

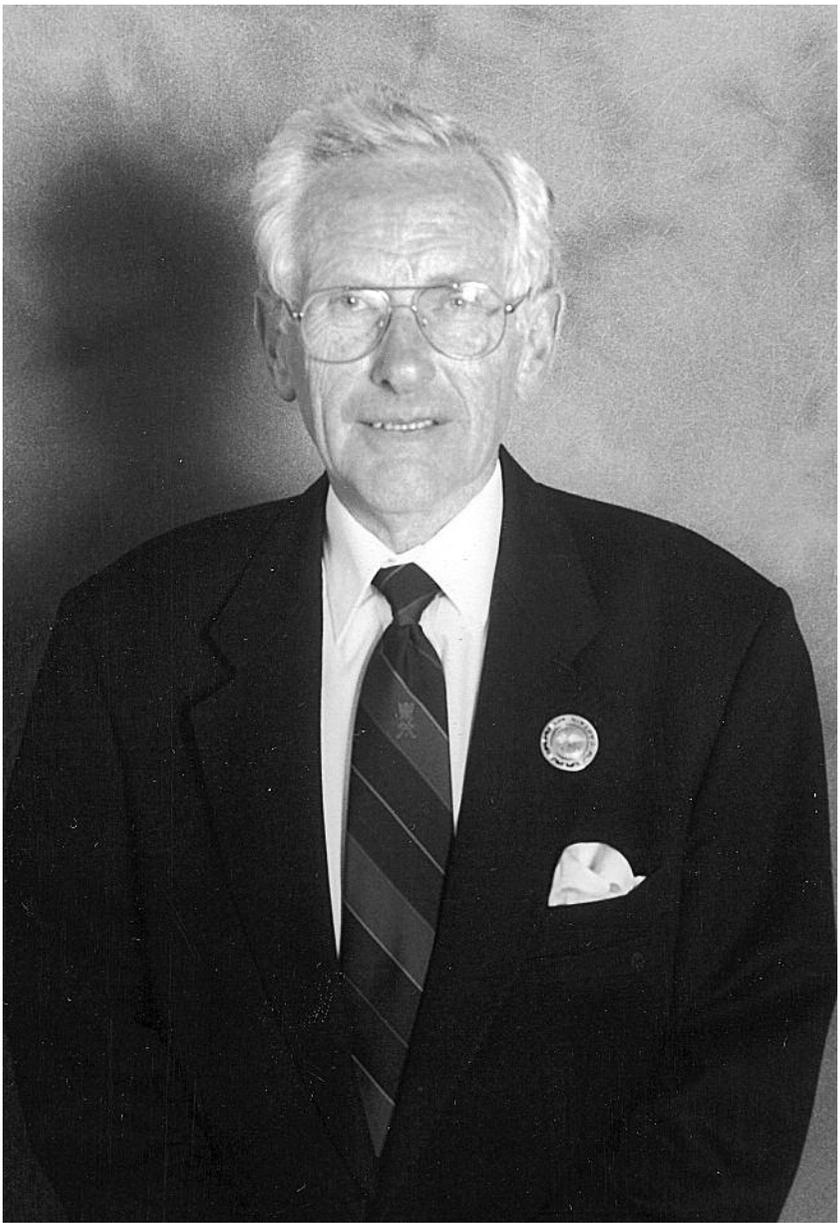
# LANARK GOLF CLUB



FIFTY YEARS ON

1951 to 2001

To mark the Club's 150th  
Anniversary of its Constitution  
on 4th October 1851



T. Henry Shanks  
Captain of Lanark Golf Club 2001

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The source book for all researches into our Club history has to be the excellent Centenary Booklet prepared by Mr A. D. Robertson in 1951. The quality of his authorship and academic knowledge has to be acknowledged along with the fact that some of the material in this booklet has been borrowed from that source. The detailed and painstaking researches of the present Vice President Jimmy Steele into the Minute Books and his valuable and interesting synopsis have been another rich source. Written contributions have also been made by my editorial team of Past Captains George Thomson, John Watt and Brian Orr. Reminiscences by President Eddie Foulis and the late John Glaister and from many other Club members and officials have hopefully added considerably to the interest of the material used. The support of the 150th Anniversary Committee under the Chairmanship of Past Captain John Pearson and our present Club Secretary George Cuthill has also been invaluable. Many other Past Captains and other members including Miss Marion Bryce daughter of the late John Bryce, along with others who have also contributed material and photographs. They are so numerous that space does not allow them all to be named individually. Their valuable contributions are nevertheless very warmly acknowledged. I would also be failing in my obligations if I did not acknowledge the very valuable assistance of my proof readers and the computer expertise of Past Captain Bill Toy.

T.H.S.

## PREFACE

As mentioned in the Acknowledgments this booklet has been prepared as a modest successor to the excellent Centenary booklet written by the late Past Captain A. D. Robertson. The Centenary booklet should be compulsory reading for all members and friends of Lanark Golf Club as it gives a great insight into the Club's early years and traditions. If you do not already possess a copy you should borrow one.

The present publication can only be a light skim through the pages of the Club's recent history over the past fifty years with only a very occasional glance backwards to much earlier times.

Because of the publication date the Centenary Year itself could not be adequately covered in the earlier booklet and it is only fair that the year 1951 should occupy a prime position in this publication with the hope that the authors of any future bi-centenary booklet will see fit to include a prominent section to cover this year 2001.

By its very nature and because of restrictions of space this publication cannot be comprehensive in all aspects of Club life over the past half century. Unfortunately there have to be omissions but it is to be hoped that this is an adequate overview and gives sufficient flavour of the past fifty years of Club life at Lanark Golf Club.

Who knows, it may trigger the memories of our more senior members who, like the author, have had the privilege of Club membership over the past fifty years? They can no doubt fill any glaring omissions with their own personal memories when reminiscing at the Nineteenth.

Even if our more junior members may not always be enthralled by the reflections of our senior members clearly all Club members young and old alike share the same pride at being members of a Club with such a distinguished history.

## THE CENTENARY YEAR

The calendar year 1951 began with the “end of term” 1949 Captain Ian Paterson, the County Clerk, driving off upon New Years Day as was then and still is traditional before the start of the Orchard Shield Competition. In that year the Annual Supper and Presentation of Prizes was held upon 24th February in the Clydesdale Hotel because of lack of space in the Clubhouse accommodation at that time. The Centenary Dinner was to follow as a formal event later in the year. The Toast to Lanark Golf Club at the Supper was proposed by an old friend of the Club - Willie Cunningham of Bathgate. It was not until 1977 that the Supper moved into the Clubhouse diningroom although the accommodation had been extended fifteen years earlier. This meant of course that the Centenary Captain John S. Bryce did not have the opportunity to chair the annual prize giving and this honour fell to the Captain for that period Smith Cameron who was a local Banker and Honorary Sheriff.

When John Bryce was elected Captain at the AGM on 21st April 1951 the Captain played into office for the first time as it was a new century but the custom has been repeated annually ever since. Until that year Lanark Golf Club had been content to ask its Captains to drive off upon New Years Day quite often into a snowdrift upon the hill at the first hole. Uniquely after the 1951 AGM there was another surprise innovation as Mrs Gibson had baked and presented a large cake (with 100 candles! which the Centenary Captain appears to have managed to blow out).

A variety of golfing events followed throughout the year including the West of Scotland PGA Championship won by Hamish Ballingall. One of the competitors was Walter Lyle uncle of the now famous Sandy Lyle.

The major golfing attraction was however the Exhibition Match between John Panton who was at the height of his tournament career and “local boy” Johnny Fallon both Ryder Cup players and both noted for their outstanding golf and gentlemanly conduct upon

the world's golf courses. This took place on 14th July: the format was a 36 hole contest and as this was held upon leased Burgh Common Good land it was felt that an admission charge could not be levied and instead copies of the Centenary booklet were sold at 2/6 each. Obviously the Royal and Ancient Golf Club does not have these constraints when the Open is held at St. Andrews despite the fact that the Old Course lies upon what must have been ancient Burgh Links. The fee earned by those famous golfers in 1951 was £25 each appearance money.

One of the main events of the year was undoubtedly the Centenary Dinner held in the Grand Central Hotel (as it was then) in Glasgow. Tickets were in great demand at one guinea each (i.e.£1.05p) including return rail fare of 2/6 (12p). As was not uncommon in these days a train was chartered by the Club and great discussions took place as to whether it should stop at Bellshill or not to pick up the "doon through" members. Trains were often chartered by groups in those days and it was not unusual for even Sunday School trips to go on special chartered trains from Lanark to Ayr with streamers flying from the windows. The Golf Club did not apparently have streamers but there were plenty of "high jinks" upon the return journey. There was a tale of filled trophies being passed down the various compartments. Some of these trophies bear the scars to this day. One merry group was reported to have "decanted" on to the open tracks when the train stopped short of Lanark station platform. More than their dignity was injured.

The Dinner itself was a very formal and dignified affair as befitted a Club of this history which can be seen from the accompanying photographs of the top table and distinguished guests which included the Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, the Provost of the Royal Burgh and others. Invitations were sent out to the R&A, Prestwick and Prestwick St. Nicholas Clubs. Unfortunately St. Nicholas was holding its own Dinner upon the same evening so could not attend.

