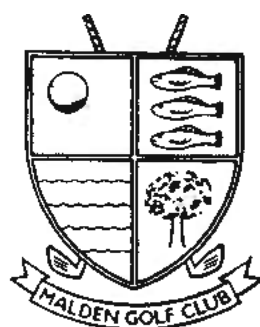


THE STORY
OF
MALDEN GOLF CLUB
1893–1990

BY
J.N. (ROBIN) GEMS



Copyright © Malden Golf Club

First published in Great Britain 1990

All Rights Reserved. Enquiries to:

Malden Golf Club

Traps Lane

New Malden

Surrey

Typeset by Kudos Graphics
Slinfold, Horsham, Sussex
Printed in Great Britain

Contents

Foreword

CHAPTER	1	A Summary	The story very briefly
	2	From 1865	Early golf on Wimbledon Common
	3	1893	The Club is formed at Raynes Park
	4	1894-1903	Financial difficulties in the first decade
	5	1904-1914	Steady development up to the Great War
	6	Up to 1914	The first Lady Members
	7	1915-1925	At Raynes Park in war and peace
	8	1924-1926	Plans are made for the move to Malden
	9	1926	The new course is opened
	10	1926-1927	Settling in at Malden
	11	1927-1939	The years before the Second War
	12	1926-1939	How the ladies fared at Malden
	13	1939-1945	Keeping the Club alive during the War
	14	1945-1949	Back to normality
	15	1950-1959	Years of consolidation
	16	1960-1979	Further progress
	17	1945-1990	The Ladies Section after the War
	18	1980-1990	An active and happy Club
	19	1936-1990	The Artisan Section
			Acknowledgements
			On the last green
APPENDIX	1		Presidents of the Club
			Captains of the Club
			Lady Captains of the Club
APPENDIX	2		Men's Trophies
			Ladies' Trophies
APPENDIX	3		County Champions
			Offices held in Captains' Societies
			Course Records

Foreword

by Michael A. Melligan, Captain 1989

Should you ask me whence these stories?
Whence these legends and traditions?

— Longfellow

What an exciting and unpredictable game golf is. We have all played the perfect shot and some of us might have played the perfect round, occasionally!

But even with the birdie here and the odd eagle there we still turn up at the week-end in some state of trepidation. Is this the time when at long, long last we finally crack it?

We all know the answer. We don't. But the more we play the more we become immersed in the mysteries of the great old game. Eventually, we all become addicts, and what a delightful addiction.

And nowhere, surely, more so than at Malden as this book portrays.

The author has encapsulated in these pages all the unique spirit of our club and more. We are grateful for all the hard work and painstaking research of Robin Gems, supported by many of our current members, in producing a delightful story of Malden Golf Club with which, in a very small way, I am so very pleased to be associated.

With our Centenary on the horizon, what an appropriate time to look back with nostalgia and from it gain inspiration for the years ahead.

Michael Melligan

Chapter 1

A Summary – The Story Very Briefly

Very little has been written about the Malden Golf Club and, as the Club will be celebrating its Centenary in 1993, the Past Captains decided in 1986 that it would be wise for a history to be prepared while some of the older members were still available to provide stories of the past. The Captain and the Committee kindly approved this idea and have given their enthusiastic help.

Until near the end of the 1880's, there were only half a dozen Golf Clubs in Greater London, and they all played their golf on common land – on Blackheath, Wimbledon Common, Tooting Bec, Clapham Common and Woolwich Common. Of these, the two which were playing on Wimbledon Common are of the greatest interest to us – the London Scottish and the Royal Wimbledon Golf Clubs.

In an excellent history of the latter it is recorded that, over a period of 30 years at the end of the 19th century, there were frequent disputes about the use of the Common, between the members of the Golf Clubs on the one hand and the general public wishing to use the Common for exercise and recreation on the other. The Conservators of the Common did their best to hold the balance, but “difficult situations” often arose, and it was reported in the golfing press in the early 1890's that there were “fears that play would be circumscribed on existing common inland links.”

The golfers at that time had “a great desire to have a private course whereon play shall be unfettered by the outside public using the ground for recreative purposes”. This probably encouraged a group of golf enthusiasts, no doubt augmented by members of the Clubs on Wimbledon Common – or even led by them – to secure an area of 110 acres of “fine, open, undulating private land, the bulk of which had been a farm known as Raynes Park”.

An 18 hole course was laid out, a private house was leased for use as a clubhouse and, within six months, 400 golfers had joined the Raynes Park Golf Club. In the first few years of its existence the new Club had some financial and other problems, but they were overcome and, after seven years, a new wooden pavilion was built for use as a clubhouse at the nearest point to Raynes Park Railway Station.

We have plans showing the course which was on both sides of Grand



Golfers in the early days of Raynes Park Golf Club.

Drive, two holes actually being played across the main road. We are also in possession of a description of every hole. Some alterations were necessary and were made when the rubber-cored ball took the place of the "guttie" in the early 1900's.

From all accounts, the course at Raynes Park, which measured just over 5,800 yards, was very wet during the winter months; so when the lease of the land on which the course was laid out was nearing its end, and the owners were being tempted to sell it for building, it seems that most of the members of the Golf Club supported the idea of moving to a new course which would be laid out a mile or so to the north-west at New Malden.

Fairly full records exist regarding the transfer of the Club, which took place early in 1926. There is no doubt that the senior members at that time planned wisely, for the lay-out of the course at Malden has changed very little since then, and the purpose-built clubhouse in Traps Lane has enabled members to enjoy the social side of their lives in comfort for over 60 years. We salute the memory of those who effected this transfer.

It must have been an exciting day when, on 1st May 1926, the President of the Club, Col Sir Augustus FitzGeorge, opened the course, and four of the finest professionals of that era, Harry Vardon, Abe Mitchell, Alex Herd and Ted Ray, played an exhibition match.

The story since then has been of steady progress – a larger membership, improvements on the course, many more golf trophies to play for and a great deal of fun at the presentations which follow nearly all the

tournaments. The length of the current fixture list would surely astonish the Club members of 60 years ago.

Another group of heroes kept the Club alive during the 1939–45 War, when part of the course was given over to agriculture. Many of those not away in the Forces were members of a Home Guard unit based on the clubhouse. It was 1950 before the whole course was in play again and, not only have we full records of what has taken place since then, but many current members will have their own vivid recollections of the happenings.

The disastrous fire in the clubhouse in April 1982 is still fresh in the memories of many of our members and here again we were fortunate to have had leaders capable of seeing the Club safely through, so that there is now an up-dated clubhouse of which we can be proud.

We are grateful to all those who have helped in various ways in the preparation of this brief story, the latter part of which is really the biography of many of us!

Chapter 2

From 1865 – Early Golf on Wimbledon Common

In Chapter 1, reference was made to the probability that members of the Golf Clubs playing on the Common came “down the hill” in 1893 to assist in forming the Club at Raynes Park. So we should perhaps look at what had been happening on the Common during the previous 30 years.

From 1860 the National Rifle Association had been holding their annual volunteer camp and rifle meeting on the Common – and they went on doing so until in 1890 they moved to Bisley. Firing continued on the ranges on the Common for a few years after 1890, until a sexton in Putney Vale Cemetery was accidentally shot. After that the firing ceased somewhat abruptly.

There is little doubt that a number of the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers (what we would now call a Territorial Unit), while not on the rifle ranges, amused themselves by playing golf on the Common, for it was by then a game well established in Scotland, where many of them had learnt to play. By 1865, a Golf Club on the Common had been formed, and Lord Spencer, the Lord of the Manor, had agreed to a course being laid out. Six years later, under an Act of Parliament, the manorial rights were handed over to the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators who, amongst other things, had to ensure that the rights of all users of the Common were respected.

A room in the headquarters of the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers, known as the Iron House, was the first golf clubhouse; this was some 500 yards north of the Windmill, (in the Roehampton direction); the Commanding Officer was the first Club President and initially the only members of the Club were members of this army unit. However, there were so relatively few of these that, before long, civilians were allowed to join. Inevitably they soon outnumbered the army personnel, but for quite a number of years the Commanding Officer remained as President, and he had a veto over decisions taken by the Club Committee on which civilians served.

The photograph reproduced here shows a group of members of the London Scottish Golf Club which played on the Common; it was probably taken just before 1880, and in the background is the Iron House, part of



Some London Scottish Golf Club membes about 1880, (among whom are probably founders of Raynes Park G.C.).

which was used as a clubhouse. The bearded figure in a trilby hat is probably Henry Lamb, Hon. Secretary of Royal Wimbledon Golf Club between 1877 and 1890 and Captain in 1890 and 1891 and one of the leading figures in golf at that time in the south of England. The uniform coat which the members are wearing is red with a blue collar, and a coat of this nature is still worn by the new Captain of the London Scottish Golf Club when he "drives himself in" at the start of his year of office. It is possible that a number of those who appear in this photograph were still playing golf on the Common some 13 years later, and then decided with others to form the Raynes Park Golf Club. This is as near as we are likely to get to finding a picture of some of the Founder Members of our Club!

In 1881 it was decided to split and to form two separate clubs on the Common, both of which would play over the same course but starting from opposite ends. By 1882, the Wimbledon Golf Club, almost entirely made

up of civilians, took a lease of Camp Cottage at the southern (Wimbledon) end of the course; this is still their clubhouse. The Club became the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club later that year, and it took over private land to the south and west of the clubhouse in 1907, on which their present excellent course was laid out. They finally withdrew from the Common in 1915, and in 1924 the lay-out of the “new” course on private land was considerably changed. Meanwhile the London Scottish Golf Club continued to play from the other (Roehampton) end of the Common and for many years their clubhouse has been in the shadow of the Windmill. The Wimbledon Town Club, (later to become the Wimbledon Common Golf Club) was formed in 1909 and has its clubhouse close to the Royal Wimbledon clubhouse at the Wimbledon end of the course on the Common, on which their members also play.

Those wishing to learn more about the golf which has been played at Wimbledon since 1865 are recommended to refer to “The History of Royal Wimbledon Golf Club” by Charles Cruickshank, published by the Club in 1986.

Chapter 3

1893 – The Club is Formed at Raynes Park

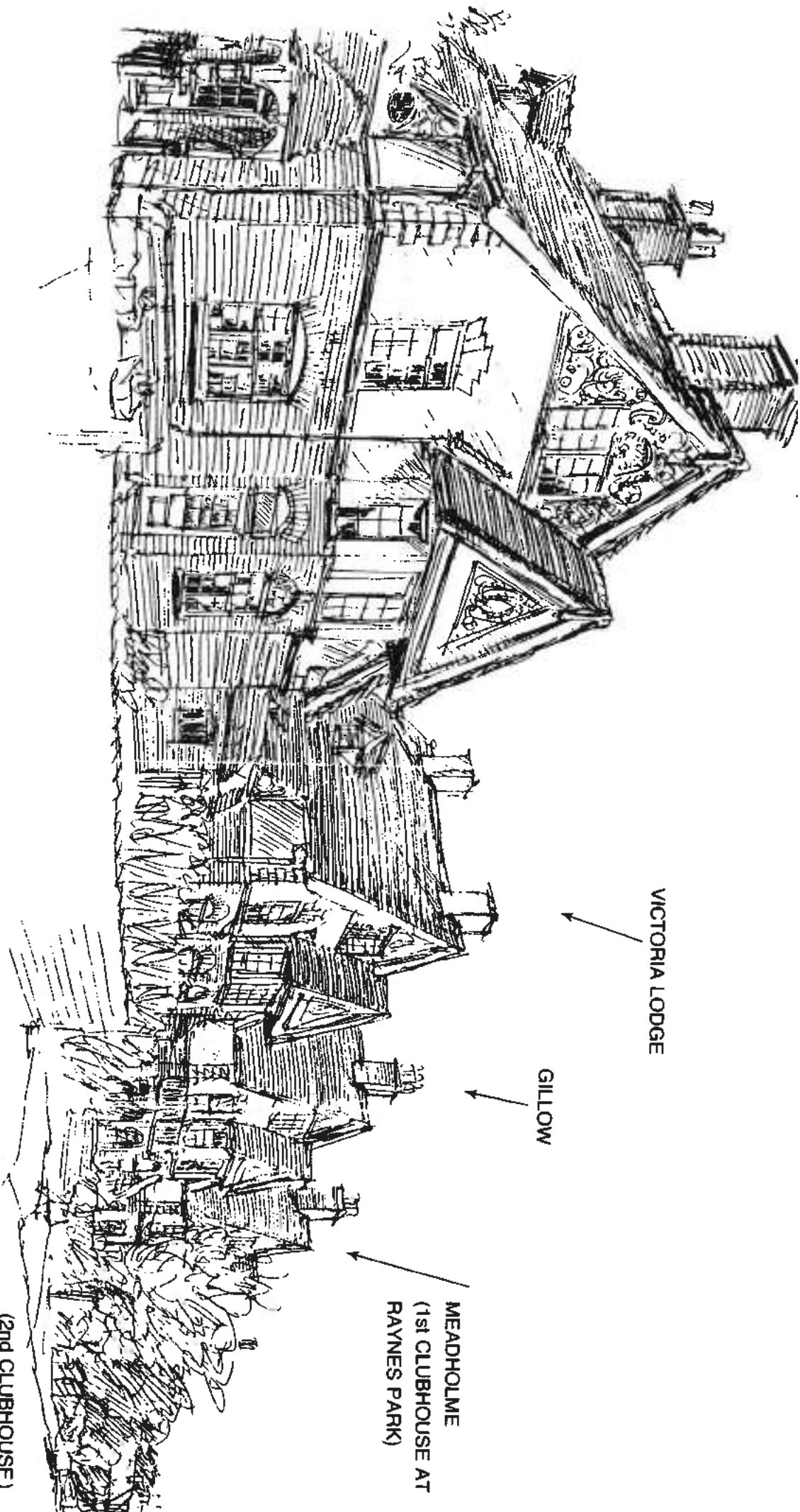
The land on which the Raynes Park Golf Club laid out its course in 1893 originally formed part of the 600 acre Westbarnes Farm of Merton Prior. After the dissolution of the monasteries in the middle of the 16th century, Westbarnes was granted to a wealthy London family which soon sold it. It then changed hands a number of times and the land was split into two or three separate farms. In 1840, Edward Rayne, who came from County Durham, acquired the freehold of the farm nearest to what is now the Raynes Park Railway Station area. It was a hay, sheep and cattle farm, and the hay was stored in "barnes" of a great size, rather than in haystacks, (this gave the name Westbarnes to the district).

In 1868, Richard Garth, a wealthy landowner in Morden, bought the farm from the Rayne family, with the idea of selling it in small lots for building. To encourage possible house-buyers to contemplate living in Raynes Park, Garth persuaded the London and South Western Railway to put a station on their main line at Raynes Park by making a gift to the Railway of sufficient land for the station and £5,000. They built Raynes Park Station in 1871.

Garth then constructed the present Grand Drive from the new station across the farm, uphill to Lower Morden where he already owned other land. His attempt to sell off land for building during the next 20 years was only partly successful and, by 1893, there were still some 110 acres undeveloped.

Mention was made in Chapter 1 of the restrictions on play that members of the Clubs on Wimbledon Common found irksome; in addition to this, by 1893 golf in Greater London was becoming more popular, and overcrowding on the few courses that were available was an increasing problem. So it did not take long for golfers in the Wimbledon area to show an interest in the 110 acres of land at Raynes Park, which was but a mile from the Common and much closer to a railway station. They were obviously excited at the prospect of laying out a course on "private" land, and getting away from the restrictions they had suffered for so long. A lease was accordingly negotiated with Richard Garth in 1893 for a rental of £350 p.a.

An interesting point of some significance is that the Hon. Secretary of Royal Wimbledon Golf Club from 1890 to 1900, Norman R. Foster, was



VICTORIA LODGE

GILLOW

MEADHOLME
(1st CLUBHOUSE AT
RAYNES PARK)

(2nd CLUBHOUSE)

Blenheim Road, off Grand Drive showing the first clubhouse at Raynes Park G.C.

one of the members of the Committee of the Raynes Park Golf Club in its early days. Incidentally, in 1895, he held the amateur record at Raynes Park of 79, so was undoubtedly a useful member of the new club in its infancy.

Raynes Park Golf Club Ltd, was registered in 1893, and the Club was instituted in that year. The nominal capital of the Company was £1,000 in £1 shares, of which 327 were taken up. Over £3,000 was raised by debentures, and much of this money was spent on laying out the course, in drainage work and in improvements to the land.

A large house named Meadholme (now No.8) in Blenheim Road on the west side of Grand Drive, was rented for use as a clubhouse. This had a garden which then backed on to the course to get to which the members had to climb over a stile. The house had been built in about 1890 and is still standing; it is now divided into flats.

In an article in a golf magazine in 1894, the contributor refers to the "villa" being used at that time as a clubhouse; he then comments: "Clubs are temporarily stored in one of the lofts of the old farmsteading, under what seems to be a very convenient arrangement." (It is believed that the photograph on this page shows the building concerned). It makes one wonder how convenient our present members would regard it if they had to climb up a ladder into a loft to get their clubs before going on to the course!

By 1895 the membership had risen to 450 and the Club moved into a

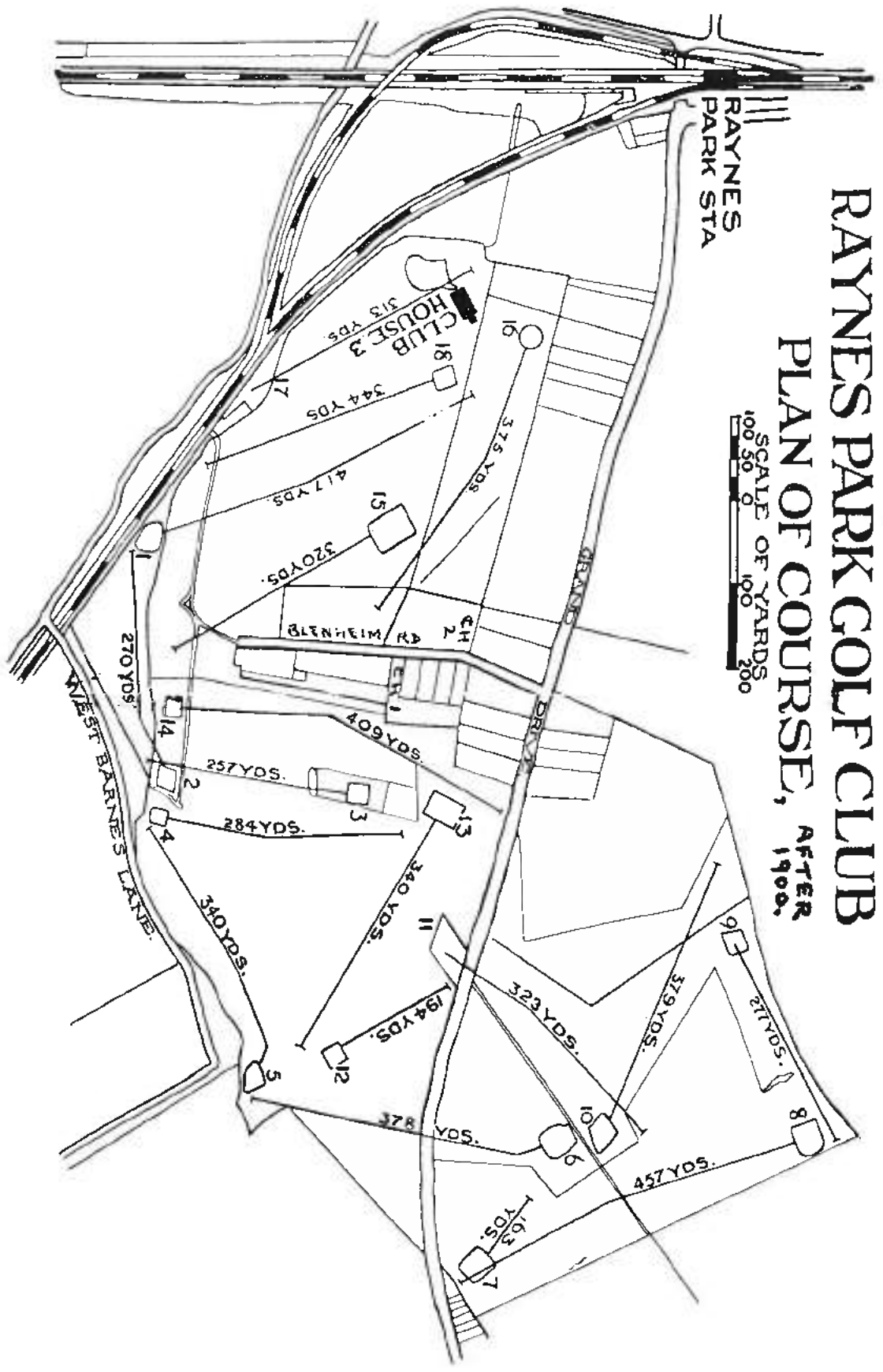


Stables at Raynes Park where golf clubs were probably stored in 1894.

RAYNES PARK GOLF CLUB

PLAN OF COURSE, AFTER 1900.

SCALE OF YARDS
100 50 0 100 200



Plan of Raynes Park Golf Course after new Clubhouse was built in 1900.

larger private house across the road, known as Hardwicke House; this has now been demolished and an old people's home has been built there, appropriately called Link House.

It must be borne in mind that the course was laid out at a time when the players used hickory shafted clubs and "guttie" balls. It was Tom Dunn, the Professional at Tooting Bec Golf Club, who assisted with the planning, and we are told that "Tom Dunn applied his master-mind first and foremost to the approach shots, using the Pyl Brook to rare purpose in giving effect to his ideas". This brook it is believed is a tributary of the Beverley Brook.

There is in existence a description of every hole on the course as it was in 1894 and also as it was in 1914 but, as so many referees promise at our presentations: "A hole by hole description would not be appropriate". Even so, a few minutes spent in studying the plan of the course as it was in 1914 might be rewarding. On this plan, the first clubhouse at Meadholme is shown as CH1, the second at Hardwicke House as CH2, and then it will be seen that the clubhouse in use from 1900 to 1925 (marked CLUBHOUSE 3) was at the nearest point to the station, not far from where there are now traffic lights at the bottom of Grand Drive. This was on the lowest part of the course, which then rose some 60 feet to the 8th green where we are told that, having climbed "straight up the slope, the golfer will on a clear day have as fine a view of the surrounding country as he could well wish for". Although most of the ground on which the long 8th hole was played is now built on, the site of the 8th green is still on open land; it is at present part of Cannon Hill Common and can be reached by going up Southway on the east (left) side of Grand Drive; at the top, the 8th green would have been on the right, and the 9th hole would have been played on the high ground parallel with Parkway. The view is impressive and makes one realise that the Raynes Park Course was not as flat as many may have imagined.

One of the extraordinary features of the course was that the 6th and 11th holes were actually played across Grand Drive, which was one of the main roads of Raynes Park. Maybe this was not too dangerous when the course was first laid out in 1893 in the days of horse-drawn traffic, but in later years it must have been hazardous, unless there were changes made of which we are not aware.

When the course was first laid out, the "bogey" was 82, made up of nine 5's, seven 4's, one 6 and one 3. It seems that at that time most holes over 190 yards were bogey 4, and holes of 350 yards or more were bogey 5. One uphill hole of 475 yards was a bogey 6. It must be remembered that all this was at the time of the gutty ball. The amateur record of the course in 1894 was 81, by Mr Mure Fergusson, who was for many years the Honorary Secretary and "leading light" at the New Zealand Golf Club at West Byfleet. There are photographs of him, and a number of medals he won in the 1890's in the bar of that Club.



Mure Fergusson who held the amateur record at Raynes Park in 1894.

