Mrs Yvonne McGain | 1994 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys |
| 1971 | Mrs Min Wright-Smith | 1983 | Mrs Diane O’Connell | 1995 | Mrs June Opie |
| 1972 | Mrs Thelma Dellow | 1984 | Mrs Nin Watson | 1996 | Mrs Jane Carter |
| 1973 | Mrs Faye Lillimaggi | 1985 | Mrs Pauline Powell | 1997 | Ms Jenny Roberts |
| 1974 | Mrs Nin Watson | 1986 | Mrs Diane O’Connell | 1998 | Mrs Ilse Troy |
| 1975 | Mrs Nin Watson | 1987 | Mrs Muriel Holden | 1999 | Miss Alexandra Czarnecki |
| 1976 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys | 1988 | Miss Patricia Pearson | 2000 | Mrs Margaret Fletcher |

— Ladies’ B-Grade Championship —

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1965 | Mrs Doris Redman | 1977 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys | 1990 | Mrs Genni Johnson |
| 1966 | Mrs Edna White | 1978 | Mrs Shirley Lever | 1991 | Mrs Marie Wood |
| 1967 | Mrs Gwen Grasyan | 1979 | Mrs Nancy Dawes | 1992 | Mrs Eunice Watson |
| 1968 | Mrs Bebe Stringer | 1980-81 | Mrs Shirley Lever | 1993 | Mrs Pauline Powell |
| 1969 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1982 | Mrs Rill Pilkington | 1994 | Mrs Jeanette Coote |
| 1970 | Mrs Billie Rowley | 1983 | Mrs June Opie | 1995 | Mrs Pauline Powell |
| 1971 | Mrs Olga Hill | 1984 | Mrs Pauline Powell | 1996 | Mrs Jenny Johnson |
| 1972 | Mrs Edna White | 1985 | Mrs Margaret Fletcher | 1997 | Ms Jenny Roberts |
| 1973 | Mrs Shirley Lever | 1986 | Mrs Marie Wood | 1998-99 | Mrs Jeanette Coote |
| 1974 | Mrs Nin Watson | 1987 | Mrs Eva Green | 2000 | Mrs Marjorie Kellaway |
| 1975 | Mrs Shirley Lever | 1988 | Mrs Janice Ainslie | | |
| 1976 | Mrs Jean Gardiner | 1989 | Mrs Marie Wood | | |

— Ladies’ C-Grade Championship —

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 1976 | Mrs Edna White | 1984-85 | Mrs Fay Young | 1993 | Mrs Dorothy Pinnell |
| 1977 | Mrs Eunice Brown | 1986 | Mrs Jean Creighton | 1994 | Mrs Anne Heine |
| 1978 | Mrs Shirley Williams | 1987 | Mrs Jenny Bishop | 1995 | Mrs Gwen McKenzie |
| 1979 | Mrs Peg Fletcher | 1988 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1996 | Mrs Jenny Bishop |
| 1980 | Mrs Jean Creighton | 1989 | Mrs Ruth Branthwaite | 1997 | Mrs Joyce Phillingham |
| 1981 | Mrs Marilyn Court | 1990 | Ms Valya Murjahn | 1998 | Mrs Julie Draper |
| 1982 | Mrs Yvonne McGain | 1991 | Mrs Jenny Bishop | 1999 | Mrs Bonnie Bishop |
| 1983 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1992 | Mrs Shirley Williams | 2000 | Mrs Rosemary Ungar |

Delgany Plate (Open event)

| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|
| 1988 | Mrs C de Winter | 1993 | Miss S McClure | 1997 | Mrs V Ferguson |
| 1989 | Mrs M Meiland | 1994 | Miss K MacDonald | 1998-99 | Miss K MacDonald |
| 1990 | Mrs V Mitchell | 1995 | Miss S Doggett | | |
| 1991-92 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys | 1996 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys | 2000 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys |

Paula Cayzer Trophy

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------|--------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 1984 | Mrs Peg Fletcher | 1990 | Mrs Rose Birchall | 1996 | Mrs Margaret Fletcher |
| 1985 | Mrs Rill Pilkington | 1991 | Ms Valya Murjahn | 1997 | Mrs Marie Wood |
| 1985 | Mrs Eunice Watson | 1992 | Mrs Rose Birchall | 1998 | Mrs Aileen Thompson |
| 1987 | Mrs Margaret Fletcher | 1993 | Mrs Mabel Taylor | 1999 | Mrs Nancy Dawes |
| 1988 | Mrs Rachel Richards | 1994 | Mrs Peg Richardson | 2000 | Mrs Joan McGill |
| 1989 | Mrs Ruth Branthwaite | 1995 | Mrs Jenny Johnson | | |