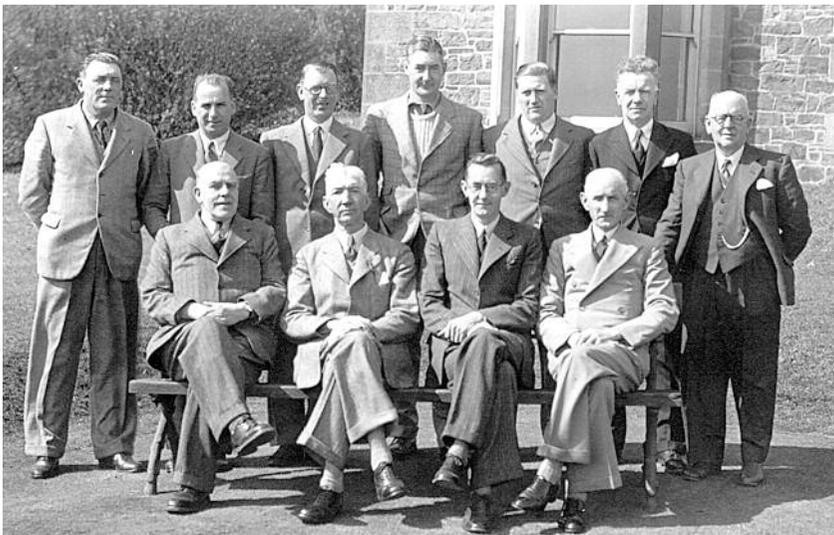
As evidence that the members at that time were not male chauvinists, a joint Supper Social Evening and Dance was held in the Bonnington Hotel on 7th December attended by 140 gentlemen

and ladies. The Toast to the Ladies was proposed by Past Captain A. D. Robertson who had notably strong views on lady golfers. The reply was by the then Lady Captain Mrs Margaret Wilson. There were solos by John Smith, Rector of Lanark Primary School and Miss Grace Harvey with music supplied by the redoubtable banjoists Willie Paton and Fred Butler. Readings were of course by the notable Past Captain John Murphy whose renderings of Cocker poetry in broad Scots were famous throughout the West of Scotland. After some community singing which was all the rage in these post War days there was a Vote of Thanks proposed by the rather formidable Ladies Secretary Miss “Minnie” Hyslop followed by a Dance. The format of social evenings has somewhat changed over the past five decades!

A Centenary foursomes Competition was also held during the year. Earlier in the year Dr Gow Brown had presented a new flag to the Club and the following photograph shows the flag being raised. Unfortunately it has long gone in the strong winds over Lanark Moor and there has been several replacements since then including a new flag in 1963 by a well respected Past Captain Mr James K. Hume and currently one presented by the Past Captains Association. At the end of his term of office Captain John S. Bryce presented a new Captains Board which still hangs in the Smokeroom. It is interesting to note that for the first time the Club Council agreed that the Centenary Captain be given precedence upon the first tee.



*Raising of Centenary Flag*



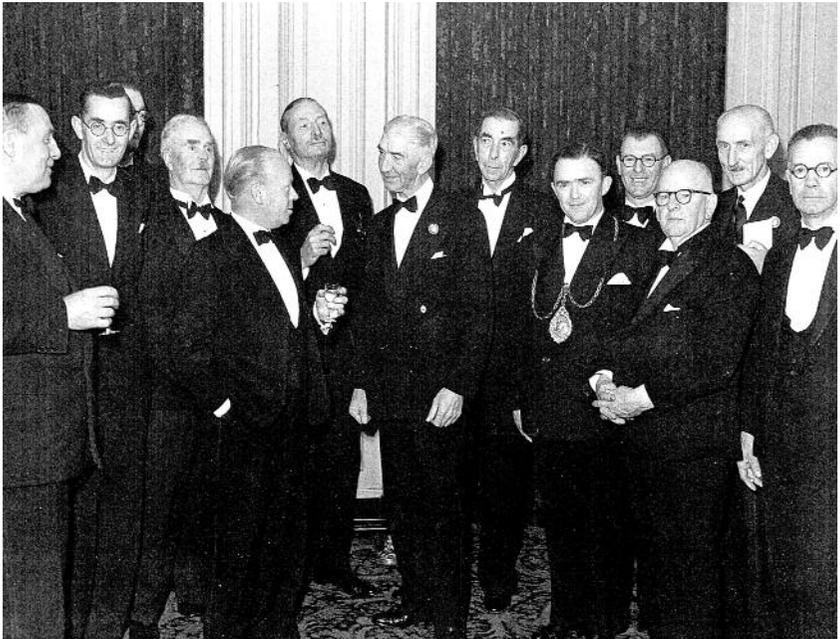
*Centenary Council*



*Exhibition Match*



*Centenary Dinner - Guests and Speakers*



## CLUB CAPTAINS AND OFFICIALS

In 1951 the main Club Officers other than the Match Secretary were the Secretary and Treasurer, the holders being the respected figures of Dick Walker and Bob Speirs. These were considered honorary appointments and the honoraria paid at that time were in no way commensurate with their duties but they were greatly respected by their fellow members and were elected honorary members upon their retirement in 1968. Dick Walker was a particularly noted figure in his plus fours and small bag of clubs. His first set was purchased from Murrays the Saddlers in Lanark High Street for 27/6 (£1.36p). His putter still exists. He was a Lancastrian by birth coming to New Lanark Mills as a dyer but proud of being an adopted Lanarkian. He was a kindly yet formidable Secretary welcoming visitors very warmly and reprimanding any Juniors who stepped out of line. He was also able to debate the rules with any of the strong clubroom personalities of that era. His handwriting was copperplate. In 1963 he was further distinguished by being elected President of the Lanarkshire Association. Bob Speirs on the other hand was a more douce character as befitted an accountant of the time. However he was equally respected for his crisp and measured presentation of the Club's Annual Accounts at the Club's AGM. When Hugh M. McBryde MBE, a retired banker took over in 1968 it was to the combined post of Secretary/Treasurer. As a former RAF Squadron Leader he brought his officer qualities to these positions and his was a fairly strict regime. He was fond of an occasional dram and introduced the Famous Grouse to the Club bar where the Black Bottle brand had normally held precedence being the favourite tippie of the club greenkeeper Gary Gibson and Guy Murphy. Hugh retired to Suffolk in 1976 to be beside his son and the post was then filled by Jimmy Noble who had been a longstanding member since 1938 and the former Managing Director of a fireclay works near Wishaw. His son Lyle was to become a Club Captain in 1974. It was a very busy time when further extensions to the Clubhouse took place but unfortunately Jimmy died in January 1979 before these were fully completed. He was a very modest person and rarely complained except about his lack of ability in putting. His death created a hiatus and emergency

situation just before the completion of annual accounts for the AGM but fortunately the Chartered Accountancy firm of Past Captain George Thomson was able to step in at very short notice and it became evident at the next AGM that it was necessary to make an appointment upon an almost full time basis. In May 1980 Willie Law was appointed to the new post of Club Manager which combined the duties of Secretary and Treasurer in a single full time position. He was a recent Past Captain and a former Manager of Clifford Sawmills. These sawmills bordered the golf course and had replaced the shale bing of the former “paraffin works” which over the decades had become a distinctive blot upon the landscape. Today the area is partly occupied by handsome modern villas, in one of which Willie and his wife lived until the tragic death of Bett Law this year. In the tradition of previous office holders Willie brought a strong personality to the office and had an excellent grounding in Club business having been so recently the Club Captain. Upon his retiral from the post he has remained an active and sociable member of the club along with his wife Bett who for many years assisted the Match Secretary in recording the weekly medal scores and tending the clubhouse “garden”. The appointment of George Cuthill in 1990 reflected the necessity of an experienced financial manager at the helm of the Club’s executive functions. He had experience in the insurance and finance industries but had still to adapt to the Club system. However by his quiet dedication and application to the post he has created a very efficient administration yet maintaining the historic spirit so intrinsic to Lanark Golf Club. Over the years the Club has been very fortunate in having the volunteer services of members acting as Match Secretary and mention has to be made of Andrew Lightbody (covered in a separate chapter), Jimmy Steele (current Vice President) and the recently retired Arthur (Algie) Frame who has held the post for the past thirteen years.

In the office of Captain there are of course fifty one names appearing upon the Second Century Board in the smokeroom beginning in 1951 with the name of John. S. Bryce and in 2001 the name of T. Henry Shanks both having been invited to serve a second term of office. In the previous century there are several examples of a second term but these reappointments are unique in recent

times. The office of Captain of the Club has always been filled by enthusiastic members of the Club and in the past half century promotion has always been in the main via the office of Vice Captain who is usually elected and nominated by the current members of the Club Council. Invariably this is not contested and the members at the Annual General Meeting approve the appointment by acclamation.

Over recent decades the holder of this office has the duty of chairing the Council meetings and formal dinners. He is also invited to neighbouring club functions. The duties can be onerous but they are diligently carried out. The Captain also by tradition has to provide a Captains Party immediately after the AGM and after playing into office by driving off the first tee. Later in the year he presents the Captains Prize. His wife is given the honour of handing over the Newlands Trophy at the eighteenth green presentation ceremony. The Captain's badge has a rather unusual history as has that of the Vice Captain. It appears to be a brass Club badge set in a silver surround. The date shown is 1852 and there are initials L.G.C. but no Club name. Tradition has it that the buttons were surplus to an order for Leith Golf Club! but this may be apocryphal. In any event thanks to the generosity of the present incumbents of the office of President and Vice President it is intended to replace them this year.