Chapter 4

1894–1903. Financial Difficulties in the First Decade

In an article in a golf magazine in 1894, the contributor tells quite a story about the Secretary: “For the organisation of the Club, and the present fine condition of the course, the bulk of the credit must go to Mr Frederick W. Baker, the Hon. Secretary, who has however had the assistance of a very competent committee of management. Mr Baker picked up the game in an almost incredibly short space of time. He first handled clubs at Swanage in a chance way about 12 months ago. Catching the fever, he went in for golf with the ardour of an enthusiast, and now there are not many amateurs who could outstrip him in respect of clean long driving, neat approaching or putting on the green.”

By 1896, Frederick Baker had become Captain of the Club, and at the Annual Dinner held early in December 1896 at the Hotel Cecil, which 80 attended, he reported that, partly due to their abolishing the entrance fee for the time being, the Club was in a very healthy state. He then made an announcement which must have shaken – and maybe excited – his audience. As the course at Raynes Park was so wet during the winter, the Club Committee had been exploring the possibility of acquiring land on which two additional courses could be laid out – one for a course suitable for play during the winter and the other for holiday golf near the sea. They had already obtained the “first refusal” on land between Woking and Brookwood suitable for winter play, and were on the look out for a stretch of land in Kent to lay out a links course.

He said it was realised that these ideas would be costly but, if there was sufficient support, the Committee felt that something like £4,000 could be raised by increasing the membership substantially and offering life membership for play on the three courses for £50. Members of Raynes Park not wishing to participate would continue with their present subscriptions and their current rights would remain.

The initial reaction at the dinner was enthusiastic, and when a few months later the proposals were put to the Club members at an Extraordinary General Meeting there was a large majority in their favour. At this meeting it was stated that the links course would probably be at

Sandwich, and the membership of the new Club would be 1,200. The current British Amateur Champion, Mr Horace Hutchinson, had agreed to be the first Captain of the new enlarged Club.

As we do not have old Minute Books covering the first four years of the Club's existence, the details of these ambitious proposals have been gleaned from The Golfing Annual for 1896/97 and from a weekly publication entitled "Golf". Unfortunately these sources do not seem to make any subsequent reference as to why the ideas were not put into effect; it can only be assumed that there were too many financial problems. We can but admire the imagination of Frederick Baker and his Committee for picking out areas of land for the possible laying out of new golf courses close to where it is likely that West Hill and Prince's Sandwich were later sited in 1909 and 1904 respectively.

We know that in 1893, such was the enthusiasm to join the new Club, that within six months there were 400 members. Subsequently this number increased; however, by 1897 the membership had fallen below 300. The reason for this reduction in the number of members is not clear; the fact that new Clubs had started at Home Park, Kingston and at Surbiton in 1895 may have had something to do with it. In any event there was an inevitable reduction in income, and in the latter part of 1897 the Club failed to pay its local rates and also the rent of the clubhouse.

A distress warrant was obtained from the Wimbledon bench in respect of the rates, and the owner of the clubhouse took possession of his premises and seized the furniture which was being hired from him. (This was, of course, at the time we were using a private house as a clubhouse).

The Club moved fast, and a resolution was passed within a few days liquidating the Limited Company which controlled the Club and appointing the Secretary as liquidator. A winding up order was granted.

Three weeks later, a new Company was registered, the Certificate of Incorporation being dated 1st November 1897. The Company took up new leases of the land and of the Clubhouse at a rent £150 p.a., less than had been paid previously, and it also bought the furniture and paid its other debts. This was all made possible by the allotment of 634 shares of £1 each in the new Company, following a General Meeting of the Club at which support was expressed for the Directors' action.

By the end of 1897, the Club was financially sound once more. A drive to obtain new members resulted in an increase during 1898 from 241 to 252 "paying" members. But, alas, by November 1898 the balance at the Bank was down to £15.7 – and a Director lent the Company £100 to keep it solvent until the 1899 subscriptions were paid.

At the beginning of 1899, a General Meeting agreed an increase in the subscriptions from three to four guineas, and members were invited to subscribe not more than five guineas in addition to "defray the estimated deficit of £150 on Revenue Account".

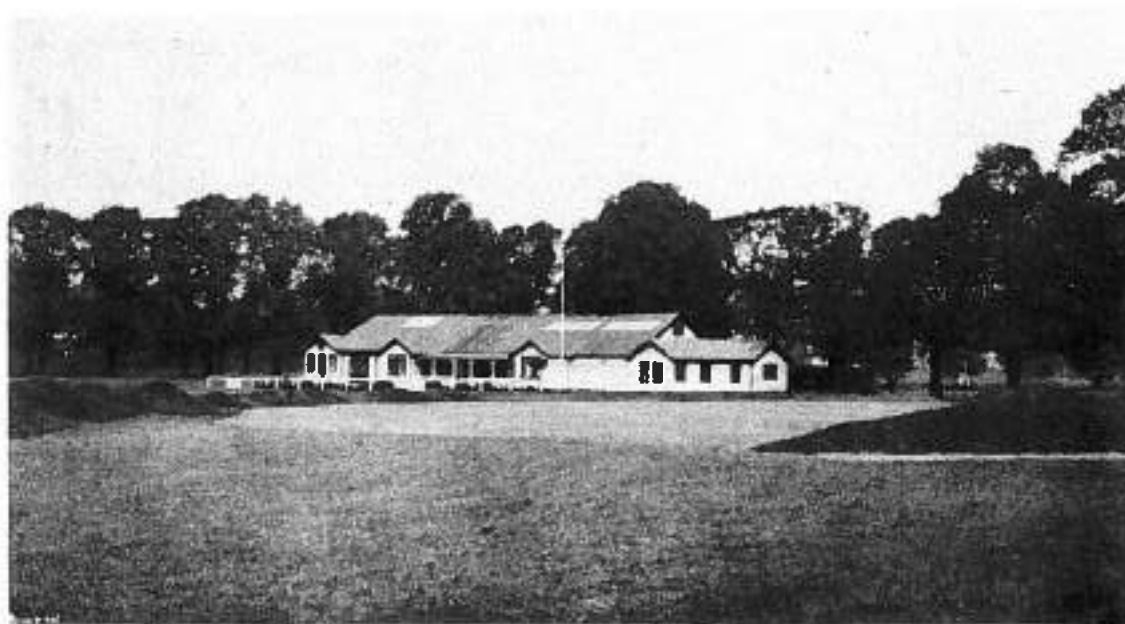
When the Accounts for 1899 were ready on 1st March 1900, the accompanying Report showed that the “paying” membership was down to 201, and the Directors announced that they felt they were not justified in carrying on the Club unless at least 75 new members had joined by the date of the AGM in mid-March.

At that AGM it was decided to adjourn the Meeting for two weeks, but even after this adjournment only 40 new members had joined. Just before the Chairman put to the meeting a resolution to wind up the Company, a member, Mr S. N. Challoner, suggested that a Committee of seven members be appointed to examine the affairs of the Company with a view to reporting in four weeks’ time. In desperation this was agreed, and the meeting was adjourned again, while the new Committee planned carrying on the Club on a more economical basis.

When the meeting was reconvened, the changes suggested included giving notice to the Secretary, the caddiemaster and two greenkeepers, and making an appeal to members to guarantee a total of £400 to keep the Club solvent. The meeting agreed to these changes and elected the seven who had made these suggestions as Directors, in place of the former Directors who all resigned.

These drastic measures were followed by a call on guarantors to pay three guineas each. At the same time an issue of £600 5% Debentures was made for the specific purpose of building a new pavilion-type clubhouse. Within six months the new clubhouse had been designed, built and opened.

At the end of their first year, the new Board were able to report that a profit of £277 had been made, despite the cost of erecting the new



New Clubhouse at Raynes Park, built in 1900.

clubhouse. The membership had increased by 44 to 285. In March 1901, Mr Challoner was elected as a Life Member of the Club.

For the next two years, all went fairly smoothly under the new directorate, and Mr Challoner continued in office as Hon. Secretary. In recognition of his work he was, in 1902, given two payments each of £30.

Early in 1903, the Board decided to engage a paid Secretary for the Club; Challoner put in for the job and got it; it was agreed to pay him a salary of £100 per annum plus expenses. This new arrangement did not last very long, however, for by April 1903 he was given three months' notice to relinquish his office, "differences having arisen between the Directors and the Secretary." The old Minutes give no clue as to the reason for this sudden decision, but it is very sad that the "saviour of the Club" should have departed so rapidly. A Director took on the Honorary Secretaryship.

Chapter 5

1904–1914. Steady Development up to the Great War

After the problems encountered in the first ten years, the Minutes show that the Club ran without major incident for the next six years; during this period, the total membership was around 300 and the Accounts usually “broke even”. Surprisingly little was recorded in the Minutes about the golf activities at the Club during this time.

We do know however, that the only regular competition in the early days was the monthly medal, held on the first Saturday in every month, and this appears to have continued ever since. In the late 1890’s it was decided to present to the winners of these competitions silver buttons rather than bronze medals. One of the old bronze medals is now played for annually by the Captain and Past Captains (See Appendix 1).

In 1895 a Silver Bowl was presented for a singles competition and a Silver Iron for foursomes, both on a knock-out basis. An annual mixed foursomes knock-out competition was commenced in 1909. Unfortunately, none of these early trophies are now in the Club’s possession.

We who have never played a gutty ball may find it difficult to imagine the dramatic change that the introduction of the rubber-cored ball made in the first few years of the 20th century. A description written at that time, of the first hole of 417 yards highlights the difference:

“In wandering over various courses, you occasionally come across a hole that illustrates particularly well the tremendous difference between the gutty and the rubber-cored ball. The first hole at Raynes Park, which was very clearly laid out for the gutty ball, is really a very interesting example. This hole is something over 400 yards in length; close to the front of the green is a deep and formidable ditch, and immediately behind the green is a thoroughly unpleasant grip. With a gutty ball this was clearly intended as a three-shot hole. You played your second with a brassey up to the edge of the ditch; then you played a deft little pitch shot across and got down to your great satisfaction in a perfect five. Now, with a rubber-cored ball, in hot summer weather you can drive so far that, as far as mere length is concerned, a shot with a mashie would actually put you on the green in two. But if the rubber-cored ball did

pitch on the green, no power on earth could possibly make it stay there; it would bound away to perdition.

“Therefore you have to play a very tiny and very cautious shot short of the ditch, and then hop over with your third. It is a little exasperating to see the green so easily attainable and yet fraught with such certain disaster – so near and yet so far – but this is probably rather a good discipline.”

The bogey at Raynes Park was reduced to 78 in 1903 – soon after the introduction of the rubber-cored ball.

In April 1909, the capital of the Company was increased by creating 500 5% Cum. Pref. Shares of £1 to finance an extension of the clubhouse and increase the facilities for the ladies.

Some changes to the course were made in November 1909, and the advice of J. H. Taylor, who was the professional at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, was sought. Then a professional competition was held to play over the new lay-out of the course. Those taking part were Taylor, Vardon, Ball and Duncan. Unfortunately the old Minutes do not record the result. However, they do state that the prizes were “privately subscribed”.

At the end of 1912, the number of full members had reached 250 and, as this figure was considered to be a comfortable maximum, a waiting list was started.

The first Club matches were played against Surbiton and Seaford in 1899 and our first encounter with Coombe Wood was in 1913.

At the outbreak of War in 1914, there was a total membership of 345 men and 116 ladies.

The following somewhat disjointed notes are based on extracts from old Minute Books written when the Club was at Raynes Park:—

1901 It was decided that the conservatory should be cleared so that it could be used for members' bicycles.

1901 Timms' Club Whisky at 18/9d a gallon was supplied for ordinary tap whisky in the bar.

1902 A load of charcoal was ordered – to be applied to the greens.

1902 Agreed that 'phone be not adopted at present.

1902 A horse was purchased for £6 for use on the course. Another horse was hired at 5/- per week.

1902 A prize of £2 was presented at the end of the year to the groundsman having the best kept greens.

1905 Sons of members were permitted to play on the course as honorary members during the school holidays for an annual subscription of £1.1.0.

1905 A horse mower was bought for £15.

1911 The cost of the first “Honours Board” was £4.10.—.

This old board is now in the clubhouse at Malden.

1911 There was a rule of the Club that dogs must not be taken onto the course. It was then discovered that it had been the custom over a long period for two senior members to go on the course with their dogs on leads every evening. To solve the dilemma, the Committee decided to make the two dogs honorary members of the Club.

The first professional appointed at Raynes Park was A. Jackson. He was followed by Tom Hood; then there were W. Thompson, Josh Taylor (who was J.H. Taylor's brother), A. Tribble, H.E. Yates and Tom Ball, who was professional at the start of the Great War. Ball had been runner-up in the Open Championships in 1908 and 1909, Match Play Champion in 1909, and winner of the Belgian Open in 1913 and 1914. In the qualifying round for the Open at Muirfield in 1912, Ball had accomplished a remarkable score of 68, which was a record of the course that was not bettered for many years. All this meant that Raynes Park was not without fame in its day.

The card of the course in 1914 was as follows:—

<i>Hole No.</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Bogey</i>	<i>Hole No.</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Bogey</i>
1	417 yds	5	10	379 yds	4
2	270	4	11	323	4
3	257	4	12	194	3
4	284	4	13	340	5
5	340	5	14	409	5
6	378	5	15	320	4
7	163	3	16	375	5
8	457	5	17	313	5
9	277	4	18	344	4
Out	2,843	39	Home	2,997	39
			Out	2,843	39
			Total	5,840	78

At the beginning of the Great War, the professional record of the course, held by Tom Ball, was 69, and the amateur record by A.D. Fradgley was 73.

In the first 20 years at Raynes Park, only five members are recorded as holing in one. There were, of course, first one and then only two short holes and, as there were sheep on the course, maybe the flagsticks were stouter, leaving less room for the ball to fall in.

Chapter 6

Up to 1914 – The First Lady Members

In the early entries in the first Minute Book in our possession when the Club was at Raynes Park, there are hardly any references to lady members. In fact one of the initial occasions that ladies are mentioned was at the end of 1900 when it was stated that there were 17 lady members. A request came in February 1901 from the Captain of the Surrey County Ladies Golf Club asking for a subscription of half a guinea, and the Committee decided not to pay "as the lady membership of the Club is so small".

However, by 1903 the number of lady members had increased to 25, and by the end of 1906 this had risen to 50, which was then the maximum permitted in the Club Rules.

The first Captain of the "Ladies Club" in 1905 was Mrs Oliver, who was re-elected every year for the next three years. Regrettably, we do not have a complete list of the Lady Captains while the Club was at Raynes Park. In 1906 the provision of a larger dressing room for ladies was approved and an extension to the club house was built.



Ladies playing at Raynes Park.

The main rule in force up to March 1909 regarding the ladies read as follows:—

“Ladies, subject to election by the Committee, are allowed to play over the Green on any day save Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holidays and Competition Days, on payment of One Guinea per annum and an Entrance Fee of £1.

“Ladies enjoying this privilege may introduce lady friends as visitors upon payment of 1/- per day.

“A match between two or more Members or their friends shall be entitled to pass any match in which a lady is playing.”

It was however agreed at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 29th March 1909 that this Rule be cancelled and the following substituted therefor:—

“Ladies, subject to election by the Committee, have the right to play over the Green on any days appointed by the Committee other than Competition Days on payment of Two Guineas per annum and an Entrance Fee of One Guinea.

“Lady members partnered by Gentlemen may play on Saturday mornings, save on Competition Days, starting from the 1st Tee not sooner than 11 nor later than 12 o'clock.”

Two months later, an annual grant of £5 to the funds of the Ladies' Club was agreed. This was increased to £10 in 1911, and the Committee also said they would in future print the ladies' score cards, pay the L.G.U. subscription and provide a silver spoon for competition every month. The annual grant went up to £15 in 1913.

Following the building of the extension of the clubhouse in 1909, it was agreed to increase the maximum number of lady members from 50 to 100. Within two weeks, 25 more ladies applied to join. The limit of 100 was reached in July 1912. Just before the outbreak of war in 1914, the limit was raised to 125.

As for the accommodation in the clubhouse at Raynes Park, the Smoking Room and Main Dining Room were in 1909 reserved for men only. Luncheon for ladies accompanied by gentlemen could however be served in the Card Room. This was changed in 1911, when it was agreed that ladies having lunch or tea with gentlemen could use the Main Dining Room. The large verandah was reserved for men only, but ladies could invite men to have tea with them on their small verandah.

The Tariff at the Club at this time was:—

<i>Cold Lunch</i>	Cut from joints with veg., bread & cheese	1/6d
<i>Hot Lunch</i>	Joints, two veg., sweets, bread & cheese	2/-
<i>Tea</i>	Pot of tea, bread & butter, jam or cake	6d
	Bread, cheese & butter	6d

In 1912 a Ladies' Challenge Cup was first played for, and it is believed that this is the oldest trophy in existence in the Club. It is still competed for annually.

Presumably because so many male members were away on War service, it was agreed in October 1915 that ladies should be allowed to play on Saturdays without males up to 1pm.

Chapter 7

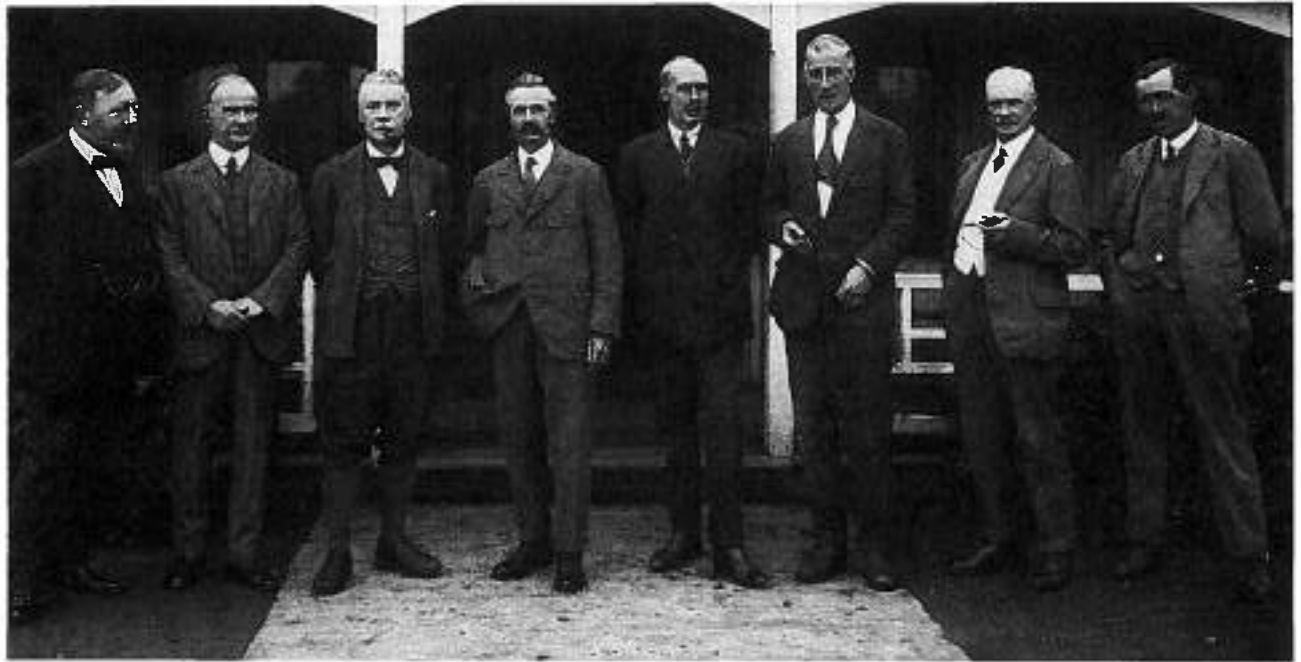
1915–1925. At Raynes Park in War and Peace

For the first few months of the War, the Club carried on with its normal programme, but in 1915 activities were considerably restricted, the Spring Meeting and main competitions being cancelled. Nevertheless, monthly medals were still played for the benefit of various War Funds, and £147 was collected during the year. On one Sunday in the summer, wounded soldiers from St. Bartholemew's Hospital were entertained in the clubhouse to tea.

With many of the younger members away in the Forces during the Great War, it was some of the older members who succeeded in keeping the clubhouse and the course open during these difficult years. Of these, H. Hancock was Captain in 1916 and 1917 and, although G. Midgley Taylor had already been Captain in 1911, he was Captain again in 1918 and 1919. They are both in the picture on this page.

Senior Members of Raynes Park G.C. in 1922.

1. G. Midgley Taylor (Capt. 1911, 1918, 1919); 2. Dr. J. E. C. Bradley;
3. K. B. Bayliss (Capt. 1921); 4. R. W. Brading (Capt. 1922); 5. Col. R. F. Walters
(Club Secretary); 6. G. Addison Scott (Capt. 1912, 1927); 7. H. Hancock (Capt.
1916, 1917); 8. A. M. Harper.





Wing Cdr. Frank A. Brock. O.B.E., R.N.A.S.

One of the last Malden members with Raynes Park connections, Molly Todd, remembers that her father, K.B. Bayliss, played a round of golf at Raynes Park in April 1918 with Wing Cdr. Frank Brock, R.N.A.S. on the day before he went over to Zeebrugge on the raid from which he did not return. Cdr. Brock was a member of the Brock fireworks family, and a special factory employing 60 men had been established at Dover under his management for the development of pyrotechnics for use in exploits such as Zeebrugge; these included special flames which "turned darkness into light" and smoke floats that created artificial fog behind which ships would be hidden. Cdr. Brock went on HMS Vindictive in this raid as an observer but, when many of those clambering onto the mole had been killed, he led a further party of seamen in an attempt to silence the German guns and was last seen entering one of the gun emplacements on the mole. A further reference to this exploit will be found in Appendix 1 where details of the Club's trophies are given.

K.B. Bayliss was Captain of the Club in 1921. At the end of the War, he and his family were living at Meadholme (which had been the first clubhouse), and Molly remembers as a schoolgirl going across the course to school, using one of the rights of way, a long red cinder path, which the golfers seem to have found something of a nuisance, and she also recollects

that sheep grazed on the course at that time. There was a notice in the clubhouse asking members, if they found a sheep which had fallen over, to help it to get back on its feet again. The Club is grateful to Molly for making available for this history many photos, booklets and other papers, which have been invaluable, especially as some of the old Minute Books of the Raynes Park Golf Club are missing.

Just after the War, the membership had fallen to 314 men and 99 ladies.

The fees charged at Raynes Park were:-

Year	Entrance Fee	Annual Sub.	Ladies Sub.	Green Fees Weekday With/Without Members		Weekend With/Without Members	
1894	£5.5.-	£3.3.-	£1.1.-	Not known			
1910	4.4.-	4.4.-	2.2.-	1/-	2/-	1/-	2/-
1915	5.5.-	6.6.-	2.2.-	1/-	2/6	3/6	10/-
1922	7.7.-	7.7.-	3.3.-	2/6	5/-	3/6	10/-

At the end of 1925 the lease of the land at Raynes Park used for our course was due to run out, and George Blay a member of the Club who was a property developer made it clear to the owners that he wished to buy the freehold so that he could build on the greater part of it. Roads were subsequently made where the course had been, and the names of some of them may still remind the occupiers of houses erected there that golf had been played in the vicinity in former times; some of these roads are called Fairway, Linkway, Greenway, Crossway, Westway, Southway, Oakway, Meadway and Parkway. However, a surprising amount of the land is still open, some used as sports fields and some as parkland.

A Valedictory Dinner was held at the Raynes Park clubhouse on 4th December 1925. In many ways it must have been a sad occasion – leaving the course on which members of the Club had been playing happily, albeit sometimes with very wet feet, for 32 years. However, all was not lost as plans to move to Malden were well advanced, and there must have been much excitement at the prospect of transferring to a fine new brick-built clubhouse, and a golf course which promised to be a great improvement on the one they were vacating.

And the night shall be filled with music
And the cares that infest the day,
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away."

Longfellow

The Croak of the



Whooooo... Whooooo... Whooooo...