Weir Bowl (Singles knock-out)

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1963 | Mrs Alma Hill | 1975 | Mrs Muriel Mortimore | 1990 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys |
| 1964 | Mrs Joan McGill | 1976 | Mrs Yvonne Toone | 1991 | Mrs Maureen Downie |
| 1965 | Mrs Dorothy Riley | 1977-78 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys | 1992 | Ms Valya Murjahn |
| 1966 | Mrs Joan Murphy | 1979 | Mrs Rill Pilkington | 1993 | Mrs Rachel Richards |
| 1967 | Mrs Dot Kilby | 1980 | Mrs Pauline Powell | 1994 | Mrs Anne Meehan |
| 1968 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1981 | Mrs Joan McGill | 1995 | Mrs Di Greagg |
| 1969 | Mrs Bebe Stringer | 1982 | Mrs Jean Creighton | 1996 | Mrs Jenny Johnson |
| 1970 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1983 | Mrs June Opie | 1997 | Ms Jenny Roberts |
| 1971 | Not played | 1984 | Mrs Diane O'Connell | 1998 | Mrs Aileen Thompson |
| 1972 | Mrs Bessie Bardsley | 1985-86 | Mrs June Opie | 1999 | Mrs Jeanette McComb |
| 1973 | Not played | 1987-88 | Mrs Marilyn Court | 2000 | Mrs Pauline Powell |
| 1974 | Mrs Joan McWilliam | 1989 | Miss Patricia Pearson | | |

Grace Bowl (Four ball knock-out)

| | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|
| 1996 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys & Mrs Margaret Fletcher | 1998-99 | Mrs Vicki Colliver & Miss Louise MacDonald |
| 1997 | Mrs Dot Huddle & Mrs Wendy McLean | 2000 | Mrs Peg Sherren and Mrs Maureen Downie |

McDonald Trophy (Open event)

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 1978 | Mrs June Opie | 1986 | Mrs Janice Ainslie | 1994 | Mrs Marilyn Court |
| 1979 | Mrs Pam Hiskins | 1987 | Miss Sharon Gowing | 1995 | Mrs S Terdzans |
| 1980 | Mrs Claire Rose | 1988 | Mrs Irene Barron | 1996 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys |
| 1981 | Mrs Eunice Watson | 1989 | Mrs Rachel Richards | 1997 | Mrs E Augustine |
| 1982 | Mrs L Yeoman | 1990 | Mrs B Forbes | 1998 | Mrs Margaret Fletcher |
| 1983 | Mrs C Patison | 1991 | Mrs Rose Birchall | 1999 | Mrs Peg Sherren |
| 1984 | Mrs Peg Fletcher | 1992 | Mrs Jenny Johnson | 2000 | Mrs Lynn Bassett |
| 1985 | Mrs Pauline Powell | 1993 | Mrs Anne Meehan | | |

The Olga Hill Cup

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|
| 1957 | Mrs Maisie Harris | 1971 | Mrs June McDonald | 1986 | Mrs Bess Watson |
| 1958 | Mrs Jean Rouse | 1972 | Mrs Betty Canning | 1987 | Mrs Jenny Bishop |
| 1959 | Mrs Barbara Gallagher | 1973-74 | Mrs Shirley Lever | 1988 | Mrs Dorothy Pinnell |
| 1960 | Mrs Edna White | 1975 | Mrs Jad Smith | 1989 | Miss Alison Bell |
| 1961 | Mrs Edna Halligan | 1976 | Mrs Val Bancroft | 1990-91 | Mrs Ilse Troy |
| 1962 | Mrs Joan McGill | 1977 | Mrs Nan Garland | 1992 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys |
| 1963 | Mrs Sybil Morgan | 1978 | Mrs Shirley Williams | 1993 | Mrs Jeanette McComb |
| 1964 | Mrs Min Wright-Smith | 1979 | Mrs Peg Fletcher | 1994 | Mrs Jenny Johnson |
| 1965 | Mrs Alicia Woods | 1980 | Mrs Marilyn Court | 1995 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys |
| 1966 | Mrs Joan Murphy | 1981 | Mrs Joan McGill | 1996 | Mrs Marjorie Kellaway |
| 1967 | Mrs Min Wright-Smith | 1982 | Mrs Yvonne McGain | 1997 | Miss Patricia Pearson |
| 1968 | Mrs Grace Phillingham | 1983 | Mrs Joyce Phillingham | 1998 | Mrs Jenny Jeffreys |
| 1969 | Mrs Nan Garland | 1984 | Mrs June Opie | 1999 | Mrs Bonnie Bishop |
| 1970 | Mrs Thelma Dellow | 1985 | Mrs Yvonne McGain | 2000 | Miss Terri O’Callaghan |