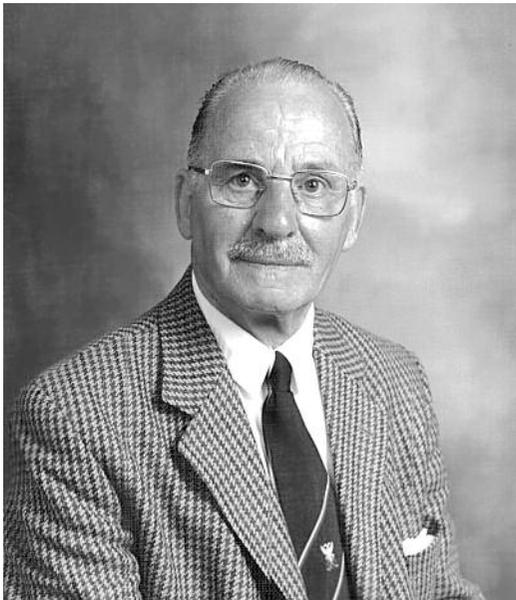
Unusually in modern times the offices of Captain and Lady Captain have occasionally been held concurrently by husband and wife with Mr & Mrs John Glaister, Mr & Mrs Willie Law and currently by Mr & Mrs Henry Shanks.

It would be invidious to single out any particular Captain for special mention but it has to be acknowledged that John Bryce had a very strong hand on the Club helm at the beginning of the new Century. Mention has also to be made of the Captaincies of John Glen, Peter Harrower, Frank Yates and Bill Toy when the Club successfully negotiated the purchase of the golf course from Clydesdale District Council.

As expected many Captains have filled that office with great distinction over the years and to look at the Second Century board is to revive memories of historic battles at General Meetings, of



*Dick Walker*



*Andrew Lightbody*

## CLUB PRESIDENTS

The office of Honorary President is almost as old as the Club itself and it is recorded that Lord Home being the best known local peer in 1890 was invited to become Club President and he held this office until 1918. At the same time Sir Wyndham Anstruther became Vice President which office he held until 1898. During the period 1918 to 1929 another local aristocrat Baron Newlands of Newlands was invited to hold the Presidency. He was followed by Mr James Annan who was a local lawyer and Town Clerk. He retired from the Presidency in 1938. The office was held vacant during the Second World War and in 1946 to 1962 John Nicol became President with John S. Bryce acting as Vice President for ten years from 1952. Mr John Nicol travelled extensively upon business and had been a most active office-bearer in the former "Junior" Golf Club and previously Treasurer for 25 years. In 1963 the office passed to Mr Bryce for the next 20 years with Mr James K. Hume Vice President for one year in 1963 and Mr Andrew Lightbody holding the Vice Presidency until 1983. Andrew was also a well kent and lively Club member in the Clubhouse and upon the course. He was also a most doughty match player and a very good scratch golfer. For many years he was the full time Match Secretary but still managed to hold the local record of having played 348 rounds of golf in one year. He held the Presidency until his death in 1987. He was an outstanding character and being in the jewellery trade he filled copious diaries each year in microscopic writing recording meticulously the events of each day on and off the course including the local weather and his golf scores. What he could have done with a personal computer? At the age of eighty he equalled his age in his own tournament returning a net score of 70. The year 1988 saw Willie Bell as Club President following his Vice Presidency with that office passing to John Glaister who became Club President during the years from 1989 to his death in 2000. John Glaister had been a member for over fifty years and the Club marked this by presenting him with a Silver Goblet. The current

incumbent is Eddie Foulis who had been Vice President to John Glaister. He like the late Andrew Lightbody is a most enthusiastic club golfer and for many years boasted a full set of wooden clubs when only three were fashionable (and when they were actually wooden headed!). Like many of his predecessors in the office he is an octogenarian and is a very identifiable figure about the club sporting plusfours and a bow tie - and always a jovial smile. His Vice President is Jimmy Steele who is the current Senior Past Captain and a very knowledgeable club historian and researcher. He also had been a very efficient Match Secretary for many years. His researches within the Club Minutes have furnished a good proportion of the information in this booklet.

Although over the decades the offices of Club President and Vice President have been filled by gentlemen from a variety of social backgrounds they have all shared an enthusiastic interest in the Club and all have been golfers and men of great character and integrity.



*Golf in the Fifties*

## OUR COURSE - FROM SPORTING TENANTS TO OWNERS

It is difficult to trace when the first lease of the course by the Town Council was made to the Club. Over the years earlier informal and formal leases had been granted to the Club and to the previous Limited Company. Lanark golfers probably informally “leased” Lanark Moor for their few holes which made up their little golf course even before the Club’s constitution in 1851. When the Club was granted a formal lease it was given the right to play golf as well as the grazing rights upon the Moor which it usually sublet until after the Second World War. This meant that many of the greens had to be surrounded by fences but unfortunately as these did not include the bunkers a “splash ” shot took on a new meaning as sheep droppings presented a much more significant hazard than the rabbit droppings which are a present problem. By no stretch of the imagination could golfers at that time deem them as a scrape of a burrowing animal! In 1953 the Club was trying to have the sheep removed but it meant giving up £85 income in grazing rents. The first time that the Club was actually able to purchase any ground at Lanark Moor was at a public auction on 19th February 1895 held by Lanark Town Council. The Club Secretary James Vassie of Ridgepark, being the only offer managed to acquire a piece of ground for one shilling. Obviously relations were good at the time between Club and Town Council. The area then formed part of the site of the Clubhouse roughly 41ft x 24ft along with what is now the 18th green and the “Cabbages” (used as an actual vegetable plot at that time). It had originally formed part of the total leased area of the Golf Course.

The Clubhouse had been designed at that time by Mr P. E. Murray Architect. The Plan is still available and it formed basically the greenside along with part of the present smokeroom including a toilet attached. It also incorporated lockers with a dressing area as well as a “private refreshment area”. At another “public” auction held by the Town Council on 27th March 1924 the Club Captain Andrew Wilson Paterson again offered a nominal one shilling and was able to acquire another piece of ground on the southwest side of the clubhouse which took in the rest of the extended clubhouse

and the then Professional's workshop which became a beer store. Beside that was Loch Cottage where the Greenkeeper, his wife the Club Steward and their family lived but was leased from the Town Council and could not be purchased at that time. However in 1983 more ground was bought from Clydesdale Council for £375 but with similar conditions to those in the previous lease. Finally in 1995 after lengthy involvement by the Club Captains of that period and negotiations between Club officials and lawyers and the officials of Clydesdale District Council the Golf Club managed to purchase the whole of the existing golf course area for £350,000. Because of the great interest naturally a Special General Meeting of the Club was called and held due to the large attendance uniquely in Lanark Memorial Hall in 1994 under the Chairmanship of Captain Frank Yates and the purchase of the Golf Course was unanimously authorised after a brief and well conducted meeting. Most of the finance was funded from membership income with small loans from the R&A Golf Company and a bridging loan from the Bank. So finally in that year Lanark Golf Club became owners of Lanark Golf Course having maintained it and played over that part of Lanark Moor for more than 145 years.

*Handing over of the  
Title Deeds by Provost  
Eileen Logan to  
Captain Bill Toy*



The quality of Lanark Golf Course has never been in doubt and it was described at a public Planning hearing by Sandy Sinclair who was Captain of the Walker Cup team and former President of the Scottish Golf Union and of the European Golf Association as “the finest moorland golf course in the world and totally unique.” The

esteem in which it is held is apparent from the fact that it has been chosen by the R&A Golf Club upon no less than eleven occasions over the period 1977 to 1984 and 1993 to 1995 to host the Regional pre-qualifying competition for the Open Championship. The course has naturally a sound foundation since its modern eighteen hole layout was designed by George Sayers in 1897 in collaboration with Tom Morris Senior of Prestwick then Ben Sayers and later upgraded in 1927 to a design by James Braid employing his famous architect Stutt.

The Club was so pleased with the work especially at the thirteenth and fourteenth holes that the Club Secretary wrote to Stutt "It was acknowledged that each particular hole had its own distinctive features, that the most had been made of the available terrain so that each green, well framed and built up, blended naturally with the surrounding ground and thus avoided any semblance of artificiality." Fortunately but for some minor tinkering with the course over the years the Club members of today can echo these sentiments although probably not using exactly the same language. The main change since 1951 was the lengthening of the Ninth hole from a very short par 4 (in those days) with the green just over the top of the hill to its present most attractive location - I am sure James Braid would have approved! This quality has also been maintained through the expertise of the Head Greenkeepers over the years which continues today under the keen eye of Jim Lyon. Lanark Golf Course has never been a golf course upon which it is easy to achieve a low score. The amateur course record of 64 was held by Past Captain Vincent McInally from 19th June 1982 until June 23rd 2001 when David McMillan returned a score of 63. The Professional record by Craig Maltman of 62 in 1992 still holds which clearly show that these are difficult records to equal even in these days of "hot" balls and improved equipment.

In July 2001 the Club team won the 1st Division Championship beating some formidable Clubs including Drumpellier, Wishaw, Bellshill and East Kilbride.