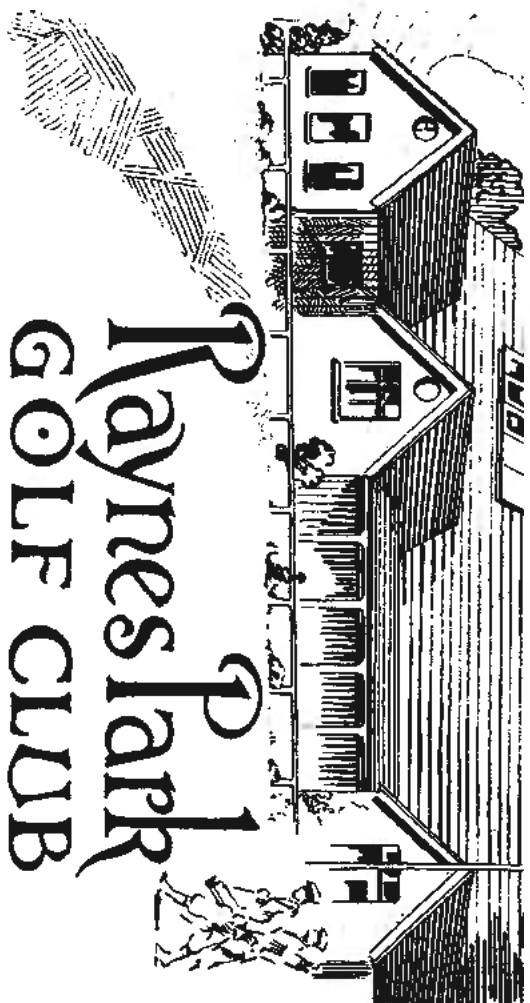
Oh think of the hours when daylight
returning

Shall put the brief pleasures of Bacchus
to flight,

When the tongue shall be parched and
the brow shall be burning

And most of tomorrow shall taste of tonight.

Twicken



VALEDICTORY DINNER

HELD AT THE CLUB HOUSE
FRIDAY DECEMBER 4TH 1925

1894-1925

After thirty one years devoted
to the best traditions of the
game of golf the Raynes Park
Golf Club passes but leaves as
heritage to the Malden Golf Club
the spirit of good sportsmanship
and "camaraderie"



LE ROI EST MORT - VIVE LE ROI

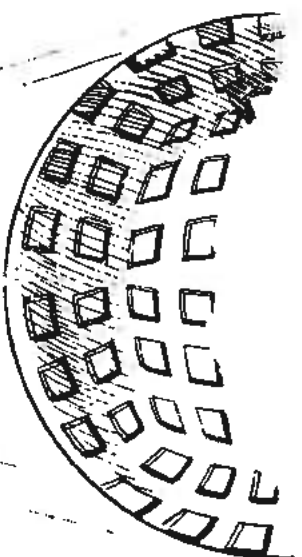
HORS D'OEUVRES
(A good drive off)

HUITRES
(WHITSTABLE)
(In the "Rough")

POTAGE
HARE SOUP
(a la "casual water")

POISSON
FRIED SOLES
(guaranteed caught with a "Maxfli")

ENTREES
SWEETBREADS
(not a dog "leg")



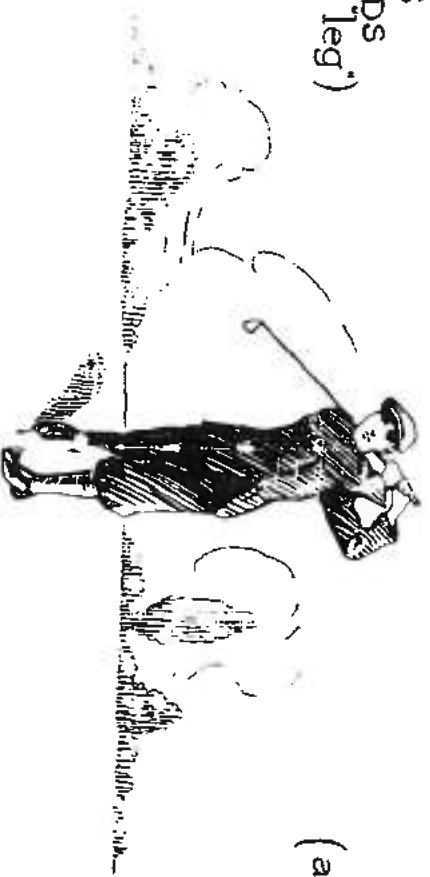
ROTI
PHEASANTS
(A "slice" - who said pull it)
(avec les Raynes Park Crows)

CONFITURES
TIPSY CAKE WITH CREAM
(A "hazard")

DESSERT
(well off the fairway)

FROMAGE
(with "putter")

CAFE
(at the 19th hole)



Menu of Valedictory Dinner on leaving Raynes Park, 4.12.25.

Chapter 8

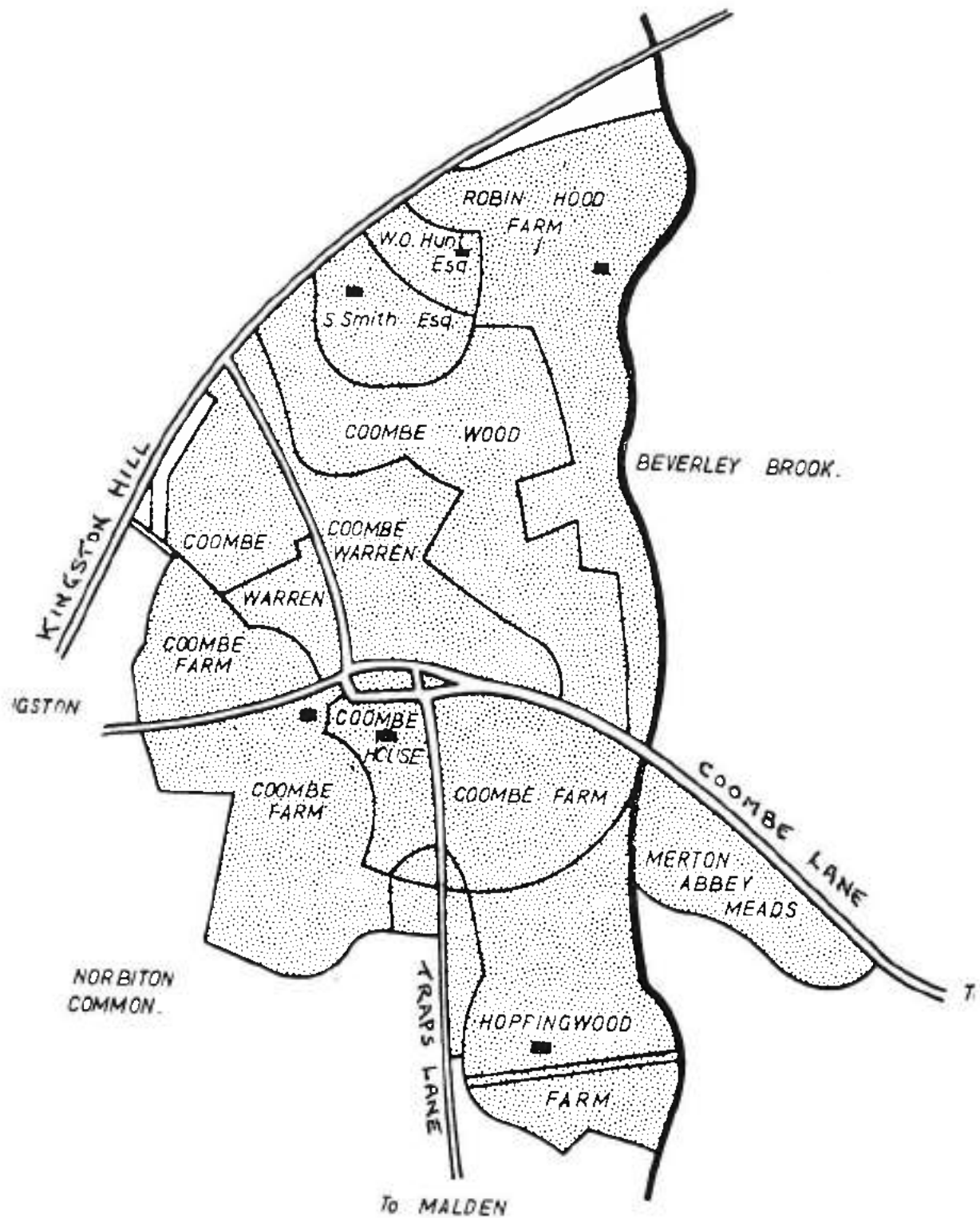
1924–1926. Plans are Made for the Move to Malden

Before we become involved in the exciting story of how the transfer of the Club from Raynes Park to Malden was effected – and who were the heroes who planned the move and then carried it out – we should perhaps look briefly at the history of the land on which the new course would be laid out.

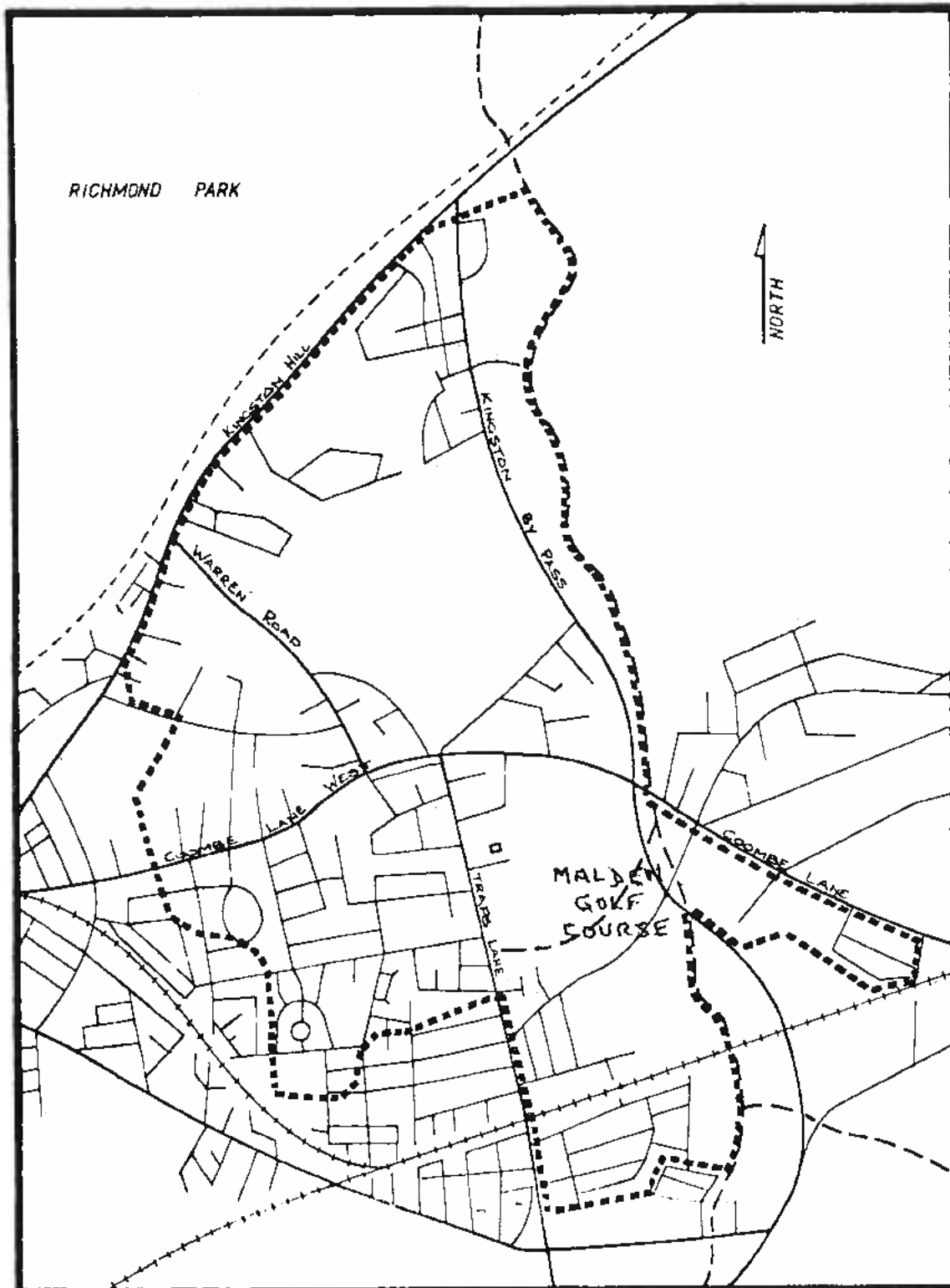
In Elizabethan times, a large area of land on either side of Coombe Hill was known as Coombe Manor; incidentally the word Coombe is probably derived from the Welsh word *cwm*, meaning a wooded valley. This land was acquired by Thomas Vincent in 1579 from Queen Elizabeth, and he is said to have built a large mansion a few years later, which was known as Coombe House. Some of the high walls forming the boundaries of his garden can still be seen near the top of Traps Lane on the left as one goes up the hill. The house had fine views to the south towards Banstead Downs and Epsom. It was rebuilt in 1760, and this Georgian house was demolished in 1933. About 200 years ago, a Madam Trap occupied a house near the top of Traps Lane, and she owned land on both sides of the Lane.

Coombe Manor changed hands a number of times, and in 1753 a certain John Spencer bought it. He later became the first Earl Spencer. In 1837, his grandson, the 3rd Earl Spencer, sold it to H.R.H. Prince Adolphus Frederick, 1st Duke of Cambridge, the seventh son of George III, for £38,250. He also bought more adjoining land, and the enlarged area became known as the Cambridge Estate; this was later known as the Coombe Estate.

When the 1st Duke of Cambridge died in 1850, his son George, 2nd Duke of Cambridge, inherited the Estate. He married a beautiful actress and, under an Act passed 1772, this marriage, whilst being legal, was “invalid”, with the result that she did not become the Duchess. She was known as Mrs Louisa FitzGeorge, and their three sons were unable to succeed to the Dukedom. For nearly 40 years, the 2nd Duke was Commander in Chief of the British Army and, on his death in 1904, the ownership of the Estate passed to his two surviving sons, Rear Admiral Sir



Map of Coombe Estate in 1837.



Map of FitzGeorge Estate in late 19th Century superimposed on a modern plan of New Malden.

Adolphus FitzGeorge and Colonel Sir Augustus FitzGeorge, K.C.V.O., C.B. When the Admiral died in 1922, his share of the land went to his younger brother, Col. FitzGeorge. The latter had been born in 1847 and so was nearly 80 when our Club came to Malden. Even so, he accepted the Presidency in 1926 and he retained it until he died in 1933.

Much of the land on which the Malden Golf course was laid out had been the Hoppingwood Farm, of 170 acres, which extended towards Coombe Lane West on the north side, Traps Lane on the west and Beverley Park on the south. The farm buildings were mainly where there are now Cambridge Avenue, Hoppingwood Avenue, Orchard Avenue and Alric Avenue. The southern end of the farm had been bisected by the main railway line in 1838, and it is believed that the tunnel under the railway alongside the Beverley Brook, just short of the 7th green, was originally made so that cattle could reach that part of the farm which is now Beverley Park. "Hoppingwood" may be the old name for the flat land on either side of a river where hops grew wild.

We have the first Minute Book of the Club at Malden, and it is obvious that those who had the big task of organising the transfer from Raynes Park to Malden acted in good time and in a businesslike manner.

Although the lease of the land at Raynes Park was not due to expire until the end of 1925, plans for the move to Malden were sufficiently well advanced by the autumn of 1924 for firm proposals to be put to the Club members at Raynes Park at their Annual General Meeting on 18th October 1924, and we still have a copy of a Memorandum sent to all members by the Captain following the Meeting. The contents of this note give such a clear idea of the problems involved that it is reproduced in full. (See next page). Our members of the Club at the present time may be amused at the statement that "the whole of the land is gravel and that the new course would be bone dry." Perhaps they will also envy the members who were able to obtain life membership for £100.

The response from the members of the Club to the proposals in the Memorandum was encouraging and it enabled plans to go ahead. No time was lost and Malden Golf Club Ltd was incorporated on 21st November 1924. This is the Company which purchased from the FitzGeorge Estate the freehold land on which the clubhouse and putting green now stand, and leased it to the Club. It also entered into a lease of the golf course for a term of 22 years from December 1924 and granted a sub-lease of the course to the Club.

In addition, the Company arranged for a new clubhouse to be planned and erected at a total cost of just under £5,000. It is understood that the architect was asked to plan the building so that it could be converted into a private dwelling house if it were no longer required as a clubhouse. During the following year, the Directors of the Company met on 13 occasions. So

Raynes Park Golf Club,

RAYNES PARK, S.W. 19.

October, 1924

Note of Decisions reached at the Annual Meeting on 18th October
in regard to the future of the Golf Club.

The Directors reported that after prolonged negotiations with the Owner of the present course, they had reluctantly come to the conclusion that it was impossible for him owing to the importance of the financial conditions involved, to extend the lease which expires in 1926, on terms which the Club could accept. The Club was therefore in a position of having to disband or to move elsewhere. The Directors recognised that the latter alternative would involve a large outlay but they felt confident that members would be willing to do everything within their power to avoid extinction. That they correctly gauged the feelings of the general body of members is evidenced by the fact that the meeting UNANIMOUSLY approved the following scheme:-

1. To lease for 21 years about 100 acres of fine golfing land on the FitzGeorge Estate at Malden at a rental of £700 a year.
2. To purchase for a sum of £800 a site for a Clubhouse about 7 minutes walk from Malden Station.
3. To erect a Clubhouse at a cost of approximately £4,000.
4. To raise by means of life memberships and debentures a sum of at least £10,000 for the construction of the course and Clubhouse.
5. Annual subscription of existing members to be increased as follows:-

<u>Men</u>	Full members to	£9.9.0
	5-day members to	£4.4.0

<u>Ladies</u>	to	£4.4.0
---------------	----	----	----	----	----	--------

6. Provisionally the entrance fees and annual subscriptions of new members to be as under:-

<u>Men</u>		<u>Entrance Fee</u>	<u>Subscription</u>
	Full members	..	£10.10.0
	5-day members	..	£ 5. 5.0
<u>Ladies</u>	(limited to 100)	£5. 5.0	£5. 5.0

It was explained that nearly the whole of the land is gravel and that the new course would be bone dry and available for play all the year round. This coupled with the accessibility of the course to London, Wimbledon, Kingston, Surbiton etc., would in the Directors' opinion make the scheme a sound proposition from every point of view. It is proposed to commence constructional operations at the earliest possible moment and it is confidently anticipated that the course will be opened for play by next Autumn when a considerable influx of new members is to be expected.

The scheme provides that every member who transfers to the new Club shall take up a debenture of £35 payable in instalments if the member so wishes, and spread over a period of two years. Assuming 200 members decide to transfer on these terms, this will produce £5,000, leaving a balance to be subscribed by those members who are in the fortunate position of being able to take up either a life-membership or 2 or more debentures. It is gratifying to note that after the meeting many members put in applications for life-membership or 2, 3 or more debentures and if those who were unable to attend will subscribe in the same proportion, the Directors will be able to announce the success of the scheme.

The debentures will carry interest at ~~4~~% and be redeemable in 21 years or at such earlier date as the Directors may decide. A redemption fund will be established and debentures of a deceased member will be given priority and paid at once. This principle will be applied to life membership issued for £100. If a life member dies within 10 years of the date of issue, his estate will be paid £100 LESS the amount which would have been payable up to the date of death at the full rate of annual subscription, e.g:- A life member dying in the 5th year after issue, the amount refunded would be 5 years at £9.8.0 assuming the annual subscription had remained at that figure.

that their work can be remembered with gratitude, their names are recorded:—

C.J. Bonnard, Chairman, (Captain of the Club 1924 and 1925 at Raynes Park and 1926 at Malden),

A.N. Harper, Secretary of the Company,

J.J. Beard, J.W. Collis, W.M.D. Edwards, A. Cullingworth, Leonard Hall, J. Hemmingway, B.W. Murrell, R. Parker Smith, T.J. Smith and C.C. Turner.

Among the numerous decisions taken by the Board were:—

1. The appointment of Harold Bailey, F.R.I.B.A. as Architect, (He was the Agent of the FitzGeorge Estate).
2. The appointment of Barclays Bank Limited, New Malden, as Bankers from 22nd November 1924.
3. The appointment of the professional, Alex Herd, to advise on the general layout of the course. It is a credit to his planning that only one major alteration has been made during a period of over 60 years — the 2nd green used to be way off to the right on flat ground near the end of Cambridge Avenue; you then played the remaining holes of the first nine in the order of the holes now numbered 6, 7, 8, 3, 4, 5, 9.

The Inaugural Meeting of the members of Malden Golf Club was held the day after the Raynes Park Golf Club Valedictory Dinner had taken place there. At this Inaugural Meeting, C.J. Bonnard was elected as Captain of the Malden Golf Club, and the following were elected as members of the Committee:—

A.N. Harper, Col. C.W. Myddleton, B.W. Murrell, George Blay, T.J. Smith, Dr J.E.C. Bradley, Bernard Ely and R. Parker Smith.

The lease of the Raynes Park course had terminated on 25th December 1925, and the new clubhouse at Malden was open for use by members on 2nd January 1926; in fact a Committee Meeting of Malden Golf Club was held in the new clubhouse that afternoon.

Under a Loan Agreement dated 22nd February 1926, Malden Golf Club Ltd advanced £13,000 to the Club to enable the Club to lay out the course. To obtain the £13,000, the Company issued Debentures. The purchaser of a Debenture was entitled to buy a one shilling share in the Company.

Although advice had been obtained from Carters, the seed merchants, whose head office was at Raynes Park, regarding the seeding of the fairways of the new course, a very dry summer in 1925 had retarded the growth, and in January 1926 Alex Herd and Carters strongly recom-

mended that there should be no play on the course until the late spring. This was most disappointing for all concerned and, when the Molesey Hurst Golf Club offered the Malden members the courtesy of their course until the troubles were resolved, our Committee accepted this generous gesture with gratitude. Then, in May 1926, when the Malden course was finally open for play, the members of Molesey Hurst were given the courtesy of the Malden course for the remainder of 1926. Two of the senior members of Malden, A.N. Harper and Col. C.W. Myddleton, presented a cup for the two Clubs to play for every year. When Molesey Hurst Club closed in 1936, Surbiton Golf Club took their place so that the cup could still be competed for; a large number of the members of both Clubs have always played in this match, and they are still doing this over 60 years later.

Incidentally, in 1966 when the two Clubs had been playing for this cup for 40 years, it was discovered that Mr Harper was still alive, and in his eighties was an active member of Royal Wimbledon. He was invited to attend the presentation of his cup after the Har-Myd match at his old Club, Malden; this he enjoyed so much that the following year he accepted an invitation to be present at Surbiton after the match had been played there.

Chapter 9

1926 – The New Course is Opened

At last it was decided that the grass on the new course had grown sufficiently well to enable play to begin on 1st May 1926.

An opening ceremony was planned, and we are fortunate in having a copy of the poster advertising the occasion.

A quotation from a local newspaper gives some idea of the anticipation that was being felt in the vicinity a week or so before the “great day”:—

“Many people in Wimbledon and district will be interested to learn that the new golf course belonging to the Malden Golf Club is to be formally opened on Saturday week, May 1st, by the President of the Club, Colonel Sir A. FitzGeorge, K.C.V.O., C.B., who will also drive a ball from the first tee.

“The opening ceremony will be followed by a four-ball match between the well-known professionals, Abe Mitchell and Harry Vardon, and Alex Herd and Ted Ray. In the afternoon the same four will play a medal round with a view to establishing the first professional “record” for the course. A director of the Club has made a sporting offer of a substantial prize to any competitor who returns a better score than 70 for the 18 holes.

“The course is laid out on modern lines and is about 6,250 yards long, being planned in two loops of nine holes each, so that the 9th and 18th greens are both near the clubhouse. There are four short holes of a sporting character, two in each half, and in addition there are some long sweeping holes up and down the hillside, which will give plenty of scope for ‘brassie’ play.”