SCORE CARDS OVER THE YEARS – ASSOCIATES

| DIFFERENCE IN HANDICAPS | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|--|
| Strokes | Bogey | S'Ford | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| 4 | 3 | 4 | |
| 5 | 4 | 4 | |
| 6 | 5 | 5 | |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | |
| 10 | 8 | 9 | |
| 11 | 8 | 10 | |
| 12 | 9 | 11 | |
| 13 | 10 | 11 | |
| 14 | 11 | 12 | |
| 15 | 11 | 13 | |
| 16 | 12 | 14 | |
| 17 | 13 | 15 | |
| 18 | 14 | 16 | |
| 19 | 14 | 17 | |
| 20 | 15 | 18 | |
| 21 | 16 | 18 | |
| 22 | 17 | 19 | |
| 23 | 17 | 20 | |
| 24 | 18 | 21 | |
| 25 | 19 | 22 | |
| 26 | 20 | 23 | |
| 27 | 20 | 24 | |
| 28 | 21 | 25 | |
| 29 | 22 | 25 | |
| 30 | 23 | 26 | |
| 31 | 23 | 27 | |
| 32 | 24 | 27 | |
| 33 | 24 | 28 | |
| 34 | 26 | 31 | |
| 35 | 26 | 31 | |
| 36 | 27 | 32 | |

(c) In any cart track or within a club's length of any valve, valve box or water pipe may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, without penalty. A ball lifted in hazard in such circumstances shall be dropped in the hazard. If any such valve box be on the putting green on which the ball lies, and be on the line of putt to the hole, the ball may be lifted and placed not nearer the hole.

2. When on the putting green, mud adhering to the ball may be removed and the ball replaced without penalty.

PORTSEA GOLF CLUB

Associates Score Card

LOCAL RULES

1. A ball lying on any of the following places:

(a) A putting green other than that played to must be lifted and dropped on a portion of the course other than such putting green, not nearer the hole, without penalty.

(b) On any portion of the course may be lifted out of a rabbit scrape and dropped without penalty.

(To be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf.)

14 HOLES – 1960

MATCH PLAY— Handicap

| Stroke | Par | S'Ford | Stroke | Par | S'Ford |
|---------|-----|---------|--------|-----|--------|
| 1 | 1 | 13 | 10 | | |
| 2 & 3 | 2 | 14 & 15 | 11 | | |
| 4 | 3 | 16 | 12 | | |
| 5 | 4 | 17 | 13 | | |
| 6 & 7 | 5 | 18 & 19 | 14 | | |
| 8 | 6 | 20 | 15 | | |
| 9 | 7 | 21 | 16 | | |
| 10 & 11 | 8 | 22 & 23 | 17 | | |
| 12 | 9 | 24 | 18 | | |

(REPAIR BALL MARKS ON GREEN)
(RAKE BUNKERS)

PORTSEA GOLF CLUB ASSOCIATES

TELEPHONE 42909

LOCAL RULES

PERMANENT – Nil
TEMPORARY – See notice board

DEFINITIONS

BOUNDARY – The perimeter fence surrounding the Club's property defines the boundary of the course.

STAKES – Stakes guarding planted trees are immovable obstructions (Rule 31).

BASE OF TREES – Cultivated &/or depressed ground at the base of staked trees is G.U.R. (Rule 32).

BALL MARKS – Rule 35 provides relief from ballmark damage only. There is no provision for relief from damage, from spikemarks or other irregularities on the line of putt.

IREPAIR BALL MARKS ON GREEN)

MATCH PLAY— Handicap

| Stroke | Par | S'Ford | Stroke | Par | S'Ford |
|---------|-----|---------|--------|-----|--------|
| 1 | 1 | 13 | 10 | | |
| 2 & 3 | 2 | 14 & 15 | 11 | | |
| 4 | 3 | 16 | 12 | | |
| 5 | 4 | 17 | 13 | | |
| 6 & 7 | 5 | 18 & 19 | 14 | | |
| 8 | 6 | 20 | 15 | | |
| 9 | 7 | 21 | 16 | | |
| 10 & 11 | 8 | 22 & 23 | 17 | | |
| 12 | 9 | 24 | 18 | | |

(REPAIR BUNKERS)

PORTSEA GOLF CLUB ASSOCIATES

TELEPHONE 42909

LOCAL RULES

PERMANENT – Nil
TEMPORARY – See notice board

DEFINITIONS

BOUNDARY – The perimeter fence surrounding the Club's property defines the boundary of the course.