*From rubbish dump to Fourteenth Green*



*The Fourteenth Green Today*

Competition REG. QUAL. 'OPEN' Player CRAIG MALTMAN  
 Date 6TH JULY 1992 Computer Number \_\_\_\_\_ SSS 71

HOLE	Strokes	Yards	Par	+1 -1	Score	HOLE	Strokes	Yards	Par	+1 -1	Score
1 Loch . . . .	13	360	4	4		10 Tintock Tap	17	152	3	4	
2 Dodger . . .	3	467	4	3		11 Butts . . . .	4	397	4	3	
3 Newlands . .	9	409	4	4		12 Valley . . . .	12	362	4	3	
4 Houston . . .	5	457	4	4		13 Drove Road	8	362	4	4	
5 Stanmore . .	15	318	4	3		14 Quarry Knowe	10	399	4	3	
6 North Faulds	7	377	4	4		15 Vassie . . . .	2	470	4	4	
7 Gorstane . .	18	141	3	2		16 Anstruther .	14	337	4	3	
8 Tinto . . . .	1	530	5	5		17 Whitelees . .	6	309	4	3	
9 Whinney Knowe	11	360	4	3		18 Home . . . .	16	216	3	3	
OUT ...						IN ...					
3419 36 32						3004 34 30					
Marker's Sig. <i>Alan G. Tait.</i>						OUT ... 3419 36 32					
Player's Sig. <i>C. Maltman</i>						TOTAL ... 6423 70 62					
						HANDICAP					
						NETT SCORE					

WHITE MARKERS/MEDAL TEES COMPETITIONS ONLY

THE PROFESSIONAL COURSE RECORD OF 62

COMPETITION		HUTCHISON CROSS + FOREST CUP		HCAP	Strokes Recd.	TEES	PAR	S.S.S.			
PLAYER A						MEDAL	70	71			
PLAYER B		DAVID McHILLAN				YELLOW	70	70			
DATE:		23 JUNE 2001		TIME:	BOOK NO.:	LADIES	74	74			
Maker's Score	HOLE	Medw. Yards	Yellow Yards	Par	S.I.	SCORE A B	NETT Score	RET. P.O. P.O.	RET. Yards	PAR	S.I.
	1 Loch	354	350	4	13	4			340	4	7
	2 Dodger	459	447	4	3	5			433	5	11
	3 Newlands	395	385	4	7	4			345	4	3
	4 Houston	446	430	4	1	4			406	5	9
	5 Stanmore	312	288	4	15	3			250	4	17
	6 North Faulds	368	352	4	9	4			345	4	5
	7 Gorstane	135	125	3	18	3			125	3	13
	8 Tinto	525	510	5	5	4			515	5	1
	9 Whinney Knowe	362	335	4	11	4			287	4	15
	OUT	3356	3222	36		35			3032	38	
PLEASE AVOID SLOW PLAY AT ALL TIMES											
	10 Tintock Tap	149	139	3	17	2			141	3	6
	11 Butts	398	390	4	4	3			389	5	10
	12 Valley	357	366	4	8	3			342	4	2
	13 Drove Road	358	348	4	12	3			311	4	18
	14 Quarry Knowe	388	378	4	6	4			367	5	16
	15 Vassie	458	445	4	2	4			361	4	4
	16 Anstruther	333	307	4	14	3			301	4	14
	17 Whitelees	302	290	4	10	3			291	4	8
	18 Home	207	202	3	16	3			205	3	12
	IN	2950	2885	34		28			2702	36	
	OUT	3356	3222	36		35			3032	38	
	TOTAL	6306	6107	70		63			5739	74	
Hours Won +											
Hours Lost -											
Result + -											
		HANDICAP									
		NETT SCORE									
Marker's Signature		<i>I. Chis</i>		Player's Signature		<i>D. McMillan</i>					

THE AMATEUR COURSE RECORD OF 63

## THE CLUBHOUSE - BACK TO THE NINETEENTH

At the start of the Club's second century today's Club members would notice many obvious changes in the Clubhouse layout. To begin with it was much smaller and did not enjoy the new extended lounge, kitchen and diningroom or the enlarged locker room or ladies facilities. In the smokeroom the floor did not sport the present bright tartan carpet but was covered with a very heavy duty linoleum venerable but with an unbroken surface. This was pockmarked with many years of the traffic of golf spikes. The present style of tartan carpet was laid during the years of the late Ian Orr as House Convener. Another obvious feature of the smokeroom of the fifties was the second coal fireplace which was located near the present bar opening is sited and a small bar hatch opened up where the present Champions Board hangs. Survivors from that era in the smokeroom are the large brass ashtrays (donated by the Loudon Family) and the "Captain's" bucket chairs which were purchased from part of ships furniture in 1958 for £3.6/8d (£3.37). There was also a small Secretary's office/cupboard where the TV and display cabinet are now prominent features. "Very senior" members will remember the blazing fireplaces on a cold winter's Saturday evening which had been laid early in the day by one of the Greenkeepers and stoked by the Club Steward. For this daily duty the members of the greenkeeping staff were each handsomely rewarded with the princely sum of 2/6d (approximately 13p) yearly. Of course it was only in 1953 that the club was able to have electricity laid on instead of gas with central heating being originally oil in the 1960s. Saturday nights were always cheery social events for club members who had usually an afternoon round of golf followed by a few holes in the evening. The smokeroom in the earlier years was for the playing of cards and dominoes and especially for smoking in! It was then and to a large degree still is a male domain. These pleasures were occasionally interrupted by the then Secretary Dick Walker calling members to order to participate in the ballot for a new member which usually took place upon a Saturday afternoon when there was a quorum. Members were invited to place a coloured ball in a wooden ballot box which

had two sections - either admit or reject. Initially the vote to reject had to use a black ball instead of the normal red ball but this rather cut across the element of secrecy and often a black ball would appear inadvertently in the admit section. The black ball was therefore discontinued. At that time most club members had a high tea of fish and chips or bacon, egg and chips, followed by copious amounts of buttered bread, scones, pancakes and iced cakes (mostly home made by Mrs "Meg" Gibson in her time as Stewardess).

The bulk of the members had at least a Saturday afternoon social game. Thursdays on the other hand were reserved largely for local shopkeepers and businessmen as it was the early closing day with a full day every month.

In these times in addition to the playing of cards and dominoes in the smokeroom there were the same post mortem discussions after the rounds as nowadays but socialising often came to an evening climax with impromptu entertainment supplied by the duet of banjo players Fred Butler and Willie Paton or the welcome recitations of Past Captain John Murphy, (with Cocker poetry such as "Doo's Delight" or "Noah's Ark") or the poetry of Service rendered in lugubrious tones by his brother Guy (with "the Face on the Barroom Floor" or "Eskimo Nell"). These were often rehearsals for the Captain's Prize entertainment or for a more formal entertainment as "Artistes" at the Annual Club Supper. This would inevitably include the singing of "Much Bending of the Shaft" rendered by Messrs Jimmy McGregor and Past Captains Morton Hyslop and Willie Bell (latterly Club President). This was a parody of a popular song rendered by Radio comedians Kenneth Horne and Richard Murdoch. It would include the personalities of most of the current Club officials and characters, usually to their expressed embarrassment but secret enjoyment. Dick Walker the Club Secretary of that time might also be persuaded to sing the "Spanish Onion" song or Cameron Marshall one of his rugby songs. Even the Professional/Greenkeeper Gary Gibson would perform a tap dance duet and the President John Bryce would be encouraged to sing "The Boys of the Old Brigade" in his rich baritone voice. From time to time Brodie Lennox a well known West of Scotland amateur would be invited to give his popular film show of golf. In those days

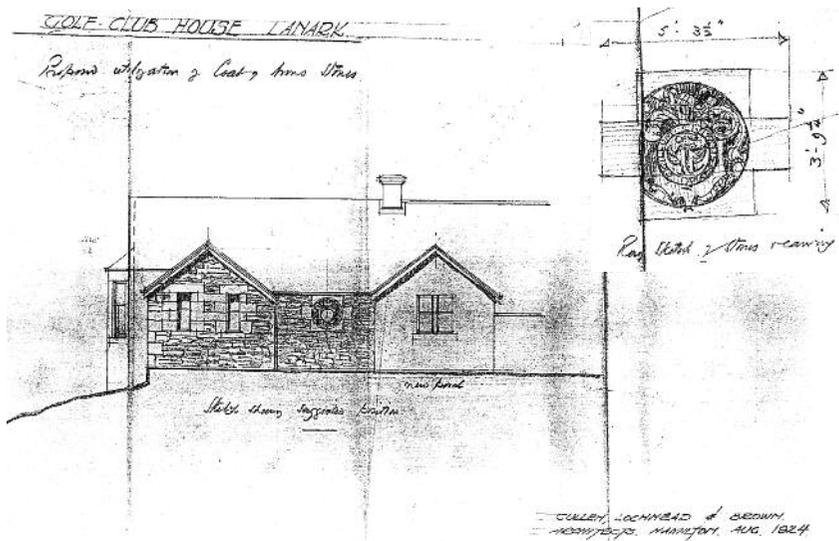
there was no breathalyser and of course fewer cars. There were no reserved car spaces but there were several bicycle racks for those who preferred cycling to walking. There were two railway bridges to negotiate at the double bend of Whitelees Road. In any event social tastes have changed and nowadays there is perhaps less group “interactive” socialising except upon Captains Prize Evening and the smokeroom is only really crowded for televised International football matches and golf Majors. In more recent times there was an attempt to revive Clubhouse social life and carpet bowling evenings were held during winter months with tasty suppers. There were also the fairly popular whist drives arranged by the ladies for mixed evenings. These have faded away to be replaced by an occasional Disco and informal dances. However the clubhouse is still the place for a quiet drink and an opportunity for aspiring golf tutors to correct the swing faults of others or to debate the intelligence of the current Club Council. In the earlier days however the smokeroom chat would be dominated by the sly humour and penetrating wit of Willie Abernethy or “Gentleman Johnny” Watson or A.D. Robertson. Impromptu golf tuition was always available in the smokeroom from Arthur McEwan with informative - perhaps sometimes eccentric - but always dramatic and vigorous poses. Discussions about backswings could get heated and on one notable occasion the fish portion of a high tea ricocheted off the diningroom wall. The drama of this was accentuated since in these days the large diningroom fireplace was adorned with a twin set of two wooden finely carved “topless” nymphs. These have disappeared in the 1962 alterations unfortunately as they would have made a striking centrepiece in the smokeroom display today.