Unfortunately we have no record of how well the President hit his tee shot, nor do we know the result of the morning match nor the scores achieved in the afternoon. From the times mentioned in the poster, it was obviously expected that the morning four-ball match would be completed in little more than three hours, for the professionals could not possibly have started before 10.30 am and, after lunch, they were scheduled to go out again at 2.30 pm.

It will be seen from the lay-out of the course at that time that a number of holes were slightly longer than they are now. Since then, tees such as the 10th have been moved forward somewhat mainly for reasons of safety. Maybe we are more wayward now than they were then.

MALDEN GOLF CLUB

SURREY.

ON
SATURDAY, 1ST MAY, 1926

at 10.15 a.m. the NEW

18-HOLE GOLF COURSE

will be opened by the President of the Club,
COLONEL SIR A. FITZ-GEORGE, K.C.V.O., C.B.

After the Opening a Four-Ball Match will take place
between the following Professionals :-

ABE MITCHELL

and

HARRY VARDON

V

ALEC HERD

and

TED RAY

At 2.30 p.m. the same four Professionals will play a Medley
Round of 18 Holes.

ABE MITCHELL

and

TED RAY

ALEC HERD

and

HARRY VARDON

TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP 2s. 6d. (*for the day only*)

Lunches and Teas will be obtainable at the Clubhouse, which is in
Trap's Lane, Malden, 6 minutes walk from Malden Station, L.S.W.R.

E. L. SCULLY,



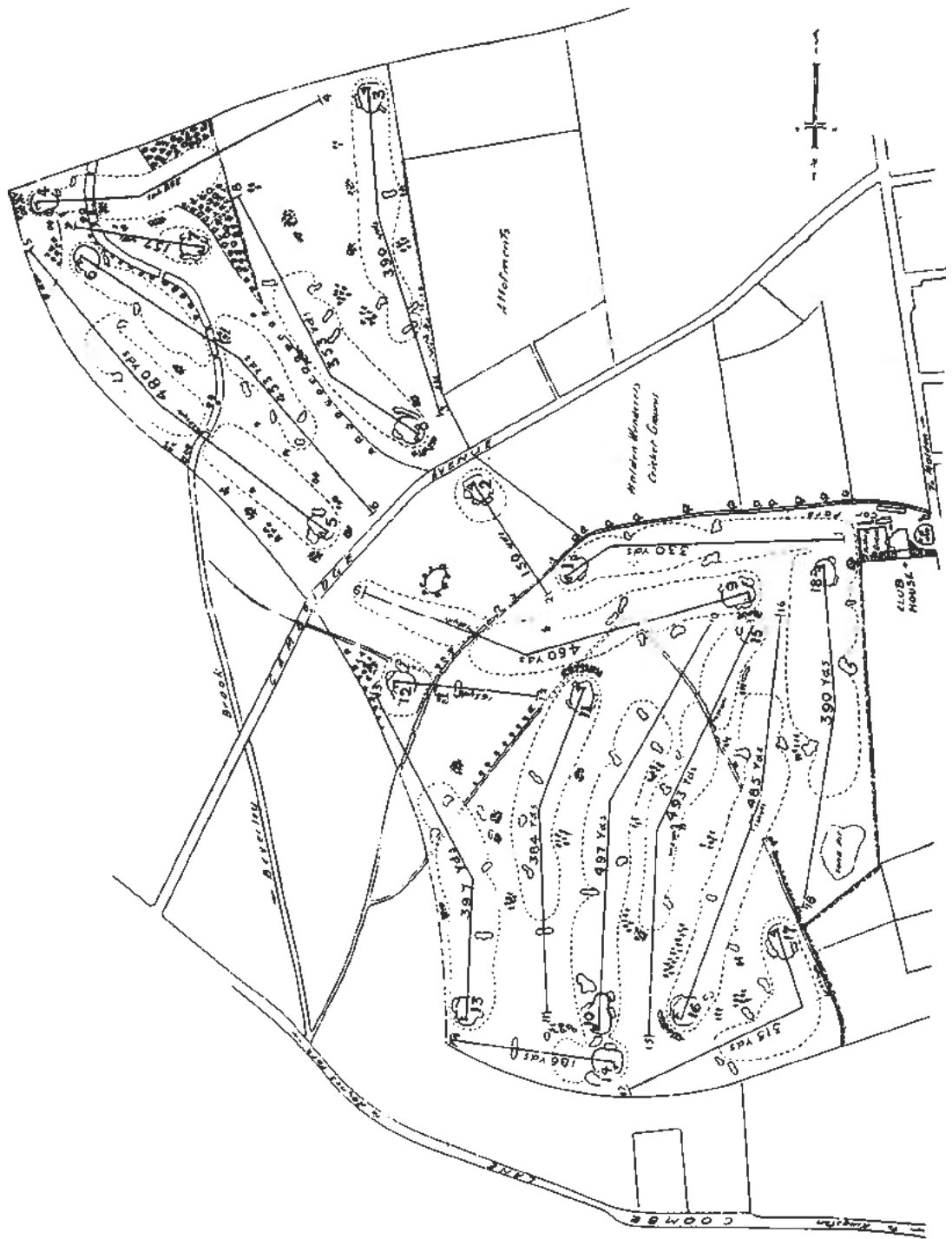
Abe Mitchell driving from 1st tee on opening of the new course.

The photograph (on page 40) of the clubhouse as it was in the early days makes one realise the size of the extensions built during the last 60 years, (and it appears that on the day the picture was taken, there was only one car in the car park). Possibly some of the members had their bicycles in the racks which had been provided. It is clear that the Club was well served throughout almost the whole time it was at Raynes Park by a genial steward, W. Howell, who “came with the Club” to Malden in 1926. When he finally left the Club in May 1926, the members subscribed £245 for him, which was equivalent to about two years’ salary. A new young steward, Woodlands, was employed in the latter part of 1926; he and his bride were given two rooms as their quarters – presumably alongside the kitchen – for the steward’s flat on the floor above was not built until many years later.

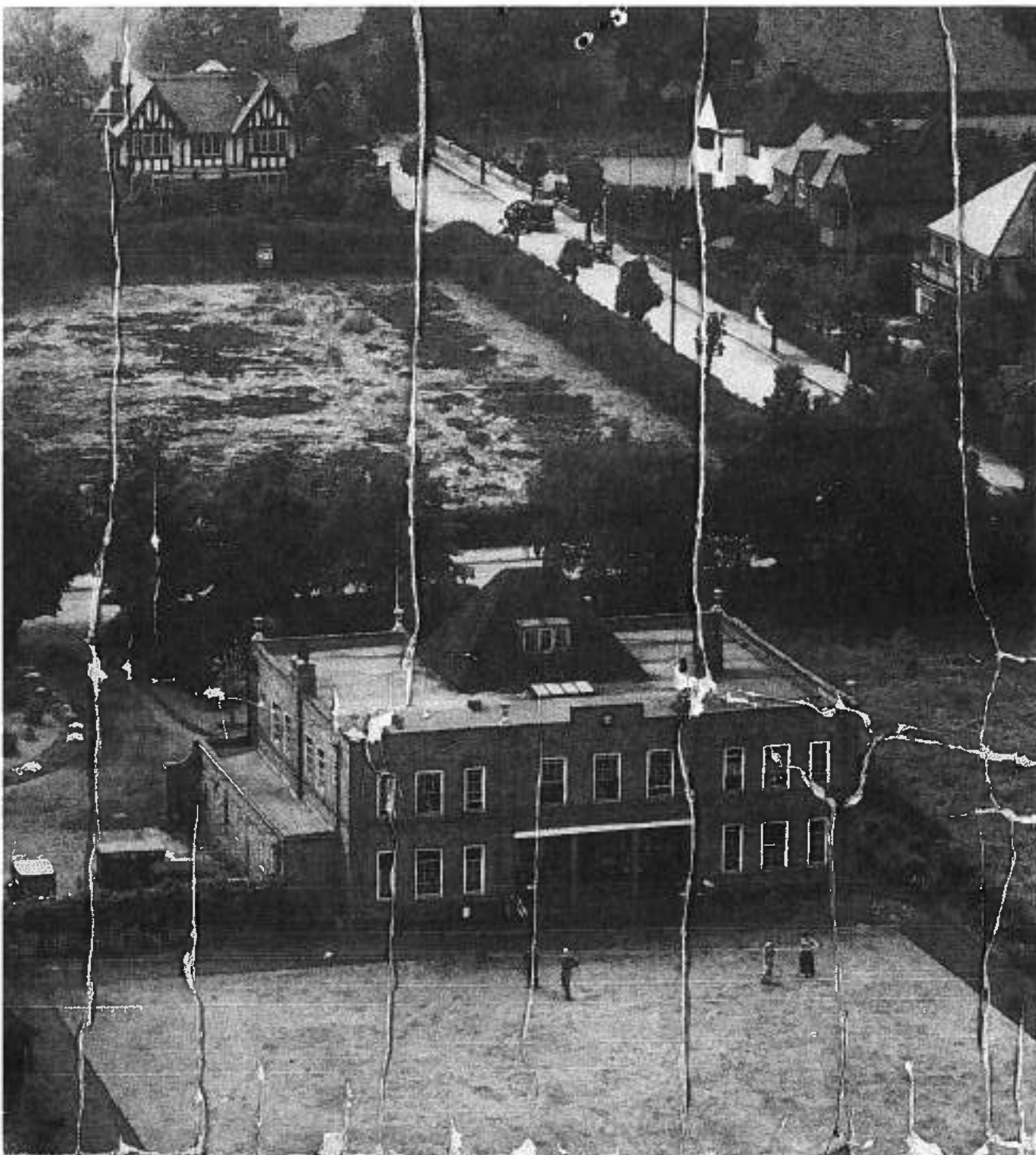
The freehold land on which the clubhouse was built consisted of one acre and three poles; it extended from Traps Lane on the west to roughly where the hedge is on the golf course side of the putting green on the east, and included the area where the professionals’s shop and caddiemaster’s hut are situated.

The Architect’s fee relating to the clubhouse and the course came to 550 guineas, and Alex Herd’s fee for advising on the lay-out of the course was 25 guineas.

It was possible for the Directors of the Limited Company to stay fairly closely to the terms of the scheme put to the Raynes Park members as far



Plan of the course at Malden in the early 1930's.



Malden G. C. Clubhouse in the late 1920's.

back as October 1924. The variations which had to be made to this Memorandum were:—

1. The cost of the land for the clubhouse was £1,000 and not £800.
2. The cost of erecting the clubhouse was close to £5,000, rather than £4,000.
3. Male members (full and five day) transferring from Raynes Park were required to take up one or more £25 Debenture; this did not apply to lady members.

It is evident that one of the chief organisers of the scheme, who then ensured that it was carried out, was the A.N. Harper referred to at the end of Chapter 6. He was a Chartered Accountant and was Secretary of the Limited Company from its registration in November 1924 until April 1926. Although he was never Captain of the Club, it is good to see that his excellent work was recognised by his being elected as an Honorary Member of the Club with full playing rights in October 1930. During the following month, Mr. Harper presented £30 Debentures to the Club, a practice since followed on many occasions by other members.

Chapter 10

1926–1927. Settling in at Malden

Although the course had been well and truly opened on 1st May 1926, a report made at the time read: "Candour compels me to state that not a great deal of grass was visible on the fairways". However, it seems that when normal weather returned the fairways look on a greener look. The lay-out then was much the same as it is today, but the appearance of the course was totally different. Having been farm land producing wheat and potatoes less than two years earlier, there were very few trees, particularly on the "top half" of the course. In fact, the only tree of any size to be seen from the clubhouse was the oak close to the 18th green.

The putting green at Malden in the early 1930's, with open course in the distance.





Fourth green (now the seventh) at Malden in the late 1920's.

When one went to the holes nearer the railway, our present 7th hole is almost unrecognisable by us today. In the foreground of the picture of this hole is the Beverley Brook, and in the background is the Kingston By-Pass, which at that time had just been finished.

While the Green Committee were trying to get the course in a playable condition, there was criticism in July 1926 from the General Committee on their handicapping policy. The Minutes tell us that two handicap changes that the Green Committee had made were "referred back" by the General Committee, "as they did not approve of sympathetic handicapping".

In the meantime, the House Committee were worried about the income from subscriptions, and it was decided to try to increase the number of members, the total of which, for all "paying" classes was only 270. At the A.G.M. in December 1926, it was agreed that 50 full and 50 five day members should be admitted without entrance fees. (As the ladies' section was full, this concession did not apply to the few ladies who were able to join when vacancies arose). The new arrangement was highly successful for, within three months, 80 new members were elected and, after approval had been given to a number larger than 100 being admitted without entrance fee, the total membership had risen in less than a year to 389. In view of the effectiveness of this system, which was obviously helping the Club's finances considerably, no entrance fees for male members were charged for the three years from 1st January 1927 to 31st

December 1929. As a result, the membership had risen by the end of 1929 to 330 men and 96 ladies, a total of 426. Then, on 1st January 1930, an entrance fee of five guineas was introduced for full male members. Thereafter, the number of members fell slowly; this may well have been on account of the slump in the business world in the early 1930's or because of the increase in the number of golf clubs in the vicinity.

In these early days at Malden, the members appear to have enjoyed their golf, and the number of competitions had increased (as it seems to have done ever since!). Leonard Hall and T.J. Smith offered at the A.G.M. in 1928 to present trophies for perpetual competition, and Wharton H. Mason promised to put up a cup for Veterans to play for annually. At that time, Veterans were males over 55 years of age. One of the early winners of the Veterans' Cup was J.B. Hobbs, the celebrated cricketer, who was a keen member of Malden Golf Club for many years.

There was a ditch across the 13th fairway when the course was first laid out, presumably where there is now a ridge on the fairway. The Committee of the Club decided that, if you drove a ball into the ditch, you could drop out without penalty. However, it is recorded in the Minutes that "the Ladies' Committee requested that this Rule should only apply to balls driven from the Gentlemen's tees"

The cost in 1927 of the large board giving the winners of a number of major trophies was £9.9.6, and the writing thereon was £3.8.—. Smaller boards then cost 18/6d each. These boards are still in use.

Among the caricatures in 1927 it will be observed that Mr and Mrs Addison Scott were Captain and Lady Captain in the same year — one of only four occasions when this has happened — the other years were 1956 Borrows, 1959 Hahns and 1988 Fletchers.

Chapter 11

1927–1939. The Years Before the Second War

The Club was fortunate that, soon after it had become established at Malden, a new Secretary was appointed who was to play an important part in ensuring its success in the next 15 years. He was Frank Pike, who had been Secretary of a number of London Clubs and then of the Tooting Bec Golf Club before he came to Malden in March 1927. His beautiful copper-plate handwriting in the old Minute Books was typical of the meticulous manner in which the Club was administered, and he stayed with Malden Golf Club until the middle of the Second War.

It was Frank Pike who discovered in January 1931 that a new Town Planning Scheme was being arranged. When he examined the plan on view at the Malden Council Offices, he found that two new roads were proposed to go across the golf course towards the new Kingston By-Pass – one a continuation of Langley Grove (the road opposite the clubhouse) and the other an extension of Alric Avenue, which would have taken a road across the present 6th green and down the 7th fairway. An objection to the scheme was lodged by the Club through their Solicitors, and in September 1931 a notice was received from the Maldens and Coombe Council to the effect that the golf course had now been included in the plan as a Private Open Space.

We were informed in January 1933 that the FitzGeorge Estate had sold the freehold of the land on which the golf course was laid out to Higgs & Hill Ltd. However, Higgs & Hill Ltd were not our landlords for very long, for in May 1934 they sold the land, subject of course to the Malden Golf Club Ltd. lease, to the Urban District Council of the Maldens & Coombe, (which in the mid-1960's was to become part of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames).

Due to the lack of Club records, it is difficult to be precise about the professionals who were at Malden in the early days there. Jack Crombie, a fairly young Scot, held the post in the late 1920's and early 1930's, and then George Gadd came to Malden from Roehampton; he had won the Surrey Open Championship in 1929 and was well known as a fine teacher. He

stayed with the Club until after the War and then returned to Roehampton.

While at Malden, George Gadd had a number of promising Assistants. They included Bill Laidlaw who won the Surrey Open while at Malden; he went to Ashridge in 1937 to become one of Henry Cotton's assistants, and was shot down over Germany in the R.A.F. in 1943. Another was Dai Rees, who won the Surrey Open from Malden in 1936; he only stayed at Malden for a short time, moving to Surbiton, Hindhead and finally to South Herts. Rees played on nine occasions in the Ryder Cup, captaining the winning British team at Lindrick in 1957.

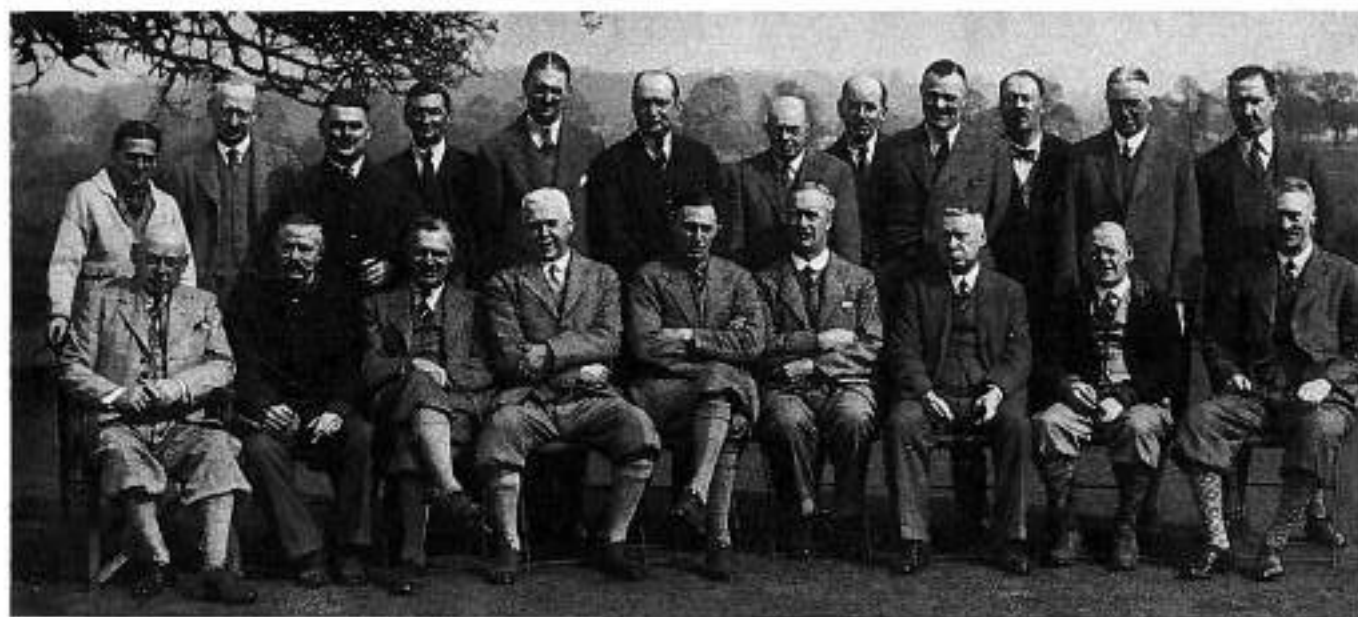
As at present, the most busy time in the week on the Malden course during the 1920's and 1930's was Sunday mornings. However, in those days they started later than we do now, and many preferred to play singles, although others wanted to go out in fours. In an attempt to satisfy both factions, the 1st tee was reserved for singles until 11 am, and fourball matches which had started from 10th before 10 am, had to wait when they reached the 1st tee until all the singles with balls in the chute before 11 am had gone off. The Committee appear to have resisted the temptation to have starting lists every Sunday morning, as was the custom at many other clubs.

In the picture showing the Captain, Past Captains and Committee in 1932 assembled on the putting green by the clubhouse, the Captain was Christopher Brock, the younger brother of Cdr. Frank Brock, in whose memory the Brock Cup was presented.

Captain, Past Captains and Committee Members in 1932.

1. D. R. S. Quin, 2. —, 3. R. D. Lynde, 4. —, 5. W. F. Thornhill, 6. —, 7. —, 8. F. R. Pike (Secretary), 9. H. W. Wadsworth (Capt. 1948), 10. R. D. Godley (Capt. 1939), 11. A. E. Holbrook, 12. —.

1. Leonard Hall (Capt. 1936), 2. R. W. Brading (Capt. 1922), 3. G. E. Baldry (Capt. 1928), 4. T. J. Smith (Capt. 1923), 5. C. D. Brock (Capt. 1932), 6. W. M. D. Edwards (Capt. 1920), 7. K. B. Bayliss (Capt. 1921), 8. Bernard Ely (Capt. 1930), 9. G. Addison Scott (Capt. 1912, 1927).





After professional match in 1935: Jack Crombie (Malden), Alf Padgham and Abe Mitchell, H. V. Culpan, the Club Captain, in a light trilby hat.

In June 1932, there was correspondence with the Rules of Golf Committee at St. Andrews. In a stroke competition at Malden, a player hit a ball into his own golf bag; he lifted his bag and shook the ball onto the ground. The decision was that he should be penalised one stroke for hitting his own equipment.

It was reported in the Minutes in 1932 that the horse that pulled the tractor and mower had died. £2 had been received for the carcass, and another horse had been bought for £11.

There was an experiment in April 1933 in changing the numbering of the holes on the course; maybe the reason for this was to play the longer uphill holes early while everyone was fresh. You started the round at the present 16th tee; after going up the hill you came down our 15th and then up the 10th. Thereafter you played the present 11th, 12th and "round the top of the course" to 18th, continuing with what we refer to as the "lower holes". After 12 months, it was decided to revert to the previous numbering.

In November 1933, the water in the ditches which went across the present 13th and 16th fairways was piped and the ditches filled in, and a number of new bunkers were made on the course under the supervision of the professional, George Gadd. Later, probably in 1938, advantage was taken on the 2nd hole of the pond surrounded by willow trees, and the green was moved from its original position, which was in the direction of what is now the 6th tee, and it was built up to the right of and just past the pond. This has meant that it is but a short walk from that new green to our present excellent 3rd hole, and it was then possible for the first nine holes to be renumbered and played as they are today. The only disadvantage of this change was that it brought the two short holes in the first half closer together and it meant that all the short holes were at even numbered holes.

David Mitchelmore, a past President of the Club, recalls that in the mid-1930's it was quite a common occurrence to see a covey of partridges and

the odd pheasant on the course; on occasions he saw H.V. Culpan, who was Captain from 1933 to 1935, wandering around with a shotgun under his arm, although he admits he never saw him actually shoot anything.

It was in November 1936 that the Malden Golf Club Hole in One Society was formed. There were 11 present at the Inaugural Meeting, and it was decided that membership of the Society would be restricted to those who had holed in one at Malden. Rules were drawn up and the Society has been active ever since, playing for a number of trophies and holding an A.G.M. and an Annual Dinner at which certificates are presented to those who have holed in one at Malden during the previous months. There are now well over 50 members and most of the activities of the Society are well supported. It should be recorded that, soon after the Society was formed, Bill Powell did a hole in one at 17th.

It was just before the Second World War that it was decided to plant a large number of trees. It is believed that F.J. Nicholls, who was not only a good golfer but also a keen horticulturalist, took a lead in choosing the varieties of the trees which have transformed the course. The small firs planted in groups in strategic positions particularly on the second nine holes, willows of various kinds, poplars normally set well back from the playing area, and chestnut trees of a shorter variety on the left of 5th and 9th immediately spring to mind. There are also, of course, many little forests of self-sown trees all round the course, and the result is that many of the fairways, previously open on either side, are now separated from adjoining holes. Mention should be made at this point of various flowering trees which members have provided and which are so beautiful, particularly in the spring. And the appearance year after year of groups of daffodils under the trees in many parts of the course adds to our delight – and remind us that those who stay in the middle of the fairway often miss some of the beauties of nature.