STAKES – Stakes guarding planted trees are immovable obstructions (Rule 31).

BASE OF TREES – Cultivated &/or depressed ground at the base of staked trees is G.U.R. (Rule 32).

BALL MARKS – Rule 35 provides relief from ballmark damage only. There is no provision for relief from damage, from spikemarks or other irregularities on the line of putt.

LOCAL RULES

To be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf

1. Out of Bounds

All ground beyond the Club's boundary fence is out of bounds.

2. Fixed Spikes & Holes

All fixed spikes and holes are immovable obstructions and relief from interference by them may be obtained under rule 24-2. In addition, if such an obstruction or one or within two club-lengths of the putting green of the hole being played intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may obtain relief, without penalty as follows:

If the ball lies off the putting green and is not in a hazard and is within a club-length of an immovable spike or hole, the ball may be lifted, cleaned and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay which (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids such interference and (c) does not fall in a hazard or on a putting green.

3. Protection of Young Trees

Protection of young trees identified by stakes, if such a tree interferes with a player's stance or line of挥杆, the player may drop the ball on the side or in the parallel line in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 24-2(b) (Immovable Obstruction). The ball may be cleaned when so lifted.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULES
Match Play - Loss of Hole; Stroke Play - Two Strokes

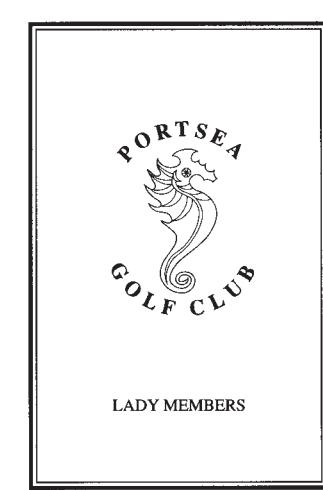
TREATED PINE POLES ON SIDE OF THE FAIRWAY ARE
135 METRES FROM THE FRONT OF GREENS

S.C. McCarthy & Co. Pty.

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS & MEDIATORS

2247 POINT NEPEAN ROAD, RYE.

TELEPHONE: (03) 5985 3211



LADY MEMBERS

| PLAYER 1 | | PLAYER 2 | | HOME CLUB | | HANDICAP | | RESULT | | A.W.C.R. 72 | |
|---|--------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|---|-------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DATE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HOLE | METRES | PAR | STROKE INDEX | Player | Marker | Player | Marker | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 355 | 4 | 4 | 7 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 223 | 4 | 13 | 13 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 130 | 3 | 15 | 16 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 332 | 4 | 6 | 8 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 362 | 4 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 361 | 4 | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 121 | 3 | 18 | 18 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 363 | 5 | 8 | 4 | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 391 | 5 | 12 | 5 | | | | | | | |
| OUT | 2638 | 36 | | | | | | | | | |
| IN | 2581 | 36 | | | | | | | | | |
| OUT | 2638 | 36 | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 5219 | 72 | | | | | | | | | |
| Marker's Signature | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Player's Signature | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • EMERGENCY Alert stations located on 8th & 15th tees | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PLEASE: • Avoid Slow Play • Replace divots and repair pitch marks | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Course Staff have the right of way at all times | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deduct Handicap | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NETT TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | |

18 HOLES – 1994

ASSOCIATES' BADGES OVER THE YEARS



First Monthly Medal until 1979



Fourth Monthly Medal from 1997



Second Monthly Medal until 1986



Medallist of the Year Brooch, 1965 – first gold, then silver from 1985 until 1996



Medallist of the Year Badge from 1997



Pennant Badge for Members of winning teams



Third Monthly Medal until 1996

Within a Bull's Roar

...recollections of
Arthur Relph

"What a magnificent golf links this country would make" ... I reached the summit of the hill (the Delgany hill) and looked out over the ti-tree to the magnificent view and suddenly heard a muffled roar and I turned to behold a big black bull charging toward me. I did not wait for him but after a sharp sprint of 50 yards, scrambled over a fence that happened to be handy ...

Once seized with the idea, I could not rest till I found out who owned this piece of country and also I was careful to enquire who owned the bull.