The male toilets were at a lower level as was the custom in these days and were located at a spot which is now below the present large lounge. It was of course of the large white porcelain Victorian style and a popular feature were the footbaths where there was often a queue at the end of a Saturday afternoon round. The locker room was of course much smaller than the present day but in a similar location. The Juniors were located for a time in what was the old separate “Junior Golf Club” clubhouse which became the Ladies clubhouse, then a greenkeepers storeroom and finally was destroyed

in a rather dramatic fire. In its best condition it was a rather attractive Tudor style part timbered building. The boys were accommodated in the small “pro shop” which stood near the present practice putting green beside the current professional’s modern premises. Out of the old hut the Club Professional/Greenkeeper was able to repair clubs and still have lockers for the Juniors.

The Club membership in these earlier days was much smaller and everyone knew each other very well. It was clear in the earlier years that a good proportion of the membership joined the Club not to compete in medals or even to play golf regularly but often just to socialise or for business reasons and only to have the occasional friendly game of golf.

Lanark Golf Club has always been well served by its stewards beginning with Mrs Gibson in this era. Later we had the jovial attention of Marion O’Donnell and her husband Dan. Clubhouse staff have included Mr & Mrs Joe Laird and the Mackays. It always brightened up our New Years Day toast to have it served before a blazing smokeroom fire by a kilted steward. In the diningroom we had a variety of outside caterers over this period but recently we have reverted to employed staff and currently we are well served by Margaret in the kitchen and behind the bar an ebullient Ivy.



Original Plan of the Club House (1924)

## PROFESSIONALS, PLAYERS AND NOTABLE CLUB CHARACTERS

At the beginning of the Fifties the Club Greenkeeper Gary Gibson also held the post of Club Professional but at that time the services of Glasgow Professional Wilson Rankin were employed to teach particularly the young Junior golfers. This series of lessons was sponsored by Past Captain Willie Aitken. The first full-time appointment of a Club Professional since the late Willie Spark in the pre War era was the appointment of Ron Wallace in 1974. This was followed by the current incumbent Alan White.

ANDREW LIGHTBODY. Probably the best known member of the Golf Club in his later years because of his role as Match Secretary from 1969-1987. Andrew was also Captain of the Club in 1948, Honorary Vice President 1964-1983 and Honorary President 1984-87. He was equally well known for his great enthusiasm for the game of golf and in his seventy eighth year played 348 rounds. He was also well known and liked throughout the wider golfing community as a fine scratch golfer. With his friendly and pleasant personality he was a great ambassador for the Club and the game of Golf.

A tribute game was held in his eightieth year and of course he did play in it and managed to equal his age with his scratch score and a net score of 70 which was also equal best score of the day.

JOHN BAUER since joining the Club in 1985 achieved a great deal of local playing success. He won the Club Championship eleven times and the Newlands Trophy five times in addition to several County competitions. When he last played in Club competitions he played off a handicap of plus 1. In 1999 he reached a total of 50 Club competition wins and probably rivals the Club golf record of Robert Clark, a Club member from 1851 to 1878, whose golfing feats are mentioned in the Centenary booklet.

EDDIE FOULIS. Mention of Mr Eddie Foulis has been made in his role as Club President but he is and has been for more than the fifty years a great Club character. His distinctive dress of baggy plus fours and woollen knitted stockings mark him in these days of tee shirts and casual wear as a gentleman golfer. However it is his

enthusiasm for the game and his smiling gentlemanly courtesy which is the hallmark of his personality.

**JOHN FALLON.** John Fallon was a Lanarkian and played all of his boyhood golf in the 1920s and 1930s. He left in 1931 to become Club Professional at Huddersfield in his youth and from there he began a long and very distinguished golfing career. In 1936 to 1938 he represented Scotland in International matches against England, Wales, and Ireland upon seven occasions. In 1939 he finished third in the Open at St. Andrews only four strokes behind the winner Richard Burton and much later again at St. Andrews in 1955 he finished runner up to the Australian Peter Thomson. He was a member of the Ryder Cup team in 1955 and non playing Captain in 1963. The USA Captain was Arnold Palmer. It is fair to say that but for the intervention of the Second World War he would have gone on to even greater heights as his game was improving year by year at that time and he probably missed out on his best playing years.

In 1964 he was made an Honorary Member of Lanark Golf Club and Lanark Town Council on behalf of the Royal Burgh held a Civic Reception and Presentation Dinner at the Royal Oak Hotel which was then a popular venue for such affairs. John died in 1985.

**ANDREW BROOKS.** Andrew was a Junior member of Lanark Golf Club progressing to full membership in 1965. He won the Club Championship in 1967 and 1968. At that time he was also a distinguished amateur golfer at National level representing Scotland in the Home Internationals in 1968 and 1969 and was a member of the GB&I team which defeated Europe. He was also a member of the Walker Cup team and in that year turned professional. He played out of Lanark Golf Club as a Tournament player and after a period as Club Professional at Carluke in 1995 he went to the Royal St. George's Club as Professional there.

Mention has to be made of the connections which the famous golfers **TONY JACKLIN** and **COLIN MONTGOMERIE** have had with the Club.

In 1991 Tony Jacklin came to live at Quothquan only seven miles from Lanark. He made a request to play at Lanark which was naturally granted and in 1992 he was made an Honorary Member. His son who was an amateur scratch golfer in USA often enjoyed a round of golf with local Club members. Upon a few occasions Tony

Jacklin could be seen having a sociable round of golf with Sandy Lyle who also had come to live just outside Lanark. A rare sight indeed at Lanark - two former Open Champions having a casual round of golf! Tony Jacklin accepted an invitation to propose the Toast to Lanark Golf Club in 1993 and gave an interesting account of his four successful Ryder Cup Captaincies.

The connection of Colin Montgomerie with Lanark Golf Club was more tenuous. In his earlier years as an amateur he entered our Newlands Trophy as Scottish Amateur Stroke Play Champion from Royal Troon and finished runner up.

There are of course many other “notables” connected with Lanark Golf Club whose fame has not emerged beyond the doors of the Club smokers room. However their fame within the life of the club still lives on in the memories of older members. The Centenary Captain John S. Bryce has to be mentioned. He was a most active and enthusiastic golfer who would not venture out on the course without one of the boy caddies who were usually in attendance and often budding golfers and member of the Juniors. He was to be seen playing golf with his pipe (usually unlit) clenched firmly between his teeth and wearing the traditional plus fours. It is a tribute to the healthy pursuit of golf at Lanark that he died only shortly before his 100th birthday and was a very regular attender at the Annual General Meeting until his health would not allow him but he did make the meeting in his ninetieth year in his wheelchair. There were also within the smokers room noted raconteurs like “gentleman” Johnny Watson and Willie Abernethy whose debates were worthy of the House of Commons. Card players like Jimmy Johnston, Morton Hyslop and Willie Bell who had the distinction of smoking personally embossed hand made cigarettes. They were distinguished and successful businessmen in their respective fields but within the Clubhouse they were just worthies but always gentlemen in everything they did on and off the golf course. Included in the category of personalities must be the name of Bett Law who died this year. She was acting unpaid Assistant Match Secretary for many years until her illness and helped to check the competition medal scores every Saturday evening. During the week she tended the unofficial garden plots around the clubhouse. Her recent fatal illness came as a great shock to Club members and officials.

## A FEW DIVOTS FROM THE MINUTES

Looking at the old Minute Books is a fascinating exercise and here I am indebted to Vice President Jimmy Steele for his well researched precis from the older Minutes which has made the task much easier.

In 1951 Hamilton Golf Club presented an inscribed Visitors Book to Lanark Golf Club at the Centenary Dinner.

In 1952 Junior Associates were allowed to become full members at the age of eighteen instead of twenty one years.

In 1953 a Coronation Competition was held and it was decided to purchase the Greenkeepers House from Lanark Town Council at a price of £375.

In 1956 the Club Council ordered that “mechanical Caddies” should not be taken over greens. In that year watering the greens meant buying a new pump or asking the local Firemaster to carry out a hose exercise over the golf course.

In 1958 it was passed by the AGM that the immediate Past Captain should remain on the Council.

In 1960 Sunday golf was turned down at a Special Meeting but in a later referendum to all members in the following year, it was carried by a large majority of 165 to 26. The problem had now become that Club members could not play on the course which was officially closed on a Sunday but members of the public could take out a club or two and unofficially play a few holes. Sunday opening of the course was officially marked by a match between a Club team versus the County team which showed the ability or the optimism of the Club!. It was followed by a luncheon with the Provost of the Royal Burgh as official guest. Nevertheless the Club had an extra £100 per annum added to its rental for this additional privilege.

Clubhouse developments were expanding a lot in 1962 and created such a stir that a special meeting called by a few members to support an alternative plan which would have involved opening up the smokeroom. This was not carried. The official cost of the development was £7500.

In 1964 the name of Hamish Ballingall the well known Scottish professional was suggested as club pro but this fell through. John Fallon was given a presentation dinner as Ryder Cup player and Captain. In that year Dai Rees had a game of golf over Lanark course with the Club Captain and the well known golfers of that time Harry Weetman, Max Faulkner, Neil Coles and George Will played a match over the course.

1966 saw the introduction of a Club tie and many modifications have followed including a Past Captains' tie and for the 150th Anniversary year an anniversary tie.

In 1967 Past Captain George Loudon handed over a goblet originally presented by the Hon. A. Bingham. It was not to be competed for as a Trophy and since it has been used by the Captain upon certain official occasions. In that year Lanark made the County League Team Finals.