Unfortunately a number of Minute Books of the Club are missing after February 1934, but it is apparent from other sources that the pattern of life which had been established in the Club since the move to Malden in 1926 continued in much the same way until the commencement of hostilities restricted activities in 1939.

Chapter 12

1926–1939. How the Ladies Fared at Malden

Although there is no doubt that the new clubhouse at Malden was in almost every respect more extensive and comfortable than the pavilion which had served the Raynes Park members, the accommodation provided for ladies was fairly limited. Their lounge on the first floor was much as it is today – a good sized room with an attractive outlook over the course – but the dressing room was very restricted in size, and the washing facilities were all in the same area.

About three months after the clubhouse was opened, long curtains were purchased by the Club Committee, and they were hung in the dining room so that an area could be reserved especially for the use of ladies.

At the time of the transfer of the Club from Raynes Park to Malden in 1926, it is believed that the number of lady members was just about 100, and this was the maximum number laid down in the first few years at the new venue.

At a General Meeting of the Club in December 1928, a request was voiced on behalf of the ladies for an increase in the size of the accommodation in the clubhouse available to ladies. A special Sub-Committee was formed to look into this subject, and three months later they put forward to the Annual General Meeting of the Club plans to extend the General Lounge on the ground floor at a cost of between £400 and £500. These were agreed in principle, but the work was not immediately put in hand. The suggested extension comprised the extra part of the lounge, with a flat roof and glass on three sides, nearest to the practice putting green.

When, in 1929, the Committee considered a request from the ladies for additional furniture and a carpet for the Ladies' Sitting Room, it was agreed to vote £15 for this purpose. The Secretary was however to point out "that, with small repairs, the present chairs in the room would be quite good and serviceable."

At the end of the following year, it was decided "that the number of Lady Members be not restricted to 100." This relaxation does not seem to have encouraged ladies to rush to join the Club; and in January 1932, when it

was agreed once again to waive the entrance fees for men, the Committee also decided that "a limited number of ladies could join without paying an entrance fee." Even this "bait" was ineffective and the ladies' membership remained below 100 for a number of years.

In September 1932, the Ladies' Committee reminded the General Committee that it was 3½ years since the extension of the Lounge had been mooted, and they requested reconsideration. After discussion, the General Committee ignored for the time being the extension of the Lounge previously discussed, and made the following proposal:— "that the partition wall nearest to the window, between the Ladies' Lounge on the 1st floor and the Dining Room be removed, and that a sliding panel with door be fixed in its place, provided the ladies contribute £15 towards the cost."

The ladies agreed to this and the work went ahead at a cost of £50; it was completed by January 1933, and the General Committee then "agreed not to open the end of the Dining Room at weekends at present, but to retain the right to open up whenever necessary, and the Ladies' Committee to be requested to enter a similar record on their Minutes."

In November 1933, the extension of the mixed lounge previously brought up in 1929 was again considered and it was decided to put the work in hand. Mr Victor Farrier was appointed architect, and a decision was taken to raise the money required by voluntary subscriptions from members of the Club.

It was to be another 30 years before the ladies' dressing room was extended to any considerable extent.

Having given some thought to the ladies' accommodation in the clubhouse, let us turn our attention to the golf that the ladies played soon after their arrival at Malden. The 1930 Fixture List read as follows:—

Captain v Secretary Foursomes Team Match.

Ladies Foursomes Cups (Knock Out).

Spring Meeting (Two Days).

Mr Ely's new cup (presented that year for knock out competition).

Challenge Bowl (Qualifying round, then knock out).

Captain's Day. (Lady Captain provided main prize).

Seniors (45 & over) v Juniors (under 45) match.

Autumn Meeting (Two days).

Flag Competition over nine holes.

Year after year, the Malden Ladies entered a team in the Pearson Trophy, a tournament in which many Home Counties Clubs competed. Malden usually won about as many matches as they lost, and during the early years at Malden they do not seem to have reached the later stages of the event.

Between six and ten matches against teams from other Clubs in the neighbourhood were played annually, and they were – and still are –

popular occasions, with the home team often being more successful than the visitors.

The Club competitions were well and keenly supported, and many of the lady members generously donated prizes. It is rare to find in the Minutes an entry such as this: "In the last monthly club foursomes, one member of the Committee did not enter, but played a friendly game instead. It is considered that all members of the Committee should in future support the Club fixtures."

In 1935, as an experiment, the recently invented Stableford system of scoring was tried in place of the Bogey method, which was more familiar at that time. After a brief trial, the Minutes tell us that it was considered "not very satisfactory", and the Bogey method came back into use. The Stableford system was reintroduced in July 1938 but once again rejected six months later.

At the Ladies' A.G.M. near the end of 1935, a suggestion was made that cups for knock out competitions should be presented on the day the final was played. A vote was taken and this proposal was lost; cups would be presented at some later date – as had previously been the custom. This decision was reversed at the 1937 A.G.M.

At the first Committee Meeting after the Ladies' A.G.M. in November 1937, it would have been the normal custom for the Fixture List for the following year to be discussed. However, the Lady Captain said that she was bound to point out, before considering this item, that the Captain of the Club had asked the ladies to arrange fewer competitions and matches, as the Club Committee thought they had too many – and some must be cut out. Even so, it seems that the Ladies' Fixture List for 1938 was agreed by the Ladies' Committee at that meeting without alteration, except that extra competitions during the year with prizes given by lady members (there had been three in 1937) were omitted and it was decided that there should be no winter competition after Christmas.

Chapter 13

1939–1945. Keeping the Club Alive During the War

The absence of Minute Books means that it is difficult to report on the problems faced by the Committee when the war began in September 1939. Some of the Committee went off in the forces, others were evacuated with their offices, and it was decided that the main Club Committee should be reduced in size. Golf continued but there were few competitions and, to look after the “holding operation”, H.V. Culpan, who had previously been captain in the mid 1930’s for three years, again came to the Club’s aid and was Captain from 1942 to 1945 inclusive, while E.D. (Teddy) Davies was President from 1941 to 1945. During much of this period, Harry Sutcliffe ran the day to day administration as Hon. Secretary, and his wife, Stella, helped him in the office. They were both subsequently made Honorary Members of the Club.

No doubt, problems arose, but these stalwarts with their Committees kept the Club alive and ready to be restored to full life when the war clouds had blown away.

The first Ladies’ A.G.M. after the war had begun was in November 1939, and it was decided that there should be no election of Officers and that the Lady Captain and Ladies’ Committee should remain in office. A very abbreviated Fixture List was produced. Unfortunately, by August 1940 there was “an increased number of daylight raids” and all competitions were cancelled. Monthly medals continued however and the Committee members took it in turns to provide two golf balls for the winner and one for the runner up. When balls were no longer obtainable, an entrance fee of one shilling (a twentieth of a pound) was collected; one half of the total of these fees went to war charities, and the other half to the winner in the form of savings stamps.

At the Ladies’ A.G.M. in November 1941, the only item on the agenda read as follows:—

“That, for the duration of the War, the Ladies Committee be reduced to three members – the Lady Captain, ex-Captain and the Hon. Secretary. When any real need should arise, such as peace being declared, to call a

General Meeting, and elect a full Committee, when the Club starts its full programme again.”

An amendment was proposed to the effect that the Committee should consist of five members; this was passed and two more were elected to the Committee. It was a very small group that gallantly kept the Ladies' Section of the Club alive during the war years.

A Home Guard Unit had the good sense to make the clubhouse their headquarters during the war, and Bill Humphrey, who served with them in the early part of the war, has recorded some of his recollections:—

“A unit of the Local Defence Volunteers (later to be known as the Home Guard) was formed early in 1940 by two members of the Club, Don Lane and John Clipsham, who brought in with them a number of interested veterans of the First World War such as Colonel Day. It was thought that a large open space like the Golf Course, comparatively near to London, would be an ideal landing ground for German paratroopers. There was already an Army Unit in training in Richmond Park, and it was probable that Wimbledon Common was already being patrolled; in addition there were anti-aircraft units in that area.

“It was not necessary to be a member of the Golf Club to become a member of the L.D.V., but the majority were members either in reserved occupations or younger members awaiting call-up to the armed forces. The word soon got around and several residents living nearby, who were not already occupied (either as Air Raid Wardens, Auxiliary Fire Service members or, in special cases as firewatchers at their places of work) joined the L.D.V.

“Two or three days a week, parties of volunteers gathered at the quarry on the right of the 18th, not far from the tee, and filled sand bags which were loaded onto a large platform lorry kindly provided by a member named Dallas, who ran a transport business, and transferred them to a spot high up on ground in front of the 17th tee.

Here a bunker was built complete with spy-holes and six or eight bunks (in tiers of two each) and a rough table and a few chairs or upended beer crates were placed. The L.D.V. slept in platoons of six or eight on separate nights of the week, fortified by a crate of beer from the clubhouse. Two patrolled the course for a couple of hours until relieved by two more. All this occurred during the hours of darkness until 6 or 7 am, when they dashed home for a shave and breakfast before going off to work.

“Drilling took place along the 1st fairway on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and once or twice a target practice was arranged at the Range in Cambridge Avenue, presided over by the Army, and on one occasion a lecture and target practice were also arranged at the Army Camp in

Richmond Park. One of the better rifle shots, who was a member of the Golf Club, was the late Jack Hobbs.

"When on duty, five rounds of live ammunition were available. And on the night of the big firebomb raid on the East End (more than 10 miles away), it was possible to read a newspaper by the light of the flames while standing on the 17th fairway.

"It is astonishing how accurate the television show, "Dad's Army" is. Had the enemy landed, one member of the L.D.V. might have been able to run to the Clubhouse to 'phone for assistance; meanwhile the remaining five or seven could have frightened the enemy in the same way as the rooks now swoop down on the stray cats on the fairways. But undoubtedly there was good comradeship and a feeling that one was doing something to help the War effort."

For many years after the War, those who had served in this unit played annually for a shield which hung on the wall in the men's bar near the entrance to the snooker room.

During hostilities there was a large tank trap on 7th hole; it took the form of a deep ditch between the fairway and the railway embankment. The Minutes tell us that the area affected was 1½ acres; fortunately it was never used for its original purpose. The work of filling it in and making the ground fit for play was not completed until March 1947.

A stick of bombs landed on the 8th fairway during the War and, although the craters they made were filled in, the damaged areas were treated as "ground under repair" until July 1948. Even now, it is possible to identify where these bombs had fallen.

A unit of the National Fire Service was stationed close to the Clubhouse and, at the end of hostilities, the Club was able to acquire the garage and huts used by the N.F.S. for £75. They were later turned into the Caddiemaster's quarters; the first Caddiemaster to be engaged in August 1948 was Leslie Lawrence, who stayed with the Club in that capacity for nearly 30 years. He was followed by Bob Mapp, and in 1990 by Rod Laurie.

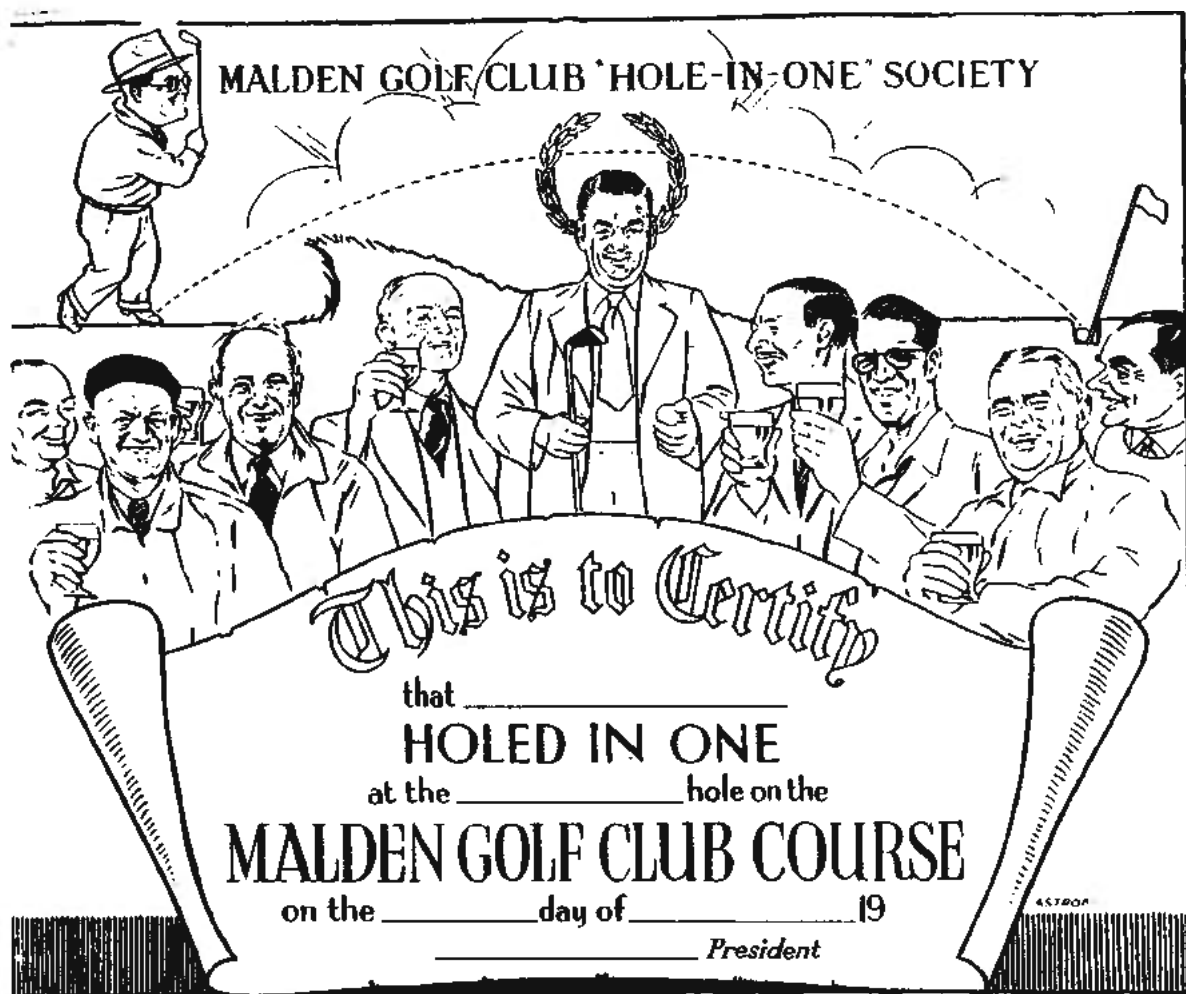
David Mitchelmore remembers that, on his return from the Army, it was very difficult to get hold of golf balls. His brother who had kept half a dozen unused ones for the period of the War, gave some to David. Unfortunately they had failed to weather the years and he had the embarrassing experience of what looked like a perfect ball disintegrating on impact.

Chapter 14

1945–1949. Back to Normality

During the War, Clubs in our area were expected to give up two or three of their holes for agriculture, and at Malden the present holes numbered 10 and 15 were used for this purpose. So as to maintain the course as one of 18 holes, the 10th and 15th greens were kept in play and short holes were formed. After playing the ninth, you went towards the clubhouse and, just before reaching the 18th green, there was 10th tee. You played a hole of 99 yards onto what is now the 15th green, hitting a lofted shot over a group of small poplar trees. Then you went up the present 16th hole (which was of course the 11th at that time), and having played that you walked back to the two groups of fir trees which are currently on the right of 15th hole, about 150 yards from the tee. Here a tee had been built from which you played an iron shot across the waving corn onto the present 10th green – a hole of some 150 yards. (It was naturally numbered 12 on the wartime card). Thereafter, you played the holes now numbered 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18. It was 1950 before the two holes which had been providing crops were restored to the Club and brought back into play. Much of the rubbish and stones collected from these two holes was piled up to make a mound on the left at the beginning of the fairway on 15th hole, and as the Captain in 1949/50, when this was created, happened to be Lt. Col. Dan Smith, this hazard was, and still is, called “Smith’s Folly.”

Having just referred to the short “Wartime” 10th hole, a special mention must be made of an extraordinary happening in the summer of 1949. G.E. Hebden was playing in a fourball game with some friends and he did a hole in one at this hole. According to the story that has been handed down since then, the players decided, as they were so close to the clubhouse, that they would play no more holes immediately but would go into the bar to celebrate. Some time later, they decided to complete the round and started again at 10th tee which was close to the clubhouse. They gave Hebden the honour, suggested he should take the same club and the same ball and “show them how he had done it.” He did as he was told and holed in one again – maybe this is the only time that anyone has holed in one with consecutive shots at the same hole. We are told that he and his friends did not play any more golf that day, but went back to the clubhouse and put all the flags out. It was in 1949 that the Hole in One Society decided to have some new Certificates printed; some of the more well known members of



Hole in One Certificate, first produced in 1949.
 (Top left) W. T. Dear. (Centre) G. Hebden. (Left side) D. S. Bennett, A. D. Lane, L. Williams, Lt. Col. D. R. Smith. (Right side) B. Sergent, D. H. L. Wadsworth, R. D. Lynde, F. J. Daybell.

the Society are depicted on the Certificates, and Hebden takes pride of place in the centre with a laurel wreath behind his head.

During the war, the membership of the Club had been considerably reduced but, as those who had been serving in the forces returned to civilian life, the membership increased to something like the pre-war strength. By June 1946, the numbers were as follows:—

Honorary Members	5
Life Members	11
Full Members	257
5 Day Members	32
Social & Country Members	44
Lady Associate Members	105
Social Members	29
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	483

A year later, the number of Lady Associate Members had risen to 115, and it was decided only to accept new lady members who were related to male members. However, a few months later this restriction was withdrawn.

Although the number of members did not drop during the next few years, the Committee used various ways of trying to increase the membership, and in 1949 it was agreed to admit new members under 30 without entrance fee.

It is understood that, in the 1940's, a member left instructions in his will that his ashes were to be placed at the foot of the tree by the bridge at the 9th hole as this tree had been such a nuisance to him during his lifetime and he hoped the ashes would kill the tree. The ashes were duly deposited when the member died, and in due course the tree started to wither (mainly due to ivy growing over it). It finally "gave up the ghost" in the storm of October 1987 – so the old chap's wishes were belatedly fulfilled.

Soon after the war, the Morden Park Golf Club closed and a number of members of that Club joined Malden. In appreciation of our friendly attitude, the Captain of that Club, Mr L. Talbot, presented a small silver cup to Malden, and it was decided to use it as a trophy for the annual putting competition usually held on the Whitsun Bank Holiday.

While John Daybell was Captain of the Club in 1947, he presented a small bar which was built to the right of the lounge; it was open at weekends and also when there was dancing in the evening. The first dance in the lounge was held in February 1948 and was pronounced a success; a recently acquired radiogram was used on that occasion although a three or four-piece band was in attendance for the more important functions.

In July 1948, it was arranged that Mr Jim Arthur of the Board of Greenkeeping Research should visit the Club and advise on the condition of the course. Samples of soil from many of the fairways were sent to him and the Committee decided to accept his recommendations. The total expenditure for worming and weeding, including the extra labour involved, was £1,600, of which £1,000 would be spent in 1948. Incidentally, the Council agreed to use the seed recommended by Mr Arthur when the two fairways, which were given up for agriculture during the war, were returned to the Club.

There was a serious drought in the summer of 1949, and watering of the greens was allowed only on two days a week. The Minutes record that the green staff worked longer hours on these days, and thanks were recorded to members who watered the greens in relays during the permitted periods to help the staff.

In the 1940's, the snooker table was in the middle of the dining room on the first floor, and the tables for meals were placed along the walls of the room and under the windows. The Hurlock Cup Snooker Competition, played on a knock-out basis, under handicap, had started in 1944; it has

been keenly contested ever since. Incidentally, there were also two dart boards just inside the entrance to the dining room in those days.

David Mitchelmore recollects that, in the decade after the war, machinery on the course was minimal, and much of the equipment owned by the Club had been presented by members. As an example, he mentions a second-hand type of Land Rover which was the nearest thing to a tractor that the Club had in use. This was driven round the course for hours every day, pulling the big mower. It had been provided by Alf Gadsby, who was Managing Director of a construction firm. He also gave timber and materials to repair the bridges over the brooks. As can be imagined, it was possible after the war to buy tin helmets cheaply and, for a number of years, helmets filled with cement and painted yellow were used as markers on the competition tees. Small tin huts were also inexpensive, and a number of these were placed on the course to be used as shelters. Members soon discovered that they could drop away from these “immovable obstructions” without penalty, and the rule covering this concession was often interpreted somewhat generously in friendly matches.

For a number of years after the War, various stretches of land round the edge of course were used for allotments. Those to the far right of the 2nd green, to the right of the 8th hole after crossing the brook, and behind the 9th tee were the largest areas.

Chapter 15

1950–1959. Years of Consolidation

As the last chapter revealed it took the best part of five years for the Club to settle down after the upheaval caused by the war. No doubt the members in 1950 were hoping that their life at the Club would from then on be relaxed and trouble-free. We must now see whether this hope was fulfilled.

Soon after the 10th and 15th holes were brought back into play, the English Golf Union decided, in May 1950, that the Standard Scratch Score for the course should be 74. (Before the war it had been 75, but in 1950 the 13th hole was rated as a 4 rather than a 5). This was shortlived for in February 1951 the new E.G.U. regulations, which applied to all courses, made the S.S.S. 72; the 3rd and 9th holes became 4's, and all the men's handicaps were raised by three – a bitter pill for some to swallow.

It was in 1950, when John Clipsham was Captain, that the Round House behind the 9th green was erected. A.W. Rice saw to its building and a thatcher came from Norfolk to do the roof. The hut was very dark inside until, some years later, vandals removed some of the thatch to gain entry. A window replaced the missing thatch, and from then on the interior was less dismal. In August 1989 vandals set alight the thatched roof and for a number of months the light refreshments available after the playing of nine holes were served in the open until the new roof had been built, this time in slate.

Due partly to the inadequacy of the machinery, the rough on the course was heavy. It was possible to lose a ball 50 yards in front of the 1st tee! In the Minutes of June 1950 it is recorded that "the Chairman of the Green Committee reported that, as soon as a reaper was available from the Surrey Agricultural Committee, one would be hired in order to cut the rough."

It was decided in 1950 to increase the annual subscription for a full member by three guineas and the amounts paid by the various classes would then be:—

Full Members	£15.15.0d.
5 Day Members	7.17.6d.
Lady Associates	7.17.6d.
Social Men	2.12.6d.
Social Ladies	1.11.6d.

At that time, if a member had not paid the subscription due, and had ignored a reminder sent after four months, it was assumed under Rule 9 that the member had resigned and the name was removed from the register.

It was in April 1951 that a group of Scottish members led by Douglas McArthur and Ian Brown, subscribed for the Rose and Thistle Cup. It has been contested each year by teams of members representing Scotland and England. It is traditional that there is supper for the participants at which the haggis is piped in and, when it has been placed with due ceremony in front of the Chairman, one of the more extrovert Scots recites Burns' "Ode to the Haggis." For many years the supper was followed by a dance in the clubhouse, which naturally included an assortment of Scottish melodies.

Over the years, some of the English team have had the audacity to express doubts about how much Scottish blood some of their opponents had in their veins; fortunately, as it is a social occasion, birth certificates have never been called for. One instance was the inclusion in the Scottish team of Pete Lowman, a delightful fellow from U.S.A. and a good golfer. When challenged, McArthur is supposed to have replied : "Haven't you heard of Loch Lomond?" And surely one of the funniest experiences was to hear Martin Brown, who came from Belfast and had a strong Northern Irish accent, attempting to recite a Robbie Burns poem in the year that he was Captain of the Club.

Reference has been made to the snooker table being sited in the middle of the dining room. Looking back, this seems to have been a very inconvenient arrangement, but it was not moved downstairs, into what was then the card room and later the men's bar, until 1953.

While playing his tee shot at 7th hole in a foursomes knock-out competition, Don Lane hit a low shot which struck a small metal post by the Ladies' tee. The ball rebounded back over the heads of the players on the men's tee and finished on the 6th green. There was then a discussion as to whether Lane's partner should, after dropping the ball clear of the green, play the second shot, as he was further from the hole, before the opponents played from the tee.