In 1968 the Club purchased a house in Lake Avenue for the Greenkeeper. Mrs Gibson received a "testimonial" for thirty years faithful service and the toast to Lanark Golf Club at the Annual Supper was proposed by Mr Sandy Sinclair. At that time the catering charges were fixed as 10/-(50p) for visitors lunches and for members 8/6(42p). At that time the Head Greenkeeper's annual wages were £18.

The members signed a petition to have Bar charges for a small whisky reduced from 3/-(15p) to 2/10, a reduction of approximately one half pence. In those days the Annual Supper was held at an "outside venue" usually the Silver Bell and the very popular Annual Dinner Dance was held in the Tinto Hotel. It was also agreed at that time that the winner of the Captain's Prize should get a silver spoon as in other competitions but engraved with the name of the current Captain. This decision appears to have been subsequently overturned.

In 1968 there was also a unique event in recent history as the Captain Drew Pearson was unable through illness to play into office and he got his golfing partner Tommy Finlayson to drive off the first tee for him. He was however able to toast the Club with the newly

acquired Bingham Goblet! Tommy Finlayson was an interesting character, always immaculately dressed in modern style and played with an elegant swing. Although he was a native of Lanarkshire he had been a professional caddie in the USA circuit and he looked every inch of a USA professional and played to a low handicap.

In 1970 the Club appears to have needed another new flag and this time one was donated by Past Captain David Brown and his wife Sissy. Two thousand new trees were purchased to infill gaps in existing woodland.

1971 saw the introduction of Members Identification Bag Discs.

In 1973 it was decided to fill in a good number of the existing bunkers which were considered superfluous. In that year ambitious plans were laid for further development of the buildings to form a new shop, junior clubhouse and caddy cart shed and workshop. Moves then followed to appoint a new club professional.

In 1974 on 25th June a match was arranged at Lanark between the Ladies Curtis Cup team and some of the professionals who would be playing in the Uniroyal Tournament held at Lanark that week.

Arrangements were also made to hold a celebration Dinner to mark the ninetieth birthday of the Club President Mr John S. Bryce. All but four of the Past captains were able to attend.

On 1st October it was agreed by the Council to BAN all caddy carts from the course until further notice! In the same very busy year the Past Captains Association was formed and Ron Wallace was appointed Club Professional.

In 1975 it was agreed to purchase "piped music" equipment for the clubhouse.

The main tournament in that year was the 72 hole Uniroyal Professional Tournament and consideration was given to sponsorship of the Newlands Trophy by Uniroyal. The Club membership waiting list was closed.

In 1976 competition spoons would be of EPNS instead of solid silver. The very popular Annual Dinner Dance in the Tinto Hotel was oversubscribed as usual. The Club flag again needed

replacement and the Past Captains Association stepped in to donate this one. Lanark was placed upon the circuit of Regional pre-qualifying courses for the "Open". Plans were being made for the further extension of the Clubhouse and finances by way of members levy. Costs were over £100,000. A 60 years lease of the course was negotiated.

Following the completion of the clubhouse extension in 1978 a dress code was initiated that all members should wear jackets in all public rooms of the clubhouse at all times except in very hot weather and removed only at the discretion of the Captain. Children over 14 years only to be allowed in the mixed lounge with younger children to be in the diningroom accompanied by their parents. It is noted that in 1973 that upon the golf course "no form of undress was to be permitted".

Over these years sponsorship of the Newlands Trophy was always being sought and in 1979 the Clydesdale Bank was successfully approached.

A rather modernistic approach was taken to give preferential treatment to new applicants with category 1 handicaps "to strengthen the Club team". This suggestion was not adopted and nowadays this approach would be considered rather unsporting by our Club.

Caddy carts were banned during winter play except for those over 65 years of age or producing a medical certificate. Later ladies over 60 years of age were included. Carpet bowling was introduced and the Club drinks round revived at Captains Prize night.

At that time there were continuing problems with the septic tank and close budgeting of the Clubs finances were features of the Council Minutes.

In 1980 the display cabinet in the smokeroom was planned and a new steel flagpole. The dress code has always exercised the minds of members and Councils and in that year it was agreed also to allow members to use the mixed lounge without requiring to wear jackets for a trial period. This was later altered to the wearing of jackets after 7 pm in the mixed lounge for another "trial period".

It was noted that denims and trainers were also banned but only after 7 pm! Later in the year a joint cheese and wine party for the Gents and Ladies Councils was held in the clubhouse.

1981 saw the purchase of a television set but “only to be used for important occasions”. Full time students got a reduction in subscriptions.

In 1983 the new national handicapping system was introduced. The rent of the golf course had risen to £3000 per annum plus rates. Alan Prentice was presented with a watch by the club for having won the West section of the Daily Express Tournament with a playoff at La Manga and for a generally successful year as a Junior. The first motorised buggy was bought in that year.

At that time the ordinary subscription was £120 and the Ladies was £80.

Over the final years of this half century there were the usual and repetitive problems of meeting heavy expenditure while still keeping the subscription fairly low. These annual problems recur in the Minute books but now and again there are novel problems such as the emergence of “green slime” upon the course in 1984. Club flags over the years do not appear to have lasted very long and in 1984 another Club flag was presented by Miss Marion Bryce in memory of her late father.

The Minutes record that a petition was received from some Club members to bring back the “good old days” of Wednesday social evenings. The Council allocated Thursday evenings instead for winter games such as bowls. In 1985 there was consternation when the renewal of the Club licence had been overlooked by the Secretary and the sale of exciseable liquor had to be suspended for almost one month. In 1986 the very popular Club Steward and stewardess of Dan and Marion O'Donnell retired after twenty five years of faithful service to the Club and they received a presentation. Unfortunately over the years the catering services never achieved the same appreciation as did the bar stewarding. Perhaps the end product has always been better appreciated and for a period a “Happy Hour” had been instituted but this was revoked in 1987.

Largesse to the Club team members was not high on the list of priorities in the 1980s and although team sweaters had to be replaced presumably after some considerable use it was also agreed to give members one golf ball per game.

In 1988 it is recorded that a silver cigarette box won in 1892 by Captain Smith might be handed over to the Club. There is no record of this having been followed up. In that year a computer was bought.

Over the past decade the Club's activities are well known to the current membership but without doubt the most momentous decision was to negotiate the purchase of the golf course from the Local Authority. Modernisation of the clubhouse facilities has always been in the foreground as has been continuing improvement in catering services. The mens locker room and toilet facilities have been substantially upgraded this year and it has always been considered that the clubhouse has to keep pace with the outstanding quality and design of our golf course. Recent Minutes of Council meetings reflect this resolve.



*Newlands Trophy Presentation 1964*

## THE LADIES

The Ladies Section of Lanark Golf Club has always been an active social and competitive group. It celebrated its own Centenary recently having been founded in 1895 by a handful of seven or eight ladies headed by the well known local family of the four Misses Vassie. Soon the Honourable Mrs Bingham joined them. In exchange for allowing a separate Ladies Room the ladies agreed to a Rule that "Ladies had to allow Members to pass them at any time during the round".

The Ladies group expanded in numbers over the years until in 1909 it formed a separate Club. In 1947 at a time when the Club was run under the framework of a Limited Company the Ladies returned to the protective umbrella of the Mens Club. For a later period the Ladies had the occupation of the former "Junior" Clubhouse which had been the home of Lanark Junior Golf Club which had been a separate independent club of more recent origin later amalgamating with the more senior Lanark Golf Club and some of its rather magnificent trophies were passed on to the Junior Boys Section. Eventually the "Junior" Clubhouse was found to be less secure and prone to vandalism. The Ladies returned to the main clubhouse with clubrooms located alongside the eighteenth green. During their Centenary year preparations the Ladies held many entertaining social events including a barbecue, a treasure hunt and a cheese and wine evening. They also had their own new flag raising ceremony and were kind enough to present the Club with a brass bell for the hidden tee shot over the hill at the Ninth hole.

Throughout the calendar year currently the Ladies Club have popular social evenings, a New Members introduction evening, coffee mornings for the more senior members and a very popular Open Day Competition as well as a very full fixture list, most competitions taking place upon a Friday. At this time they have Associate membership status with their own Captain and office-bearers and management. Their subscription rates are fixed by the main club. The Ladies Section has produced many fine lady golfers

over the years and mention must be made of Mrs Pat Hutton who won the Scottish Veterans Championship in 1999 and in 2000 won the Scottish Seniors Strokeplay Championship.

One of the Club characters of this era was without doubt the Ladies Secretary Miss Minnie Hyslop who was ever vigilant in monitoring the whole membership for the slightest breach in golfing conduct and etiquette. Even the Club Secretary would tremble in his golfing brogues if he encountered her wrath in the event of a gentleman player daring to “cut in” upon one of the Ladies competitions. It is very appropriate that the Ladies play for an annual trophy donated in her name.

A youthful Elaine Cuthill won the Scottish Universities Championship in 2000 at the tender age of eighteen and this year reached the semi finals of the British Universities Championship. There are many other golfers of the younger generation who have recently graduated from the Junior girls Section to assume the mantle of more senior ladies who are able to play golf at scratch level - such as Ruth Rankin and Sarah Hannay.

The future of Ladies golf in Lanark Golf Club is bright with a happy blend of maturity and youth. However it has to be said that as the social climate and the golfing scenario are changing at the present time in relation to sex equality in the sport it is very likely that this section will be viewed in future years as an irrelevancy or even a curiosity.

## THE JUNIORS

Junior Golf within the Club has flourished over the past fifty years. The facility of the excellent nine hole course, the array of magnificent former Junior Club trophies, the enthusiastic commitment of the various Junior Conveners coupled with the first class coaching over this period of guest Professional Wilson Rankin, and Club Professionals Ron Wallace and currently Alan White have all contributed to the emergence of some outstanding young talent between 1951 and 2001. It has also to be said that the dedication and support of their golfing parents have made a considerable contribution to their success.