Leslie King became the Professional at Malden soon after the end of the war. He was recognised as a very fine teacher and spent much of his time on the course with his pupils, often giving them instruction in groups. By late 1953, this exposure to the elements had affected his health, and he resigned to start an indoor school in the West End – a most successful enterprise. Early in the 1950's, Leslie introduced a new member to an existing member wanting a game. On the first tee, the new member asked what the other's handicap was. Told it was 9, his comment was: "That will be seven shots", and the senior member naturally thought that he would be giving the shots. The new man was ready first and so was invited to drive. When he did so his ball went on the green 320 yards away. The senior

member was on in two and putted twice for a four. The new member scored three, and then said, "That is a half, as there is a stroke here." He was John Oxer, who played for Sussex and whose handicap was scratch!

Leslie King was followed as Professional in December 1953 by George Howard, a Lancastrian who had already made a name for himself by winning the Manchester Championship and tying for the Northern Championship. He came from the Windermere Club and was soon accepted in the South not only as an outstanding shot-maker but also as a very popular pro who took a real interest in the activities of his Club and its members. During his time at Malden, he served as Captain of the Surrey P.G.A., and also Captain and Vice President of the Guildford Alliance.

GREEN TEE BOXES.

MALDEN GOLF CLUB

S.S.S. 70

Date 21st AUGUST 1966.

Competition CAPTAIN'S CHALLENGE.

G. HOWARD & J. N. GEMS.

Player's Name J. A. BORROW & L. E. TURNER

Handicap +2 5 20 Strokes 5 17

BETTER BALL NET SCORES BELOW.

Marker's Score	Hole	Yards	Bogey	Strokes	Player's Score	NET	Marker's Score	Hole	Yards	Bogey	Strokes	Player's Score	NET
	1	323	4	9	3	3 3 0		10	477	5	3	3	3 +
	2	155	3	13	3	1 1 -		11	388	4	4	3	3 -
	3	442	4	1	4	3 3 -		12	160	3	3	3	3 +
	4	156	3	17	3	3 3 0		13	415	4	4	3 3	3 0
	5	336	4	11	4	3 3 0		14	178	3	3	2 2 -	
	6	377	4	5	3	2 2 +		15	490	5	3	3	3 +
	7	349	4	7	2	2 2 +		16	477	5	3	3	3 +
	8	462	5	15	5	3 3 -		17	295	4	3	3 3 0	
	9	423	4	3	4	3 3 0		18	386	4	4	4 4 0	
OUT		3023	35		31	23	IN		3272	37	30		27
				OUT	3023	35	31	23					
				TOTAL	6295	72	61	50 NET					

Strokes are to be taken at those Holes opposite which the red figures are equal to or less than the total Handicap Allowance. In bogey play the score must be entered, otherwise the hole will be counted as lost. Uninitialled alterations on score cards in Stroke Competitions shall disqualify the player, and uninitialled alterations in Bogey Competitions shall disqualify the player for the hole at which the breach of the Rule occurs.

Marker's Signature J. G. Howard

Player's Signature J. A. Borrow

G. Howard

HANDICAP

NET SCORE

BOGEY RESULT

George Howard's Scorecard for score of 61 in 1966.

In 1966 George went round Malden, while playing with the Captain in a challenge match, in 61 shots, a round which included four eagles – at 7th, 10th, 15th and 16th. Unfortunately this was not a course record as it was not played off the back tees.

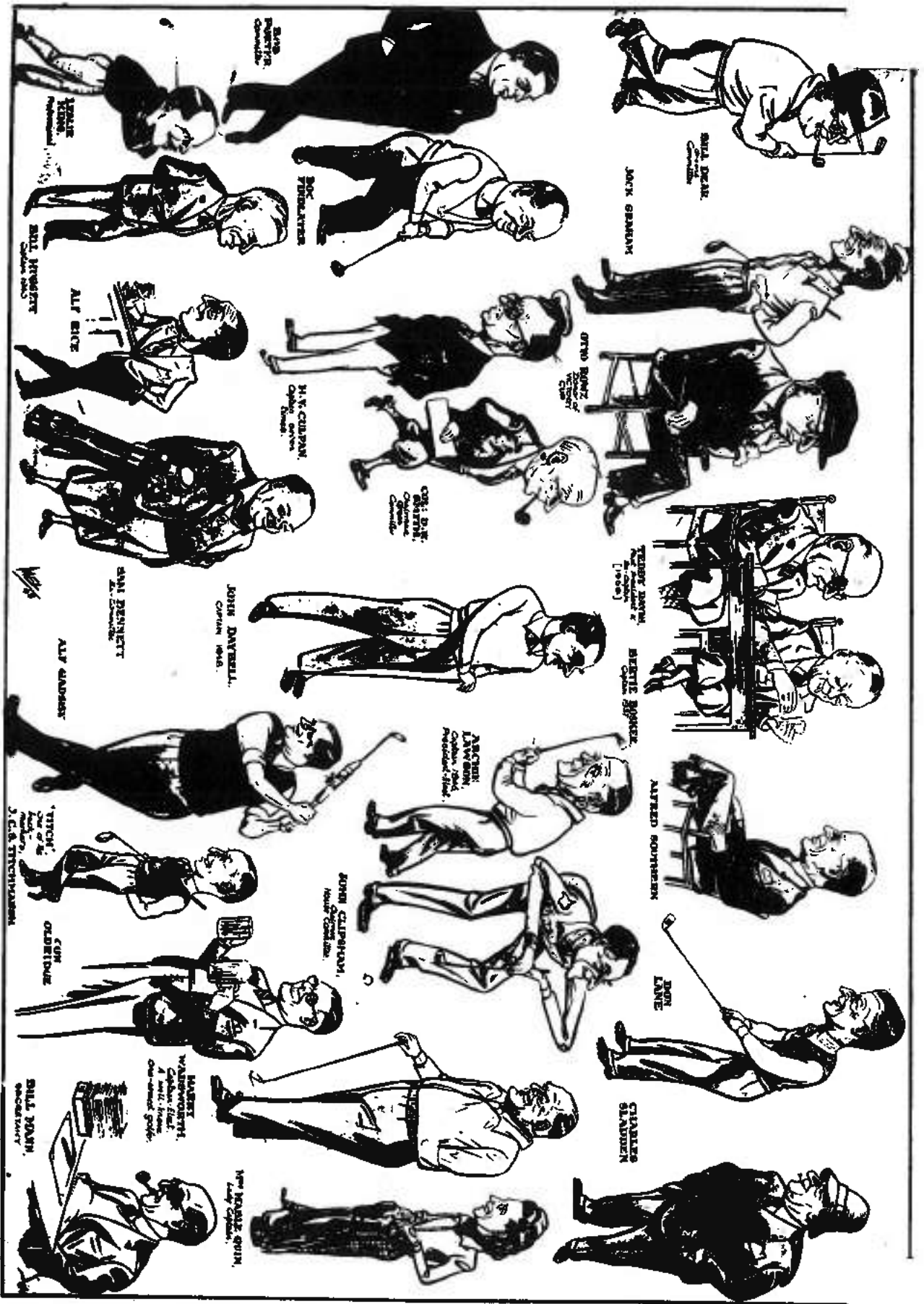
Since the war, the Club has had quite a number of Secretaries. It was in September 1947 that W.J.R. (Bill) Mann was appointed, and there is no doubt that the Club benefited considerably from his administrative ability in the 7½ years he was at Malden. He had a cheerful, bluff manner and left to become Manager of the golf courses in Richmond Park.

Lt.Col. H.M. Wilson, who came to the Club as Secretary in March 1959, was known affectionately as "Mac" although he originally came from Whitley Bay, just north of Newcastle Upon Tyne. He had a quieter manner than Bill Mann, and was most meticulous in maintaining not only the Club's records but also its traditions and reputation. During his time with the Club, he worked with a large number of Captains and Committee men, and handled from a very small office and with the minimum of clerical staff an increasing workload of a busy Club. He retired in 1979 and for a number of years continued to play a good game of golf at Malden, mainly with the midweek Senior Section.

Over the years the major competitions for trophies had become more numerous, and there were always good entries for these tournaments. However, the Committee in 1953 were somewhat concerned that the number of entries for the monthly medals had been decreasing, and in an endeavour to arrest this decline the Raynes Park Challenge Cup was presented. Points were awarded each month to those who had returned the best medal scores, and the Cup went to the member who had the greatest number of points in the year from April to March.

Basil Sargent, playing off a handicap of five, reached the final of the FitzGeorge Knock-Out Cup in 1953, 1954 and 1955 but lost all three. In 1954, playing Tim Acton in the final with a large gallery present, Basil was 6 down when playing 6th hole in the afternoon. The gallery were delighted when he put his second shot a foot from the hole, for they felt he might be "getting one back". However, Acton, who was receiving a shot there, put his second on the green 20 yards from the hole – and then proceeded to hole his putt for a net 2, so Basil went 7 down!

At 6.30 pm on the day when the final of a major knock-out tournament has been played or when there has been a one day men's competition it is the custom at Malden for a good number of the competitors – and other interested members – to assemble in the men's bar for a presentation. The Club is fortunate that, for virtually all its major competitions, Past Captains and senior members provide the prizes, and at these presentations there is a traditional procedure followed in which the winners and runners-up receive their trophies and prizes from the sponsors. There are speeches and rounds of drinks are quickly handed out by members of the



Caricatures of members drawn in 1948.

House Committee and other volunteers. After a knock-out final, the proceedings include a description of the play by the morning and afternoon referees and, near the end of the ceremony, the Chairman of Green Committee announces any revisions of handicap as a consequence of the excellent play by the successful participants. For many, these presentations are considered one of the most enjoyable features of the Malden Golf Club.

Because of bad weather, the Captain announced in the bar that a certain competition would be postponed "sine die". Immediately a wag at the back said: "I suppose this is 'cos it's a rainy day". (but he pronounced it "rinydiy").

Although the excellent caricatures were drawn by "Mel" in 1948, the influence of the senior members pictured at that time was undoubtedly felt during a number of decades. As we have already seen, H.V. Culpan held a leading position in the Club in the 1930's and also during most of the war, and Teddy Davies was President from 1941 to 1945. To appreciate the contribution many of the others made, reference needs only to be made to the list of Captains and Presidents near the end of this small volume. An outstanding example is John Daybell, Captain in 1948 when the caricatures were drawn, who later was President of the Club for a total of 14 years, to his death in 1976.

Mention must be made of a Special General Meeting of the Club in December 1955. Up to that time, the "Club Year" had ended on 31st December, but it was suggested to the Meeting that the year end should be changed to the 31st March. The reasons for this are not altogether clear. The Captain, Harry Fairchild, is reported to have said that it would be more convenient, and Harry Wadsworth, who seconded the motion, made the point that it was preferable from the point of view of the Captain. Anyway, the Meeting agreed to the change and, as a result, Alf Gadsby continued as Captain for 15 months – from 1st January 1955 to 31st March 1956. The A.G.M. of the Club changed from March to early June, and that is how it has remained.

In 1956 Charlie Cooper, (Michael Cooper's father and Timothy's grandfather) playing in the Captain's Prize, shanked the ball on a number of occasions when playing the first hole and took 10. He told his caddie he would not play any more shots with his iron clubs, and he returned a net score of 76. The following day, playing in the second round of this 36 hole competition, he left all his irons in the clubhouse and, playing only woods and a putter, returned a card of 66 net. His total score of 142 net won the Captain's Prize.

Up to the middle of 1957, there had, for many years, been starting times every Sunday morning. The Committee decided in June of that year that, as an experiment for three months, there would be no starting times on the last Sunday in each month. The experiment seemed to be popular, so it was

agreed to suspend all starting times on Sundays for the months of October to December 1957. This was well received and, at the year end, the decision was taken that, except when a competition was arranged on a specific Sunday, there would be no starting times. This arrangement has continued ever since, and it has undoubtedly resulted in members getting to know a much larger number of others in the Club. It is particularly helpful for new members who have an opportunity immediately they join to "find their feet" in the Club. Many feel that in the long term the absence of starting times, except on competition days, makes for a happier Club.

Another Special General Meeting in October 1958 considered the possibility of introducing a new class of member, men of not more than 25 years of age, to be referred to as Gentlemen Associate Members. After a long discussion, it was agreed that this new class should be permitted; they would pay a reduced subscription, have no voting rights and be limited to a number decided by the Committee. It is not surprising that many of the best golfers in the Club have in their time been "Gentlemen Associates."

At the A.G.M. of the Club in June 1959, a special vote of thanks was proposed to Bill Dear, who was retiring from the Committee after 15 years of continuous service. As the speaker ended his few words, George Howard entered the room carrying a new bag of golf clubs which was immediately presented to Bill Dear from his friends in the Club.

It was at this A.G.M. that the Captain, Douglas McArthur, said that, instead of increasing the subscriptions, it had been decided to encourage more members to join the two most important classes – the good drinking golfers and the good golfing drinkers.

In the 1950's there were a few Welshmen in the Club who were somewhat jealous of the Scots night, to which reference has already been made. So they attempted to turn the presentation of the Anglesey Cup into a Welsh evening. This cup had been presented in the early 1930's by a Welshman, Jabe Evans, who acted as sponsor until his death some 30 years later. At the presentation, the Welsh flag was draped over the table on which the prizes were laid out and, after the formal proceedings, there was invariably a discordant rendering of "Land of our Fathers" led by that indefatigable Scot, Douglas McArthur.

George Horton remembers that one of these occasions, in an atmosphere reminiscent of Cardiff Arms Park, finished with two of the older members of the Club using a fire guard as a big drum as they marched round to the strains of "Men of Harlech". The procession was rudely interrupted by a Police Inspector summoned by the people living opposite who had thought there was a riot in progress.

Another of George's recollections was of a meeting of his office golfing society held at Malden. A very big shot in his department had told them that he had taken up golf, and asked whether he could take part. He bought six golf balls from George Howard and lost them all in the morning,

so he bought three more for the afternoon. He lost one of these at the second hole and put the other two into the brook at the third. Going after them, he fell in and was soaked to the skin. He apologised and said that he was going home and giving up golf and devoting himself to his career. This he did successfully, being knighted and ending up as the first Ombudsman.

Chapter 16

1960–1979. Further Progress

In the spring of 1960, John Clipsham died, and the Club lost a leader who had strong opinions but above all had a resolve to maintain the traditions which had been built up in the Club over the years. His influence on the direction in which he considered the Club should go was felt for many years after his death, and carried on by other senior members, particularly his great friend John Daybell. We shall see later in this chapter the extent of the role Daybell played while President of the Club.

In 1960, the Chairman of Malden Golf Club Ltd was still Teddy Davies – in his 12th year in that capacity. He had been President of the Club during most of the War and was a “father figure” in the Club for many years. He was followed as Chairman of the Company in 1962 by Harry Wadsworth. He will be remembered with affection by many of the older members of the Club – he had lost an arm in the first World War and yet played a very good game of golf; his elder son, Derek, lost a leg in the Second War and played off 4 handicap, and his younger son, Bob, was Captain of the Club in 1973 and later President, Chairman of the Limited Company and one of the Trustees of the Club.

The number of full members of the Club in 1960 was just 200, which was 30 less than 10 years before, and the ladies’ membership was 107, 10 less than in 1950.

The cost of running the Club was slowly rising, and the Committee became increasingly worried about the probability of a sizeable deficit appearing in the Accounts. When Vernon Fish’s year of Captaincy (1960/61) was nearing its end, it was decided to adjust subscriptions as follows:—

- Full Members to 24 guineas, an increase of 3 guineas.
- Lady Members to 12 guineas, an increase of 1 guinea.
- 5 Day Members to 12 guineas, an increase of 2 guineas.
- Under 25 Members to 11 guineas, an increase of 1 guinea.
- Social (M) Members 6 guineas, an increase of 1 guinea.
- Social (L) Members 3 guineas, no change.
- Country Members 3 guineas, no change.

By the end of the following Club year, the number of members was still

much the same. (There had been no reduction in membership following the increase in subscriptions, as some of the Committee had feared). And although they were reluctant to fix a ceiling, it seems that the number of 200 full members and 110 ladies was regarded as a sensible maximum. As a result of the increase in subscriptions, it was heartening to find that the deficit of 1960/61 had a year later turned into a small profit.

In the early 1960's, there was practically no grass on 7th fairway, and the Committee asked the Secretary to send some samples of the soil to the Research Establishment at Bingley and enquire from them what they advised. The Secretary did this and in his letter he asked what the Club should "feed" the fairway with. The reply from the Director (who it is believed was Jim Arthur) started: "Dear Sir, When you have a tummy ache, you take an AlkaSeltzer, don't you? Well, that is the sort of thing that you must do here. The 7th fairway is very acidic. You must put alkali on it, and then some months later you can think about giving it some food." The advice was accepted and the fairway has had a good covering of grass ever since.

At the A.G.M. in June 1962, the outgoing Captain, Percy Leadbeater, was able to report that a new 21 year lease of the golf course from the Council had been signed, and he said he thought that the Club would be "safe" until at least 1985. John Daybell was thanked for all the negotiations and legal work he had undertaken.

This new lease enabled the Committee immediately to go into the question of extending the clubhouse so that the ladies upstairs and the men downstairs would have much better changing rooms and washing facilities. An improvements sub-committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of the Captain, David Mitchelmore. Ron Lang was co-opted and mainly responsible for the co-ordination of the work of the architect and the building contractor.

Members were invited to inspect detailed plans and, in February 1963, there was a Special General Meeting which 101 members attended. After the Captain had outlined the proposals, he disclosed that the total cost was likely to be in the region of £8,000. Of this, part would be financed by a Bank Loan and the remainder would have to come from the members. A levy of 50% of one year's subscription was thought to be the most equitable solution. Many questions were raised and answered at the meeting and, when the resolution was finally put, it was carried by 91 votes to 10. As expected, when all the bills were totalled, the cost exceeded the figure originally quoted. However, the amount finally raised was just over £12,000, and from this not only was all the work paid for but the outstanding liability under the 1926 Loan Agreement was liquidated.

The extension was completed in the spring of 1964, and the Mayor of Malden attended the ceremonial opening in April of that year.

As a result of the additional accommodation available to the ladies, the

maximum number of Lady Members was increased from 110 to 125 at the end of 1963.

It was in 1962 that the 36 hole final of the Clipsham Trophy went on for three consecutive Sundays. Jimmy Thompson and Sean Maynes were playing Frank Saward and his son, Richard, and after they had all driven at 8th tee in the first round, there was a heavy snow storm and all four lost their golf balls. The match was stopped and a week later play resumed at the 8th tee. When they reached 18th green at the end of the second round, the match was still all square and it was getting dark. They halved the 37th and 38th, by which time it was so dark that the referee halted the match again – and in the bar they had to pour back into the bottles most of the drinks which had been prepared for the presentation. On the third Sunday, play started again – at 39th tee. Here Richard Saward had to give strokes all round, and the two Irishmen, both short of stature and maybe of breath, won the marathon.

When David Mitchelmore was Captain, it snowed on New Year's Day 1963 making the course unplayable for the next 3 months. To assist George Howard, and to give members some means of practicing their swings, a practice net was set up at the back of George's shop; however, this never became really popular and the room soon reverted to its former uses.

When at the A.G.M. in June 1964, Bill Dear was re-elected as President of the Club on a proposal made by John Daybell and seconded by Vernon Fish, Bill in his words of thanks said that he had calculated that, between the three of them, they had over 100 years of membership, and had probably spent about £15,000 in the bar. This trio were indeed the "leaders in the clubhouse."

It was in the mid-1960's that regulations were introduced by the English Golf Union whereby holes of up to 250 yards in length would normally be par 3's, and those between 251 and 475 yards par 4; over 475 yards the par would be 5. The only change necessary as a result of this rule was that the 8th hole of 462 yards became a par 4 rather than a 5. And, as the total length of the course measured from the men's competition tees was between 6,201 and 6,400 yards, the Standard Scratch was assessed as 70.

At the end of 1967, the number of Full Members had risen to 212 and of Ladies to 121. The subscriptions had by then reached 35 guineas a year for Full Members and 19 guineas for Ladies. For the first time there was a combined subscription for Husband and Wife of 50 guineas.

At an invitation meeting in the 1960's, John Daybell hooked his tee shot at 12th hole. It hit the big tree by the bridge and went into the hole in one. He generously bought a drink on the strength of this bit of luck for all 110 players who attended the presentation.

During the period covered by this chapter, there were two large pipe-laying operations carried out on the course. The first was occasioned by the railway bridge by New Malden Station being enlarged in the mid-1960's to

enable double deck buses to pass through. This meant that the road had to dip well below the level of the surrounding ground and, if there was a cloudburst, the flood water would not be able to drain away from under the bridge. A pipe to take such flood water was dug from under this bridge, going beneath Duke's Avenue, and turning left again under the main railway line when it reached Beverley Park to emerge on our 7th hole 100 yards in front of the tee. The pipe then traversed the 7th, behind the 5th tee, through the woods behind the 4th green, and came out into the Beverley Brook to the right of the 3rd fairway.

The second pipe operation, started in 1970, caused a much larger upheaval. It was the relaying of a main sewer, and there is still evidence on a number of holes where the fairways are uneven or muddy, of the work involved. The pipe came into the course by 14th tee, then ran down across the 13th fairway, and continued behind the 12th tee, alongside the right of the 9th fairway, crossed the 18th fairway just in front of the green, and left the course in the direction of Clarence Avenue.

It was decided early in 1969 that, if the Club were to obtain and retain the services of a good head greenkeeper, a house should be purchased for his occupation. A sub-committee was formed and, to obtain the necessary finance, Loan Notes were issued to members willing to take them up. The scheme was successful and a suitable house was acquired.

All members of the Club were saddened early in 1970 when, after a short illness, the Captain, Alfred Rice, died during his year in office. The Vice President, George Bourne, who the previous June had completed a very successful year as Captain, came back as Acting Captain for a further five months.

In March 1973, it was agreed that a "pop-up" sprinkler system to water the greens should be installed. This time, the required money was raised by a Bank Loan and by increasing the subscriptions and entrance fees.

By this time, the Club was in a very healthy state and, with a young Committee and the prospect of a number of fairly young Captains, the future looked promising. What is more, during the period from the mid-1960's to the mid-1970's, John Daybell was President, keeping a quiet but experienced watch on the fortunes of the Club for which he had such an affection.

Unforeseen items, for which it is impossible to budget in advance, arise in every Golf Club. One of these in 1973 and 1974 was undoubtedly the impact of Dutch Elm disease, which affected many trees on the course. Even though other Clubs had a worse experience, it was necessary at Malden for some 300 dead trees to be felled and disposed of at a cost of over £2,000. Much of the work was carried out by the green staff.

Another advance, this time in the clubhouse and mainly in the lounge and men's bar, came in 1974. During the previous year, a number of alternative plans to modernise the layout downstairs had been produced

and put forward by the Committee for consideration by the Club. At the A.G.M. in June 1973, a fairly strong feeling had been expressed by the members that the changes envisaged were somewhat ambitious, and that a levy of something like 10% of subscriptions for four years to cover the cost would not be popular. Accordingly, the scheme was modified and the new plan, which was much less costly, involved the resiting of the small lounge bar and the complete refurbishment of the lounge and the men's bar. This was carried out in the autumn of 1974, and there is no doubt that the appearance of the main clubrooms was transformed. One of the Committee's main hopes was that more members would make use of the excellent facilities the Club was now able to provide.

Some time in the 1970's, when Col. Wilson was Secretary of the Club, he received a 'phone call from the man in charge of the compound on the right of the 13th hole, in which lorries are parked. In a voice with an "Asian" accent, he reported that a golf ball had just come into his compound and hit a lorry. Mac Wilson asked him whether he would look over the hedge and if possible describe the appearance of the golfers who had probably hit the ball in his direction. The man replied, "That's no good sir, all you white men look alike to me!"

It will be remembered that in 1961 the "sensible maximum" membership was considered to be 200 full members and 110 ladies. During the following 15 years, the activities in the Club on and off the course had slowly and steadily increased, and the maximum membership decided by the Committee had also gone up. The result of all this was that, despite a steady rise in entrance fees and subscriptions, the Committee in 1976 agreed to a membership of 320 for full and under 25 members and 125 for lady associate members.

In May 1976, near the end of Archie Diboll's year as Captain, the Club celebrated the 50th Anniversary of moving from Raynes Park to Malden by staging a number of activities spread over two weekends. These included:-

A special Club Mixed Foursomes on 1st May, which was the actual anniversary date, followed by a 50th Anniversary Ball staged in a large marquee on the putting green and attended by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and the Captains of local Golf Clubs, and many members and their guests.

A Charity Pro-Am golf tournament on 2nd May, for the benefit of the Mayor's Charity, with 100 players including Max Faulkner, Neil Coles, Bernard Hunt and Ken Bousfield. The first prize of £500 was won by George Howard, the "home" professional – a popular win. Well over 100 members and artisans assisted in running the event.

At this first Pro-Am held in 1976, a non-playing member, Whittlesea-Webster, generously agreed to provide a prize, and it was suggested to him that he might give a gross of golf balls to the first player doing a hole in one

MALDEN
GOLF CLUB
CHARITY
PRO AM
GOLF TOURNAMENT

1st PRIZE
£500

SUNDAY MAY 2

TRAPS LANE NEW MALDEN SURREY
Commencing 12.30 pm

HOLE-IN-ONE
ESCORT 1300 GL
Offered by **FULLERS**
OF MALDEN



Admission
 by programme

Lucky number draw

50



In aid of the
KINGSTON TALKING
NEWSPAPER for the BLIND
 Nominated by His Worship The Lord Mayor of Kingston

Max Faulkner Past Open Champion
Neil Coles - Bernard Hunt Ryder Cup Captain
 and other top Professionals competing

on the course. He arrived at the Club fairly early on the morning of the great day, to be greeted with the news that Barry Austin, who was in the first four on the course, had already holed in one at the second hole. The shouts that had accompanied this slice of luck had been heard back in the clubhouse.

During the following weekend, there was an Inter-Club mixed four-somes tournament, when teams from neighbouring clubs were invited to participate. There were also special competitions arranged during this period for many sections of the Club members.

Fortunately the weather was kind, and the anniversary was generally considered to have been a great success.

Two years later, in April 1978, a Special General Meeting was held at which it was agreed that the Rules of the Club should be amended to enable the office of Vice Captain to be introduced. It was explained that this would enable a prospective Captain to attend meetings of the Committee for a year prior to assuming office thus ensuring continuity. In addition business men would be able to plan their office activities and domestic arrangements well in advance which, with a fixture list ever increasing in size, was desirable. The Vice President (who is ipso facto the Immediate Past Captain), would continue to take the Captain's place in his absence and, if he were not available, the next in line would be the Vice Captain. The Vice Captain would automatically be proposed for election as Captain for the succeeding year. At the A.G.M. in June 1978, Walter Scott was elected as the first Vice Captain of the Club.

About this time, a member of the Club happening to be in Hong Kong went up to one of the golf clubs there. The Secretary fixed him with a game, and on the way round he saw in his companion's golf bag an extending rod used for retrieving balls from brooks. He asked him where he had acquired it, and was told, "I used to be a member of Malden and have carried it ever since."

In Chapter 11, reference was made to the formation of the Hole in One Society in 1936. This Society had continued its activities in a restricted form during the Second War, and its survival and success in its early days was due to a great extent to the dedication of its Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, W.H. Wooding, who had held these Offices from the formation of the Society in 1936 to 1949.

In 1949, Ronnie Lynde became President and Derek Wadsworth Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. This excellent team kept the Society well and lively for the next 25 years.

Alas, in 1974 Derek died to be succeeded as Hon. Secretary by Derek Fereday. A year later, Ronnie, who by then was aged 90, handed over the Presidency to Cecil Jones. After serving in this capacity for seven years, Cecil resigned and his position was filled by Michael Cooper. After Derek

Fereday had been Hon. Secretary for ten years, he was followed by Peter Drye and then by John Hatchwell.

The ladies too have an annual competition, but for those who have achieved a hole in one on any recognised golf course. It is believed that Mary Stanger is the only member of the Club, male or female, who has done a hole in one at all the four short holes at Malden.

Another feat only achieved at Malden by one person, as far as can be ascertained, was achieved by Alf Devonshire in the mid-1970's. He "played under his age" by going round in 69 shots when he was 71 years old.

Some years ago, a member of the Club was asked over the fence by his non-golfing neighbour, who had an allotment close to the boundary of the course on the right of 6th hole, why it was that he got more balls driven onto his plot than a friend whose allotment was a little nearer the railway, and why the balls his friend got were of better quality!

It was in August 1979 that Malden held their first Junior Open Meeting. After discovering the "format" of meetings being held for Juniors at a number of other Clubs in Surrey, it was decided that, if Malden were to attract the low handicap young players, the club was most likely to do so if the main prizes were awarded for the best scratch and handicap scores over 36 holes.

In the first year there were 32 entries, but after two years this had grown to 50 and as many as 60 have played. Every year about one third of the field have single figure handicaps, although nobody is over 17 years of age, and scores returned are very often quite astonishing. Perpetual trophies have been presented by Roy Sheehan for boys and Florence Mason for girls.

With the Club in such a buoyant state in the late 1970's, it is unfortunate that this chapter must finish on a sad note. Looking back through the records, it can be realised how many of the senior Past Captains died during the decade from 1971 to 1980. They included Alf Gadsby, Bryan Skinner, Herbert Culpan, John Daybell, Martin Brown, Percy Leadbeater, Ian Brown, Bill Dear and Vernon Fish. Older members will remember that a number of these stalwarts could in earlier days be found most evenings sitting at the Captain's round table in the men's bar, which was just inside the entrance to the Clubhouse on the left. And some of these same members were the "hard core" of a snooker school that monopolised the table every Wednesday night.

What a good thing it was that, following these senior members there was a succession of younger Captains equally dedicated to the well-being of the Club and able to carry on the already established traditions for many years to come.

Chapter 17

1945–1990. The Ladies Section After the War

Chapter 13 relates how the ladies kept their part of the Club going in a very quiet manner during the Second War. But immediately the war was over, the Ladies Section really came to life again, and there was a good attendance of 45 at their A.G.M. in November 1945; they obviously had a firm intention to prepare a full programme of activities in 1946.

At this meeting, Mrs Dot Gascoigne, who had already been Lady Captain since 1942, was re-elected to that office. Miss Winnie Smith, who was Hon. Secretary for the previous 11 years, resigned having seen the Ladies Section safely through the difficult war years.

Despite many problems regarding handicaps which had to conform to the L.G.U. Rules even though many ladies had not touched a club for years, most of the usual competitions were held in 1946 and, on Mrs Gascoigne retiring from the Captaincy at the end of the year, she was presented with a bag of golf clubs, which she richly deserved.

It was the custom for the Ladies' A.G.M. to be held in the afternoon. Just after the 1947 A.G.M., two business ladies wrote to the Ladies' Committee asking whether in future the meeting could be held in the evening. Whilst the Committee were at that time against this suggestion, it was agreed that business members unable to attend A.G.M.'s would be permitted to vote on resolutions coming before these meetings by sealed letters addressed to the Hon. Secretary. And six years later, in 1953, it was agreed in General Meeting that the A.G.M. should henceforth be held in the evening.

Earlier, the story was told of how the two holes that during the war were used for agriculture were restored to the Club for play in 1950. So, to preserve what little grass had grown on the fairways of these holes, the Club Committee laid down that all players should on these holes use a peg for fairway shots. The Ladies' Committee referred this ruling to the L.G.U., who replied that balls must not be placed or pegged if scores were to count for L.G.U. handicaps. In the circumstances it was decided to give up playing these two holes, and the two alternatives which the ladies put to the Club Committee were:—

- (1) To play the two short holes in use during the war and right up to 1950, or,
- (2) To play two holes of the course twice.

Faced with this dilemma, the men agreed to alternative (1) provided the ladies only played the "old course" on medal days and for their Spring Meeting. This must have been inconvenient for all concerned, and early in 1952 the Club Committee agreed to the ladies playing the full course without rolling or pegging from May to September; this to apply to one extra day card and one medal round per month, and also to other major competitions.

The Ladies Section entered a team for the Pearson Trophy tournament (an Inter-Club event) after the war in 1947, but, having lost all their matches in 1947 and 1948, it was decided in the next few years not to field a team. By 1954, however, the ladies were doing so well in their "friendly" matches with neighbouring clubs that it was decided to enter for the Pearson Trophy in that and subsequent years. In 1956 the team succeeded in winning their section, but did not reach the county final. This continues to be a keenly-fought tournament, the early rounds of which are played in the spring, when the courses – and sometimes the players – have not completely recovered from the winter.



Ladies putting on first green in the 1950's

The first Ladies' Christmas Dinner was held in January 1954, and has been a popular function in the calendar since.

It was also in 1954 that the par of the course for ladies was reduced from 74 to 73, which resulted in an unpopular increase in ladies' handicaps.

Two years later came the first Ladies' Invitation Meeting at Malden, now a regular item in the Fixture List.

For many years, the Past Captains of Malden Golf Club have been active supporters of the Society of London Golf Captains. It is therefore not surprising that a number of Past Lady Captains asked themselves why the men should have all the fun and why should they not start a Society of London Lady Golf Captains? Taking a lead in early 1958 were two ladies who had recently completed their years as Lady Captain at Malden, Mrs Pat Samuel and Mrs Kit Borrow. They wrote to all the Clubs whose men were active in *their* Society suggesting that a preliminary meeting of ladies might be held at Malden. They laid out a fairly modest number of chairs in the lounge, and were astonished when a large number of enthusiastic ladies from all over London poured into the Club. Before the day was over, a clear intention had been expressed to form a Society on similar lines to the men's. Pat Samuel was nominated as the first Captain and Kit Borrow as the first Honorary Secretary. And as Pat had been wearing a royal blue dress for that first meeting, that colour was adopted as the colour of the Society's badges etc. for the future. A few years later, Pat and Kit were elected as Honorary Life Members of the Society.

The Society has been most successful since then and there are now many hundreds of members. As will be seen from Appendix 3, Malden ladies have taken an active part in filling important offices in the Society during the years since its formation.

It was at the A.G.M. in 1960 that it was announced that the new Lady Captain, Mrs Edith Brown, would "drive herself in" on the Tuesday

The Lady Captain's Day, 1961. Lady Captain: Mrs. Edith Brown.



following the A.G.M. This was the first occasion this “ceremony” took place and it has continued since then. In 1964, the day of the drive-in was changed to the Sunday after the A.G.M.

The first Ladies’ Invitation to Gentlemen evening was in 1962, the mixed foursomes competition being followed by a supper attended by 100 participants. In following years a stricter limit on the number of entries was imposed. Also during 1962, an Exhibition Match was played at Malden between Jessie Valentine and Cathie Barclay. Jessie completed a medal round of 71 which was a record for the course as laid out at that time.

One of the lady members, well known in the Club, who was not a great performer at the game, had after many years managed to reduce her handicap from 36 to 35 – for her a great achievement. She then went in for a mixed foursomes competition and at one hole mis-hit her tee shot. “Oh, darn it,” she said, “I played that just like a 36 handicapper!”

There was a particularly difficult period in the Club during 1966 and 1967 when, in 15 months, there were three changes of steward. The ladies had on numerous occasions helped with the catering and, as an expression of thanks, the Club Committee invited the Lady Captain and her Committee to a dinner in the Club in 1967.

A request by the ladies in 1968 to wear trousers in the clubhouse was approved by the Club Committee, provided it was limited to weekdays, and for tea in the dining room on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

For many years there have been two Handicap Divisions in the L.G.U. – the Silver Division for 18 handicaps and below, and the Bronze Division for handicaps 19 to 36; this of course applies to all Clubs affiliated to the L.G.U. In the early 1960’s, it was decided at Malden that there should be a third Division for ladies whose handicaps were in excess of 36, and that this group should be known as the Copper Division. The ladies in this Division have their own trophies, made of copper, and they play for them, normally over nine holes, at times when the course is relatively quiet. Over the years, a number of ladies who have started as members of the Copper Division have reduced their handicaps considerably – and a few have eventually become Lady Captains.

It had been the custom for the immediate past Lady Captain to deputise for the Lady Captain if she were not present. At the A.G.M. in November 1976, a resolution was passed to the effect that a Vice Captain should be nominated and elected the year before becoming Lady Captain, the intention being that she would act if the Lady Captain were absent. Although passed at the Ladies’ A.G.M. in 1976, the new rule could not take effect immediately as it would have to be ratified by the Club Committee. Approval followed and at the A.G.M. in November 1977 Mrs Dorothy Carthew-Williams was elected as Vice Captain for 1978 and automatically proposed for election as Lady Captain for 1979, a procedure that has continued every year.

For many years there had been a period during the early afternoon on Saturdays and Sundays when ladies were not permitted to start playing on the course. It was decided in July 1983 that ladies could play from 12.30 pm onwards at weekends throughout the year; on men's medal and competition days this would be changed to 1 pm onwards. Since then, it has been agreed that, during the winter months, ladies may start from 10th tee from 12 noon.



Lady Captain and Past Lady Captains in 1989

(Back row) Mrs P. G. Fletcher (1988), Miss M. P. Doyle (1985), Mrs B. Lunsley (1981), Miss D. U. Hodson (1980), Mrs D. M. Carthew-Williams (1979), Mrs F. A. M. Pearson (1978), Mrs P. Chevalier (1982), Mrs J. Georgiadis (1986). (Front row) Mrs P. Finch (1975), Mrs R. Stanger (1964), Mrs J. R. H. Brown (1961), Mrs K. B. Humphrey (1950), Miss J. S. Clements (1989), Miss F. L. Mason (1987), Mrs S. H. Hahn (1959), Mrs J. N. Gems (1962), Mrs W. R. J. Mann (1967), Miss J. M. E. Hargreaves (1976).

Chapter 18

1980–1990. An Active and Happy Club

The 1980's started promisingly for in April 1980, after a long period of negotiation, a new Lease of the Golf Course from the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames was signed covering the period from January 1979 to May 2024, the rent to be reviewed every seven years.

It was reassuring to feel that the Club was now well established with a new Lease, a comfortable clubhouse, a testing course and, most important, a happy and full membership. Everything seemed set fair – and then on the morning of Saturday, 24th April 1982, came a disastrous fire in the clubhouse.

The fire appeared to have started in the lounge, and the flames went through the dining room on the first floor before engulfing the roof.

Mr and Mrs Holland were in the steward's flat on the second floor and, hearing the crackling of the fire and smelling the smoke, Mr Holland was able to telephone the fire brigade before the wires were burnt, but he and his wife were marooned upstairs as the fire roared up the only staircase in the building.

Fortunately, the fire brigade reacted promptly and, a few minutes after their call, the Hollands were able to escape down a fire brigade ladder from the small parapet at the front of the Club.

By great good fortune, the doors to the left and right of the lounge and dining room were closed, preventing the fire penetrating left into the men's bar or first floor kitchen, or right into the Secretary's office or the changing rooms. This also was to a great extent due to the prompt and efficient work of the fire brigade, and the result was that most of the Club's records and members' golf equipment were saved.

The fire was still smouldering when the Captain, Roy Sheehan, and a number of the Committee, who were quickly on the scene, decided that the first leg of the Spring Meeting, due that morning, would go ahead as planned.

Offers of assistance came pouring in from Coombe Hill, Coombe Wood and Surbiton Golf Clubs, the Malden Wanderers Cricket Club, the Artisans' Section of the Club and other local organisations, and two members immediately offered Mr and Mrs Holland accommodation in their homes.



Fire Damage in the Clubhouse, 24th April 1982.

The Captain of Coombe Hill suggested that the presentation after the Spring Meeting might be held on Sunday evening at his Club. This very kind offer was accepted, and the staff at Coombe Hill were astonished when a large number of Malden members invaded their bar at a time when it would normally be very quiet. An unusually lively presentation of the Saturday and Sunday trophies ensued with the accustomed ceremony, presided over by Roy Sheehan.

A meeting of the General Committee of the Club was held on the day of the fire and, among many decisions taken, it was agreed that, with the Pro-Am due in the second week in May, it would go ahead with a marquee erected on the putting green. Three weeks later, in a larger marquee on the same site, the Captain's May Ball was held.

Due to the forethought of senior members of the Committee, the insurance of the clubhouse was adequate to cover its full reinstatement, and the loss of revenue was also provided for. However, an immense amount of work needed to be done, and severe financial strain was inevitable. The Club was indeed fortunate that the incoming Captain, Ron Mumford, and the President, Jack Hetherington, had both spent their lives as senior executives in the insurance world.

Within a week of the fire, it was decided to erect a sizeable temporary clubhouse on the putting green, and later it was agreed to build an external staircase on the north side of the clubhouse leading to the first floor kitchen, which had not been very badly damaged, so that meals could speedily be brought down to the new structure.

So many decisions large and small, needed to be made and only one needs to be quoted as an example. The mixed foursomes draw sheet had been destroyed, so the Committee asked all pairs who had not been eliminated in the early rounds to list their names in order that a re-draw could be made.

The Malden Club near the station kindly agreed to the later rounds of the Club's Hurlock snooker tournament being played on their tables.

After much deliberation in Committee, plans were drawn for the possible improvement and modest extension to the clubhouse rather than just its reinstatement. After these plans had been displayed for all members to examine, a Special General Meeting was held in November 1982 to decide whether they should be implemented. The meeting was well attended and it was explained that the necessary finance would mainly be obtained by a substantial loan from the bank and by an issue of Loan Notes to members of the Club. The vote was in favour of the improvements being carried out.

A month later, the Club's Christmas Dinner at the Worcester Rooms, Worcester Park was very well attended and proved to be a most cheerful party.

At the end of the year, it was encouraging that, despite the immediate

discomforts and the possible financial problems in store, there had been very few resignations and there was a feeling of optimism for the future.

As Ron Mumford, the Captain during this year of turmoil had hoped, the A.G.M. at the conclusion of his year, on 4th June 1983, was held in the renewed clubhouse. There were still a number of jobs to be completed however and the date of the official opening of the clubhouse in its new form was 9th July 1983. A Greensome Stableford competition for the men was played in the morning, and a similar event staged in the afternoon for the ladies. A social party in the evening attracted an attendance probably greater than at any previous function at the Club.

When the temporary clubhouse was removed, a much enlarged patio was laid down beside the putting green, and with its tables, chairs and colourful umbrellas, it has been an attractive and popular feature of the club amenities.

For a number of years in the early 1980's, there had been problems when balls had been driven out of bounds to the right of the 13th tee. Serious protests had been received from those with properties in this area and, despite the erection of high nets, incidents continued. Finally it was decided to re-site the 13th tee far from the boundary fence, sadly reducing the length of this excellent hole. The new tee came into use late in 1985 and one consequence of this was the necessity to revise the stroke index of the course.

Another major problem arose in October 1987 when the high winds in southern England brought down very many trees on the course. The green staff, led by Alec Bradshaw, the Head Greenkeeper, worked during the whole winter with hardly any outside assistance, first making the course playable within a few days and then tidying the extensive damage. The hole most affected from the golfing point of view was probably the 9th, where a number of very high trees on the left by the brook had been blown down. Early in 1988, members were invited to contribute to a "tree fund" to provide for the replacement of trees in vital strategic positions on this and other holes.

And so we have followed the progress of the Club itself through almost a century. The "ordinary Club member" who plays in competitions and takes part in many of the Club's activities has been constantly in our thoughts, and the ladies will surely feel they have not been forgotten. But in any Club there are quite a number who congregate not only for golf but also for comradeship. Let us look at two of these groups at Malden whose average ages are separated by nearly half a century – the Seniors and the Juniors.

During the last 20 years, the Senior Section grew in strength as happened at nearly every other Club in the country. Throughout the year, 20 or 30 retired full and 5-day members meet at 8.15 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A draw is made and fourball games are played over 18 holes for

very modest stakes. In the summer, quite a number of matches are arranged with Seniors from other Clubs on a home and away basis, and these are most pleasant encounters. There are very few other fixtures within the Senior Section, but in the spring there is a competition where the Seniors try to play "under their age;" (from their medal score they deduct their handicap and their age), and the season is rounded off by a competition in the autumn followed by an always well attended lunch. For many years Jack Hetherington led the activities of this section and later Les Murray followed in running the organisation of this cheerful group whose standard of play would surprise many other members of the Club.

The Club also has an enthusiastic Junior Section, which elects its own Captain and small Committee. They run quite a number of internal competitions and activities as well as a number of matches with other Clubs. It is customary for one of the Club Committee, or one of the Juniors' fathers who is active in the Club, to work with the Junior Committee in making the arrangements, and it is a matter of pride that this section, has over the years, provided the Club with some of its finest golfers.

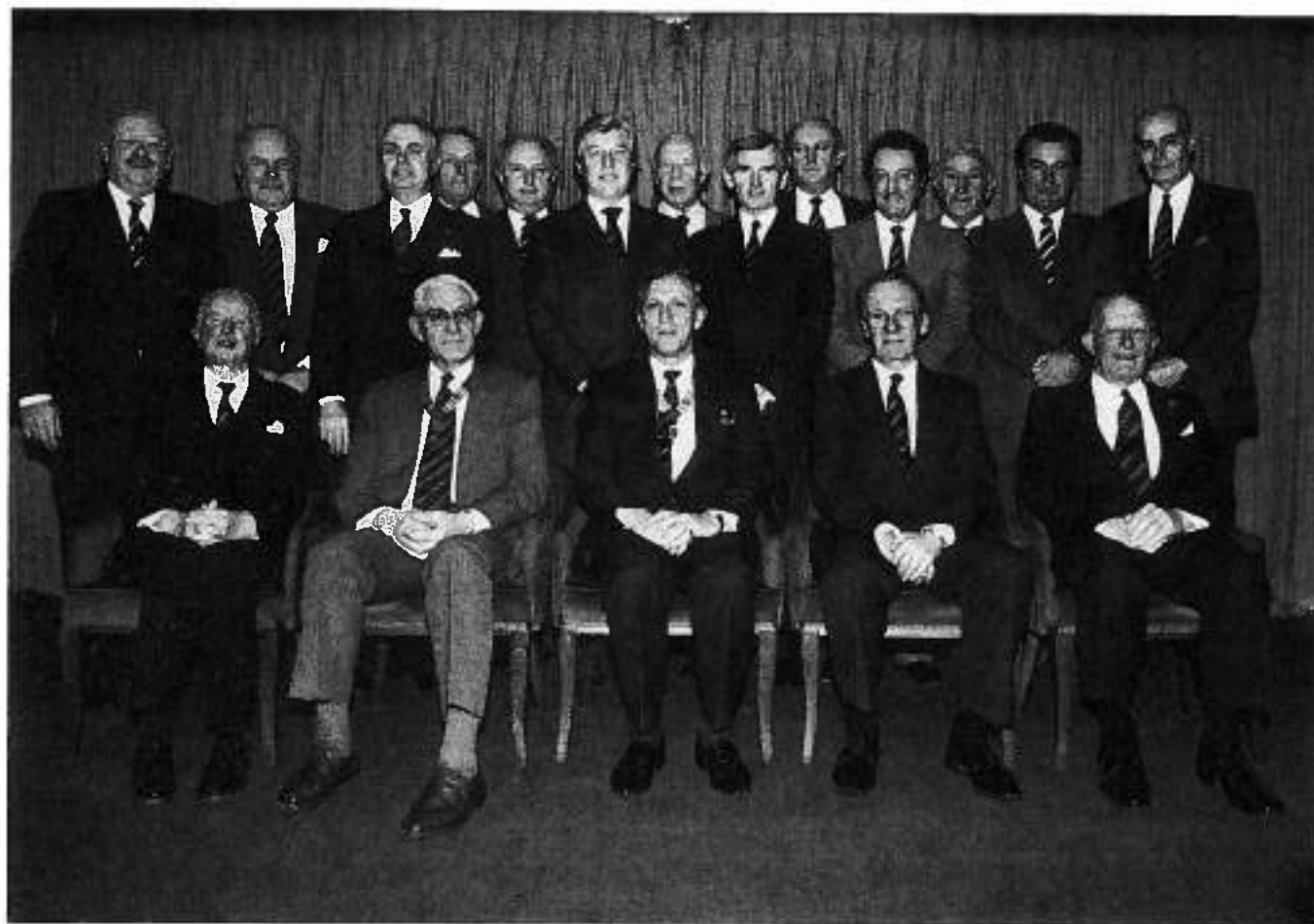
Looking back, the Club cannot help being immensely grateful to the numerous members of the staff who, often working what are now called unsocial hours, have served with great loyalty.