As mentioned elsewhere there were the earlier outstanding records of Robert and Eddie Gibson in the 1950s. In the 1960s there was the elegant swing of Jim Spence Junior who achieved very early success at County level but whose talent was prematurely and abruptly terminated by his untimely death in his early twenties. During this decade Angus McLarty featured prominently in the County ranks as did Tom Steele who went on later to join the professional ranks. Angus McLarty won the County Matchplay Championship in 1965. The 1970s belonged to the exceptional power of Angus MacKay. He was a finalist in the Scottish Boys Matchplay Championship at North Berwick in 1971 and runner-up in the Strokeplay event that year at Lanark. He lost upon both occasions to Euan Murray who is now a well known television commentator. It is appropriate that this latter event should be held again at Lanark in 2001 thirty years later. He was capped for Scotland and also went on to join the professional ranks as did one of his contemporaries Murray White.

Over the next twenty years or so Lanark Golf Club continued to produce many talented young golfers such as Alan Prentice, Colin Hamilton, Ben Molyneux, Robin Jefferson, Stuart Mathie, Craig Ledingham and David McMillan all strong competitors in local and national competitions.

One of the strongest groups emerged in the 1990s with the Club Junior team winning the Lanarkshire Junior League in successive

years 1998 and 1999. Scott Whitelaw represented Scotland at under 16s level. Chris Orr won the Lanarkshire Boys Strokeplay event in 1999 and 2000 and with Colin Girvan went to Belgium to represent Scotland in the Boys team. They both subsequently won scholarships to Stirling University. During this period Girls Junior golf was doing equally well - Ruth Rankin was a Scottish Junior Internationalist and Mandy Walker was a Scottish Schoolgirls Internationalist.

In 1999 Elaine Cuthill played for Scotland at both schoolgirl and home International level. She then went on at the tender age of eighteen to win the Scottish Universities Ladies title and continues to represent Scotland abroad.

In June 2001 Grant Cuthill became the Scottish Schoolboys Champion.

## OUR FRIENDS FROM OTHER CLUBS

Since its earliest years Lanark Golf Club has always enjoyed friendly contests with other Clubs. Originally these games were gracious encounters with our City members followed by dinner in the Captains house. When at Old Musselburgh dinner would be in an Edinburgh hotel. From 1873 onwards we played matches with the Glasgow Club fairly regularly but it is noted that in 1881 we declined a match with Glasgow as we had “no chance of winning”. Luckily this attitude has not prevailed into modern times! For a time in the 1960s many friendly matches were arranged with golfers from Army Scottish Command initially set up through Cameronian officer and enthusiastic club member Col. Buchanan Dunlop. These were very popular matches as the “away” venue was Muirfield. The Aitken Trophy continues as an annual foursomes event.

Our longest running matches and continuing encounters have been with Hamilton (Riccarton) Club which began with overtures in 1896 but inter club games did not become firmly established until 1903. In recent years these have now been in the format of inter-Council matches but they are still very keenly contested with friendly matches continuing this year as a full Club event. Matches with Peebles Golf Club began in 1924, lapsed for a period, were revived for a period in the fifties but have unfortunately lapsed again. They had been sustained by personal contacts between Club members as is so often the case.

In the same year, 1924, our matches with Bathgate Golf Club began but these have continued without interruption although again the format has been modified to inter-Council teams with the exception of this anniversary year when it has reverted to a full Club members match.

Informal matches have been arranged in recent years with Falkirk (Carmuir) which have been rehearsal matches for the respective Club teams. A party of Club members has also arranged recent matches with Prestonfield.

The record in these matches is that the Home Club tends to win the match at the home venue but it would be a bold Club which would claim overall victory in the current tally. The Club Council of our Club has over the years had outings to North Berwick, Kilspindie and most recently to Largs. Notwithstanding the keenness of these contests the keynote over the years has always been sociability and friendship. An addition to these matches is a triangular match arranged with Prestwick and Prestwick St. Nicholas Clubs who also celebrate their 150th anniversary this year and time will show if this becomes a regular fixture.

## THE MILITARY CONNECTION

Lanark Golf Club has had a connection with the Army locally going back to the Club's earliest times. It began with the militia being encamped around the area beside the fourteenth hole which now forms the practice ground. The concrete bases for the more permanent buildings could be seen in the deep rough until quite recently. The old photographs in the clubhouse show the size of the fairly large encampment.

When the Winston Barracks were built the Golf Club connection was continued with a particular affinity with the Cameronians. The Commanding Officer and his Officers were given the courtesy of the course and became regular visitors to the club. In the 1940s and 1950s a notable Commanding Officer was Col. Buchanan Dunlop who made a very distinguished figure upon the golf course with his bristling military moustache and billowing tweed plus fours and brogues that was the golfing style of the time. This presents a striking comparison with the very casual golfing style of the present CO Col. Joseph D'Inverno. In 1947 Col. Buchanan Dunlop presented a trophy on behalf of the Regiment which became known as the Cameronian Bowl.

The occupancy of Winston Barracks has changed over the years being at one time a RAF station and then a NATO base. Unfortunately it is now a semi derelict site awaiting residential development. Bonds were also forged by the donation by the late Past Captain Wm. Aitken of the Aitken Trophy for annual foursomes. This competition is fought out with great fervour and sociability. In addition in 1983 the Regiment gave on loan the 1893 mess silverware which became known as the Army Cup.

In the fifties, links were also formed with Scottish Command's Golf Club through Col. Buchanan Dunlop and latterly Captain John Kennedy their secretary who was also a well known member of Bathgate Golf Club. They had the good fortune to have playing rights over Muirfield and Lanark Golf Club was delighted to take up the challenge of an away match there if only for the Kummel and fine luncheon.

Furthering the connection with the Cameronian Regiment the Club has issued a 150th commemorative tie which incorporates the colours of the Douglas tartan adopted by the Regiment - Black for the Bog, Blue for the Water and Green for the Grass. The tradition is that if you lay a Cameronian kilt over a pair of Army boots it will reflect the Lanarkshire countryside where the Regiment was raised. The Cameronian connection in particular has remained steadfast over the years and each year the principal office bearers of the Golf Club are invited to the Regiment's Annual Mess Dinner in Glasgow.

## THE CLUB AND THE ROYAL BURGH

A strong link has always been maintained between the Golf Club and the Royal Burgh of Lanark although the town's administrators have not always seen eye to eye with the Golf Club over the years. However in earlier years the Town Clerk was by happy coincidence also an office-bearer and an active member of our Golf Club. The Club's ownership is currently still subject to certain public rights of passage by pedestrians provided that the right to play golf is not interfered with. There is also a limited number of discounted green fees for local 'residents'. This is a result of the course having formed part of Lanark Moor and so of the Common Good of the Royal Burgh of Lanark which places it in a similar position to the early history of the Old Links at St. Andrews and a number of many other historic Scottish courses particularly those with coastal links. Every year the equestrian rideout during Lanimer Week passes through the course and in recent years a little ceremony has been instituted when the Club Captain shares a "stirrup cup" with the new Lord Cornet and his supporters. The Club has also directly shared in the Lanimer tradition with the late President John Glaister and Past Captains the late John Orr and James Brown with Henry Shanks, Keith Darroch, and club members John Rogers, Lindsay Craig, the Hume family and many other present and former Club members having distinguished the office of Lord Cornet of the Royal Burgh of Lanark.



*Toasting The Lord Cornet*

## THE GIBSON FAMILY

The Gibson family had a long and notable connection with Lanark Golf Club with their arrival in November 1938 from Kingsknowe Golf Club, Edinburgh where Gary Gibson was Assistant Greenkeeper. It was in fact a notable day in many ways as it was also the birthday of Mrs “Meg” Gibson and began an association with the Club which has lasted to this day. Mrs Gibson ran a disciplined Clubhouse as Club Steward and caterer and only a favoured few were allowed to call her with her familiar name of Meg. Gary was a Club Greenkeeper and Professional in the old Scottish tradition - a very few lessons and a lot of club repairs as well as manual mowing of the greens. (see photograph).



*Gary hard at work*

Initially golf balls were simply sold from behind the Bar. He followed in the footsteps of the then more famous professional and clubmaker of Willie Spark. With the intervention of the Second World War Gary went off to the Armed Forces serving in France and India. Upon his return at the end of the War he again took up his post. One of his major tasks was to restore the nine hole “Wee” course which had become overgrown during the War. During those

years he was the guiding force behind the redesign of the 5th, 6th, 9th and 12th greens to their present layout. As if that was not enough he also managed to act as the original bookie at Captains Prize Day. At the same time Wilson Rankin from Glasgow was employed by the Club as joint teaching professional and many of the junior golfers who did well in the 1950s including the Gibson sons had reason to be grateful for his teaching. All three sons Bill, Eddie and Robert were excellent golfers and remained so for most of their golfing lives. This is not surprising since the whole family literally lived at the golf course. The two younger boys Eddie and Robert achieved International status in Boys Golf. Robert twice played for Scotland in 1951/2 and Eddie in 1950. In 1950 Robert reached the quarter finals of the British Boys, the semi finals in 1951 and the quarter finals again in 1952. He is the proud possessor of a medal presented at that time to mark the occasion. They were of course also Club Champions and for a time in 1954 Robert held the course record of 67 and in 1994 the Club presented him with a special trophy to mark his winning of fifty Club competitions.