Soon after the fire, it was decided to have separate staff for the bar and for the catering. This arrangement has worked well and has greatly improved the facilities available in the clubhouse. At the same time, the course is generally in very good condition, with improvements frequently being made. It is not bone dry all the year round as those arranging the transfer from Raynes Park to Malden told the members at that time, but it is normally playable whatever the weather, and is a stern enough test to satisfy golfers of every class.

For over 90 years, the Secretary of the Club had been a male; it is therefore appropriate to comment on the fact that early in 1986 the Committee decided to appoint a lady to this important post. Miss Kathleen Pudner had been Assistant Secretary for a few years, so she was already known and very popular in the Club. For the next 3½ years the Club benefited from her lively personality and her cheerful efficiency. In the autumn of 1989, Kathleen left to take an appointment at another Surrey Club, and her successor, Mrs Cynthia Penhale, joined the Club from Crail, not far from St. Andrews, where that Club, referred to as the Crail Golfing Society, had recently celebrated its bicentenary. She must have felt that she had come to a very young Club.

Although there have been many setbacks and problems over the years, Malden Golf Club continues to thrive. Perhaps this is the place to express thanks to the countless Committee members who have worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Club. It is encouraging for the members to feel that, if

they have any queries or suggestions, they can at any time raise them with members of the Committee or with the Captain, the Club's Chief Executive.



The Captain and Past Captains; photograph taken in March 1990.

(Standing) G. S. Bourne (1968), J. P. Jarvis (1970), P. T. Dowds (1971), D. Fudge (1972), R. A. Lang (1974), J. Warner (1976), W. S. Scott (1979), R. C. Sheehan (1981), R. C. H. Mumford (1982), Alec M. Pringle (1984), P. A. Treasure (1985), B. S. Frost (1986), I. J. Hewitt (1987).

(Seated) D. O. Mitchelmore (1962), R. V. Wadsworth (1973) (President), M. A. Melligan (1989) (Captain), P. G. Fletcher (1988) (Vice-President) J. N. Gems (1966). (Not present) J. H. Lelliott (1977) and R. C. Rutterford (1980).

Chapter 19

1936-1990. The Artisan Section

Although it is impossible to give credit to one person for starting the game of golf, there is no doubt that every member of an Artisan Section of a Golf Club should remember with gratitude that it was J.H. Taylor, more than any other individual, who was the champion of the Artisans' cause in its early days. He never forgot that he had been an Artisan member of the Royal North Devon Golf Club at Westward Ho before turning professional. So, after winning the Open five times, he and a few other enthusiasts planned the formation of the Artisan Golfers' Association in 1921, and thereafter many clubs agreed to start an Artisan Section.

As far as Malden Golf Club is concerned, it was when, in the mid-1930's, the Urban District Council of The Maldens & Coombe became the landlords of the land on which the Malden course was laid out, that the first reference is made, in a lease dated July 1936, to the provision of facilities for a class to be known as the "Artisan Section".

An old register of members still in existence, written in the beautiful hand writing of the Club Secretary Frank Pike, shows Artisan Member No. 1 in 1936 to be Reginald Barrance of 21 Wilverley Crescent, New Malden. By the end of 1936 there were twelve Artisan members all living locally; eight more joined in 1937, eight more in 1938, four in 1939 and seven in 1940.

The Club records that now exist do not appear to mention organised activities by the Artisans during the Second War, but doubtless play by individual Artisan members continued.

By 1947, things were settling down after the war, and an Artisan Hut was built in the September of that year. This was provided by Alf Rice, a member of the Club Committee. It was also in 1947 that a limit of 40 members of the Section was made and it was emphasised that residential qualification in the area was essential.

In 1969, the members of the Artisan Section decided that the original hut be replaced by a larger structure. With the agreement of the Club, all the Artisan members paid a levy to raise funds, and a new building was erected in 1970. All the incidental work was carried out by the Artisans. The new clubhouse was opened by the President of the Artisan Section on 2nd May 1970.

John Daybell, Captain of the Club in 1947, agreed to become the first President of the Artisan Section, a position he held for nearly 30 years. On his death in 1976, Syd Hahn followed him in that office and, when he died, Roy Sheehan became President.

The Maldens & Coombe U.D.C. became a part of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames in the mid-1960's and, when a new Lease was negotiated with them, which was dated 1980, one of the provisions was that the maximum membership of the Section should be increased to 50.

In 1987, there were celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the election of the first President, and every year there is a fairly full Fixture List, which includes matches with the parent Club and recently also the Ladies' Section.

These are some highlights of the golfing achievements of the Artisan Section:—

1. In 1939, W.C. Lavender won the Artisan Championship which was played at Moor Park.
2. Another member of the Malden Artisan Section was Harry Stevens, who had won the Artisan Championship in 1923 while he was a member of the Thames Ditton & Esher Artisans. The Artisan Section at Malden still compete annually for the “Harry Stevens putter” – the hickory shafted club with which he won the championship.
3. For a number of years, Paddy Cavanagh held the amateur course record at Malden, and at that time he was playing off a handicap of 1.

It is evident that, as in other groups within the Club, there is plenty of good comradeship – and good golf – in the Artisan Section of Malden Golf Club.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the Captain, Past Captains, the Lady Captain, Past Lady Captains, and Committee of Malden Golf Club for their help in the preparation of this story, and also to Messrs Alan Hughes, Roy Sheehan, Geoff White, John Stimson, Bill Sadler and Jack Lambert who have been of great assistance in its editing, typing and printing.

The Author also thanks the British Library, Kingston Heritage Centre, Kingston Archaeological Society for permission to reproduce two maps from a paper written by the late Mr Lionel Gent, the Golfers Handbook, The Golf Clubs Association, Illustrated London News, London Scottish Golf Club, Mr J.N. Wallace for his sketches and information about Raynes Park, Mr Ray Gossage, Golf Historian, and many Club members who have provided photographs, booklets, maps, anecdotes, (even if some of them were unprintable), curiosity – and encouragement.

On The Last Green

Compiling the facts which are recorded in this little volume has been a more pleasant task than I had imagined, for it has reminded me – as I hope it will remind many who read this – of many personalities and happenings which have helped to create the Malden Golf Club as we know it.

To quote from Bernard Darwin, one of the greatest of golf writers – “The pleasures of golf are many. Charles Lamb said that he felt disposed to say grace on twenty occasions in the day beyond that of his dinner, and wanted a form for setting out on a pleasant walk or for a friendly meeting. So it is with golf. We want to return thanks for much more than the playing of it: for the friendliness of clubhouses and conviviality of golfing dinners, for the traditions of old courses, for the exploration of fresh ones.”

Long may the traditions and comradeships of Malden Golf Club continue.

Robin Gems

Appendix 1

Malden Golf Club

Presidents

1926-34	COL. SIR AUGUSTUS FITZGEORGE, KCVO,CB.
1935	LEONARD HALL
1936	W.H. MASON
1937	H.V. CULPAN
1938-40	A.E. MOORE
1941-45	E.D. DAVIES
1946-47	BERNARD ELY
1948-49	A.W. LAWSON, C.B.E.
1950-51	F.J. DAYBELL
1952-53	H.W. WADSWORTH
1954	LT. COL. D.R. SMITH, O.B.E., M.C.
1955	J.R. CLIPSHAM
1956-59	B. BOSKER
1960-62	A.C. GADSBY
1963-64	W.T. DEAR
1965-76	F.J. DAYBELL
1977	H.C.H. FAIRCHILD, O.B.E.
1978	D. McARTHUR
1979	S.H. HAHN
1980	D.O. MITCHELMORE
1981-82	J.T. HETHERINGTON
1983-84	J.N. GEMS
1985-86	J.P. JARVIS
1987-88	P.T. DOWDS
1989-90	R.V. WADSWORTH

Captains at Raynes Park, 1893–1925

1893	E. FIELD	1909	A. LIONEL WRIGHT
1894	R. BROWNE	1910	A. LIONEL WRIGHT
1895	F.E. FAITHFUL	1911	G. MIDGLEY TAYLOR
1896	F.W. BAKER	1912	G. ADDISON SCOTT
1897	C.J. BLACKBURN	1913	R.MAY
1898	E.G. RAND	1914	E.F. WELLS
1899	H. MOSSOP	1915	R.R. HAYDON
1900	C. NETTLETON	1916	H. HANDCOCK
1901	J.S. STEVENS	1917	H. HANDCOCK
1902	E.C.L. TOWNE	1918	G. MIDGLEY TAYLOR
1903	B. HEY	1919	G. MIDGLEY TAYLOR
1904	T. BROWN	1920	W.M.D. EDWARDS
1905	T.R. HUGHES, K.C.	1921	K.B. BAYLISS
1906	T. EDWARD	1922	R.W. BRADING
1907	C.H. HART	1923	T.J. SMITH
1908	H. RICHARDS	1924	C.J. BONNARD
		1925	C.J. BONNARD

Captains at Malden, 1926 Onwards

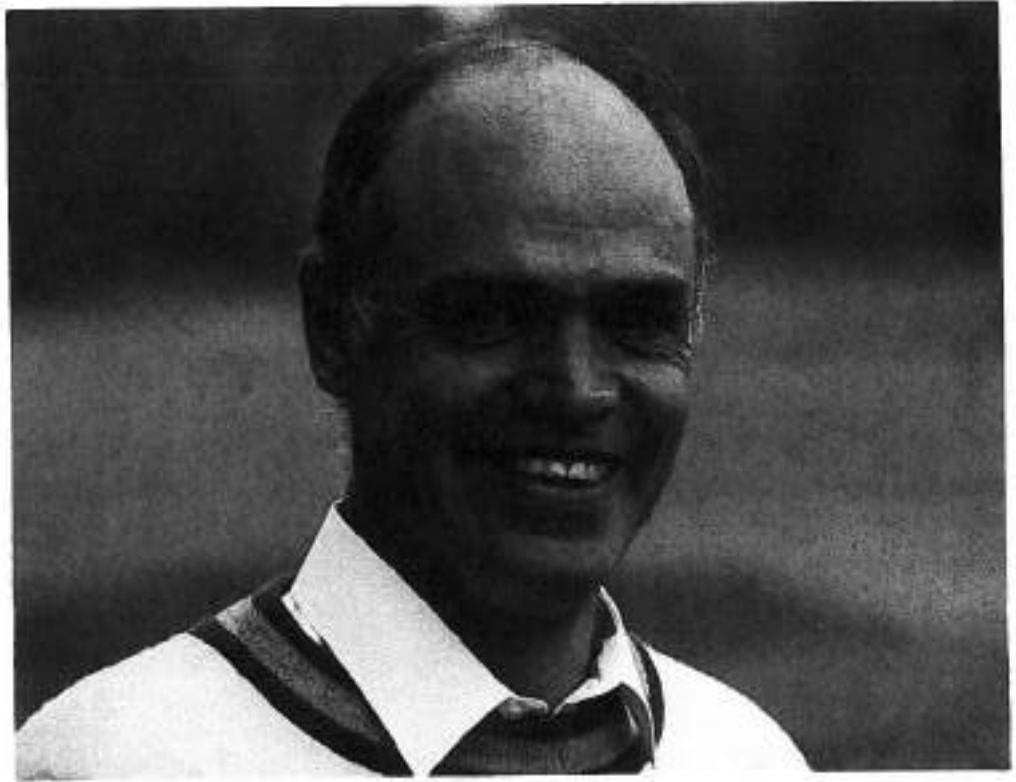
1926	C.J. BONNARD	1947	F.J. DAYBELL
1927	G. ADDISON SCOTT	1948	H.W. WADSWORTH
1928	G.E. BALDRY	1949	LT. COL. D.R. SMITH O.B.E., M.C.
1929	B.W. MURRELL		
1930	BERNARD ELY	1950	J.R. CLIPSHAM
1931	E. POWELL	1951	W.T. DEAR
1932	C.D. BROCK	1952	C.L. SLADDEN, OBE
1933	H.V. CULPAN	1953	F. AYLING
1934	H.V. CULPAN	1954	H.C.H. FAIRCHILD, OBE
1935	H.V. CULPAN		
1936	LEONARD HALL	1955	A.C. GADSBY
1937	B. BOSKER	1956	K.C. BORROW
1938	E.D. DAVIES	1957	C.W. JONES
1939	R.D. GODLEY	1958	D. McARTHUR
1940	W.J. HUGGETT	1959	S.H. HAHN
1941	A. WINTERBOTTOM	1960	A.V. FISH
1942	H.V. CULPAN	1961	P. LEADBEATER
1943	H.V. CULPAN	1962	D.O. MITCHELMORE
1944	H.V. CULPAN	1963	M. BROWN
1945	H.V. CULPAN	1964	J.T. HETHERINGTON
1946	A.W. LAWSON, CBE	1965	J.R.H. BROWN

1966	J.N. GEMS	1978	R.M. HARVEY
1967	B.C. SKINNER	1979	W.S. SCOTT
1968	G.S. BOURNE	1980	R.C. RUITERFORD
1969	A.E. RICE	1981	R.C. SHEEHAN
1970	J.P. JARVIS	1982	R.C.H. MUMFORD
1971	P.T. DOWDS	1983	D.E. ASHFORTH
1972	D. FUDGE	1984	ALEC M. PRINGLE
1973	R.V. WADSWORTH	1985	P.A. TREASURE
1974	R.A. LANG	1986	B.S. FROST
1975	A.T.J. DIBOLL, MBE	1987	L.J. HEWITT
1976	J. WARNER	1988	P.G. FLETCHER
1977	J.H. LELLIOTT	1989	M.A. MELLIGAN
		1990	P.H.A. PEARSON

Lady Captains at Malden

1926-27	Mrs ADDISON SCOTT	1962	Mrs J.N. GEMS
1928	Mrs KELLIE	1963	Mrs W.H. JOSLIN
1929	Mrs READING	1964	Mrs R. STANGER
1930	Mrs BAMBER	1965	Mrs F.J. DAYBELL
1931	Mrs COLMAN	1966	Mrs A.G. HUNNEYBALL
1932	Mrs ADDISON SCOTT	1967	Mrs W.R.J. MANN
1933	Mrs WOODING	1968	Mrs A.J. WATTERS
1934	Mrs HOLBROOK	1969	Mrs O. COLLINS
1935	Mrs ABBOTT	1970	Mrs D.G. FRANCIS
1936	Mrs HUGGETT	1971	Miss M.F. CLAYTON
1937-38	Mrs GASCOIGNE	1972	Mrs L.E. TURNER
1939-41	Mrs FULLER	1973	Miss M.C. POPE
1942-46	Mrs GASCOIGNE	1974	Mrs D.I. SIMMONS
1947	Mrs BELL	1975	Mrs P. FINCH
1948	Miss M. WINIARBOTTOM	1976	Miss J.M.E HARGREAVES
1949	Mrs D.R.S. QUIN	1977	Mrs S.J. MAYNES
1950	Mrs K.B. HUMPHREY	1978	Mrs F.A.M. PEARSON
1951	Mrs P. LEADBEATER	1979	Mrs D.M. CARTHEW-WILLIAMS
1952	Mrs S.C. WELLS	1980	Miss D.U. HODSON
1953	Mrs A.V. FISH	1981	Mrs B. LANSLEY
1954	Mrs K.F. HARDY	1982	Mrs P. CHEVALIER
1955	Mrs J.R. CLIPSHAM	1983	Mrs M.S.L. CROSS
1956	Mrs K.C. BORROW	1984	Mrs B. MAYELL
1957	Mrs D.S. SAMUEL	1985	Miss M.P. DOYLE
1958	Mrs S.C. WELLS	1986	Mrs J.A. GEORGIADIS
1959	Mrs S.H. HAHN	1987	Miss F.L. MASON
1960	Mrs F.C. TAPP	1988	Mrs P.G. FLEICHER
1961	Mrs J.R.H. BROWN	1989	Miss J.S. CLEMENTS
		1990	Mrs L. CURRAN

CAPTAIN 1990



P. H. A. Pearson

LADY CAPTAIN 1990



Mrs L. Curran

Appendix 2

Men's Trophies at Malden Golf Club

BROCK CUP

This lovely cup was presented in memory of Wing Cdr. Frank A. Brock, R.N.A.S, O.B.E., who was killed in action at Zeebrugge in 1918. A number of his closest friends in the Club subscribed for the purchase of the cup, and the engraving of the action with H.M.S. Vindictive alongside the mole at Zeebrugge. The plinth of the cup is reputed to be made from wood taken from the Vindictive. It was first played for in 1919.

FITZGEORGE CUP

Presented in 1926 by Col. Sir Augustus Fitz-George, K.C.V.O., C.B., the first President at Malden. He was President from 1926 until 1934.

HANDICAP GOLD MEDAL First played for in 1926.

SCRATCH GOLD MEDAL First played for in 1926.

HAR MYD CUP

First played for in 1926 between teams from Malden and Molesey Hurst Golf Clubs. When the latter closed, Surbiton G.C. took their place. Presented by A. N. Harper and Col. Myddleton of Malden, to thank Molesey Hurst for allowing members from Malden to play there in early 1926, when the Malden course was not ready for play.

MIDGLEY TAYLOR CUP

G. Midgley Taylor was Captain in 1911, 1918 and 1919. He died in 1927, in which year the members subscribed for a cup in his memory.

TYROS CUP VETERANS' CUP

First played for in 1928.

Presented in 1929 by Wharton H. Mason.

T.J. SMITH CUP

T.J. Smith was Captain in 1923 and so was one of those who planned the move from Raynes Park to Malden. He presented this cup in 1929.

LEONARD HALL CUP	Leonard Hall was President in 1935 and Captain in 1936. He presented a Victorian silver trophy in 1929, which was replaced by a cup in 1966.
ANGLESEY CUP	Presented by J. W. Evans, a Welshman who came from Anglesey. The cup was first played for in 1931.
FOUR BALL MATCH PLAY CUP	First played for in 1931.
PUTTING CUP	Presented in 1932 by Mr Wrinch, who had been Captain at Morden Park G.C. in the year when it was closed, to thank Malden for giving a welcome to their members who joined Malden G.C.
MIXED FOURSOMES CUP	One cup was presented by the Club in 1926, and another was given by Robin and Olive Gems in 1972.
MALDEN CUP	Presented by Bertram Bosker in 1937, the year he was Captain. He was President in 1956/59.
VICTORY CUP	Presented by G. Otto Rowe in 1945 to commemorate the 1939/45 War.
BERNARD ELY CUP	Bernard Fly was Captain in 1930 and President in 1946 and 1947. In 1947 he died, and John Daybell who was Captain that year gave this gold-plated cup in his memory; for many years Daybell and later his widow sponsored this cup.
RAYNES PARK CUP	Presented in 1954 to encourage members to enter for Monthly Medals. Won by points scored in Medal Rounds played during the year.
JOHN CLIPSHAM CUP	John Clipsham was Captain in 1950, President in 1955 and died in 1960. Cups presented in his memory by Vernon Fish. Handles on cups are supposed to remind members of Clipsham's unusual putting style. (See caricatures of members drawn in 1948).

JOHN DAYBELL CUP	Captain in 1947, President in 1950/51 and in 1965/76. Cup was presented in 1977 by the members of the Committee in that year.
SCRATCH SALVER	Presented by Martin Harvey; competition first played in 1974. Scratch Plate subsequently presented by Christopher Gems.
THE RAYNES PARK MEDAL	This old medal was given to the Club by Mr Ray Gossage of West Byfleet Golf Club early in 1989. It is for annual competition in the spring by the Captain and Past Captains of our Club.
THE PAST CAPTAINS' SHIELD	This was presented in 1989 by Barry Frost for annual competition in the autumn by the Captain and Past Captains of our Club.

Ladies' Trophies at Malden Golf Club

Date Presented

1912	CHALLENGE BOWL	Presented by the Raynes Park Gentlemen's Club to the Ladies' Club; qualifying round and match play.
1926	RAYNES PARK FOURSOMES CUPS	Match play during the Summer.
1933	THE 1933 TROPHY	Presented by Ladies' Section for match play by ladies with higher Bronze Division handicaps.
1930	BERNARD ELY CHALLENGE CUP	Presented by Mr Bernard Ely when he was Captain: match play.
1936	HOLBROOK SCRATCH CUP	Presented by Mrs Holbrook: match play.
	HOLBROOK PLATE	Presented by Mrs A.E. Gems, commenced 1987.
1938	SAYER CHALLENGE BOWL	Presented by Mr A.J. Sayer; two medal rounds on consecutive days, autumn.
1948	WINTERBOTTOM CUP	Presented by Mrs E. Winterbottom; aggregate medal score at spring and autumn meetings.

1952	JOHN DAYBELL CUP	Presented by Mrs John Daybell; two medal rounds on consecutive days, spring.
1956	HOLE-IN-ONE CUP	Presented by Mr and Mrs J.R.H. Brown for annual competition between members who have holed in one on any full-length course.
1956	CAPTAIN v SECRETARY CUP	For team match spring and autumn. Presented by Mrs S Wilson.
1959	VETERANS' CUP	Presented by Mrs J.R.H. Brown.
1962	LADY CAPTAINS' ROSE BOWL	Presented by Mr and Mrs J.N. Gems; annual competition for Lady Captain and Past Lady Captains.
1964	DAYBELL WINTER FOURSOMES CUP	Presented by Mr John Daybell; match play.
1966	O'LOGHLEN CUP	Presented by Mrs Paddy O'Loughlen; for Business Ladies' match play.
1971	GRANNIES' CUP	Presented by Mrs J.R. Young.
1978	MEDAL WINNERS' TROPHY	Presented by Mrs Joan Pearson in year she was Lady Captain; for annual competition for Silver and Bronze Division monthly medal winners.

Appendix 3

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

SURREY AMATEUR CHAMPION

G.E. Lashford 1983.

MIDDLESEX LADIES CHAMPION

Mrs A.E. Gems – on eight occasions.

OFFICES HELD IN CAPTAINS' SOCIETIES

SOCIETY OF LONDON GOLF CAPTAINS

F.J. Daybell Captain 1966, President 1976.

R.A.Lang Captain 1985.

SOCIETY OF SURREY GOLF CAPTAINS

J.N.Gems Captain 1984, President 1988.

SOCIETY OF LONDON LADY GOLF CAPTAINS

Mrs E.M. Samuel	Captain 1958, 1959 and 1968, President 1960/67.
-----------------	--

Mrs E.L. Borrow	Captain 1961, President 1968/70.
-----------------	----------------------------------

Mrs D. Carthew-Williams	Captain 1972, President 1986/89.
-------------------------	-------------------------------------

Mrs E.C. Brown	Captain 1976.
----------------	---------------

Mrs P. Finch	Captain 1984.
--------------	---------------

SOCIETY OF SURREY LADY GOLF CAPTAINS

Mrs E.C. Brown Captain 1979.

COURSE RECORDS

Professional: A. Waters 67 as at 1.1.90.

Amateur: G.E. Lashford 65 as at 1.1.90.

Ladies: Mrs A.E.Gems 71 as at 1.1.90.

In 1974, Ann Gems, who was then Miss A. E. Daniel, played for England in the Girls Home Internationals.