The Gibson family lived in Loch Cottage which can be seen in the older photographs of the Clubhouse. It occupied the site of what is now the Club professional's shop and the flats. Typical of these times Gary was the Club Professional/Greenkeeper and his wife Mrs Gibson (or "Meg" to those select few who were accorded such familiarity) was the Club Steward/Caterer with Gary also helping out at the bar in the evenings. Truly a magnificent Clubhouse team. Gary ended thirty years of service in 1970.

Meg was a formidable but kindly presence behind the bar and in the diningroom which she regulated with a firm hand. No potato crisps were ever served in the smokeroom without being removed from their packet and served upon a plate complete with napkin. In the late evening she was known to produce one of her savoury supper dishes perhaps a red hot spicy "sputnik" - completely free of charge from her own kitchen. Her baking was famed throughout all of the West of Scotland Golf Clubs and her high teas with home baked scones and cakes were waist enlarging meals served with either the

traditional bacon and egg or fish and chips with copious amounts of tea and buttered bread. Typical of her love of the Club and respect for its traditions was in 1951 when she presented a surprise Centenary cake after the AGM complete with one hundred candles. Robert and his older brother Bill were respectively Club Captains in 1975 and 1977. Sadly in the year 2000 Bill died suddenly whilst playing upon his beloved golf course within sight of the clubhouse. His brother Eddie died in hospital a few months previously after a gallant fight against a long illness. The surviving member of that generation is now Robert and he continues the Gibson family traditional connection with Lanark Golf Club. He still plays excellent golf with regular weekly matches and competitive games. He is also noted as an active participant in the Annual General Meeting upon a diversity of subjects. To mark their Jubilee the Club gave Mr & Mrs Gibson a silver presentation and a bank book with a substantial balance and laid on hot water to their house! For the first time Mr & Mrs Foulis as well known local caterers also presented them with a magnificent cake in the form of the eighteenth green. The connection between the Gibson family and Lanark Golf Club over the past fifty years has always been a very close one and the members of that family have contributed to a great extent to the Club experience.

## HISTORY OF THE CLUB TROPHIES



*The Silver Claret Jug*



*The Newlands Trophy*

The table of silverware at the Annual Prize Giving Dinner is always greatly admired by members and guests. Visiting golfers are always interested in the handsome trophies displayed in the cabinet in the smokeroom. It is appropriate that the histories of our Club Trophies and prizes should be recorded in this booklet although it has to be said that many have vanished over the decades but one or two also have emerged from the past.

**SILVER CLARET JUG:** This is our oldest remaining trophy having been bought in 1857 from Club funds . This makes it older by three years than The Open Championship Belt and than The Open “Jug” by fifteen years.

**GOLD BALL:** Donated by Robert Clark in 1863 one of the original members and a very famous golfer of the time, it seems to have been lost twice and reinstated twice by absent minded winners. It has been rumoured that there has been another copy circulating in the past. It currently is awarded to the overall winner of the qualifying Thursday Medals. Originally the holder could be challenged by a member paying a small fee into the Club funds.

**CAPTAIN'S PRIZE:** This again was instituted by Robert Clark in 1863 and has become a keenly contested competition with nowadays well over 200 contestants. The prize is always a valuable one and is personally donated by the Captain of the year. It has varied from silverware to luggage and works of art.

**HUTCHISON CROSS:** Originally donated by Lt. Col. Hutchison of Harperfield in 1873 to the player "with the highest score".

**PURDIE TROPHY:** Originally Thomas Purdie of Castle Cliffs St. Andrews and a founder member of the Club and Captain in 1858 presented a CHALICE in 1880. It was won three times by Rev William Vassie and became his outright possession. It was spotted in 1994 in an antique shop in Washington D.C. and thanks to the good offices of a Mr K. Fredrixson was purchased on behalf of the Club. In 1904 Mr Purdie donated a replacement CUP. This was again won outright by Thomas S. Hodgson and represented to the Club in 1994 by his daughter Miss May Hodgson who was a former Provost of the Royal Burgh of Lanark and had been Ladies Captain in 1962.

**FORREST CUP:** This was presented by Mrs Lindsay of Bellfield in 1882 in memory of her brother James Forrest who was Captain of the Club in 1868.

**ANSTRUTHER MEDALS:** Donated in 1882 by a famous Captain of the Club Sir W. C. Anstruther who was wealthy enough to donate a fresh Medal each year. This was continued for many years after his death by his family. It is now held annually and is presented to the scratch winner among Saturday and Sunday medal qualifiers.

**ORCHARD SHIELD:** This was first presented in 1884 for annual foursomes competition by James Brown of Orchard, by Carluke on New Years Day. Originally the winner received a cross as a souvenir from the Club. Nowadays the winner receives the usual Club silver spoon.

**HLI CLEEK 1891:** This very attractive trophy was presented by the golfers of the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the Highland Light Infantry who camped upon the area of the golf course near the 14th fairway "on account of the pleasure they had received on the course" - presumably having been given the courtesy of playing there. John Haddow won it three times in 1891, 1903 and 1907 and

according to custom won it outright. However his widow represented it to the Club in 1925.

**GIBSON CARMICHAEL CASKET** 1892: This was one of several gifts to the Club by Mr George Gibson-Carmichael. Presented in 1892 it was known under several descriptive names - Snuffbox - Bon Bonniere and Casket.

**THE ARMY CUP** (1893 held by the Club since 1983): Trophy was presented in 1893 by Lt. Col. Gray-Buchanan Commanding Officer of the Cameronian Regiment (Scottish Rifles) to the officers of the 3rd and 4th Battalions for annual competition by them. At the time the Regiment was encamped upon Lanark Moor which formed part of the golf course upon the area which now lies between the second hole and the practice ground. Upon disbandment of the Regiment in 1968 it was held at the Regimental Museum in Hamilton until 1983 when it was handed over to the Club for safekeeping. Since 1984 it has been awarded to the winner of an annual invitational foursomes competition now in Silloth format. As it is not Club property it is the only prize silverware not actually owned by the Club.

**RENWICK MEDAL** 1895: **MONTHLY MEDAL:** Presented by Hugh Renwick Captain in 1894 it is awarded to the overall winner (net Handicap) of the qualifiers from the eight monthly medals throughout the playing season.

**TEMPLETON MEDAL** 1897: This trophy was originally offered to the "Old" Junior Club by Mr Templeton of Stanmore for competition among Lanark resident golfers only. The Junior Club declined and it was donated to Lanark Golf Club unconditionally. It was meant to encourage play over the newly extended eighteen hole course. In 1902 an endowment of £20 was added for the purchase of an annual souvenir to the winner.

**LITHGOW VASE** 1898/**LITHGOW TROPHY** 1993: The Vase was donated by Miss Vassie of Stantilane and endowed with £50 Railway Stock to finance an annual souvenir. Unfortunately the Vase was stolen from a winners home in 1992 and has been replaced by a new Trophy. It is hoped that it may yet turn up as previous missing Club silverware has done in the past.

**HAMILTON HOULDSWORTH CUP** 1908: Mr J. Hamilton-Houldsworth of Castlebank donated this along with the very substantial sum of £500 to repay a loan by Mr Renwick who had largely financed the extension of the course to eighteen holes. It is laid down that a winner for three years in succession can claim outright possession.

**HLI CUP** 1912: The Officers of the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the Highland Light Infantry presented this in recognition of their having encamped on part of the course just prior to the First World War.

**NEWLANDS TROPHY** 1912: This is the Club's Trophy for its annual Open Amateur Scratch Competition presented by Lord Newlands who was Club President from 1918 to 1929. For the first two years play was in foursomes pairs but it then became as now a 36 hole individual stroke play competition. It has always been won by an outstanding scratch golfer and in its recent history it has been won by Club Champion John Bauer five times.

**JERVISWOOD PLATE** 1931: The donor was Mr George Findlater who insisted that the exact conditions should always be put in writing to avoid these being altered in the future. The Trophy was for handicap matchplay among members over 55 years of age.

**ANNAN ROSE BOWL** 1931: This was donated by a well known local dignitary Mr James Annan, Town Clerk of the Royal Burgh of Lanark for many years and Club President from 1930 to 1938. At the time he was an esteemed member and the oldest Past Captain. During his time in office it was known as the PRESIDENTS PRIZE but in 1939 it was renamed the Annan Rose Bowl .

**WINSTON TROPHY** 1945: Presented by No.5 Army Physical Training Corps when stationed at Winston Barracks in recognition and thanks for the courtesy of the course.

**AITKEN TROPHY** 1947: Mr William Aitken presented this for foursomes play among pairings from members of the Club and military personnel from the Barracks. Since the Army has left the Barracks, the Territorial Army with particular strength from the now disbanded Cameronian Regiment produce the military participants. Mr Aitken was Club Captain in 1936 and there always has been a strong Club connection with the Aitken family since then producing

three Club Captains.

**CAMERONIAN BOWL** 1947: Col. Buchanan Dunlop presented this to the Club to mark the long association with Lanark Golf Club when stationed at Winston Barracks. Currently it is a 36 hole event played over two days.

**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (QUAICH)** 1949: This was donated by R. B. Dick of The Lee who was a regular and prosperous figure on the golf course often playing a few holes alone and carrying a pencil bag over his shoulder and smoking a cigar with a Corgi dog at his heels. This annual trophy is awarded to the winner of this scratch event who is also awarded the title of Club Champion of the year and his name placed upon the Champions Board in the Club smokers room. Notably in recent history it has been won eleven times by Mr John Bauer over the past fifteen years.

**VASSIE TROPHY** 1951: Because of the association of the Vassie family with the Club since its very foundation the Misses Constance and Edith Vassie of Croftonhill presented this trophy. It is played as a foursomes matchplay event.

**JOHN ORR TROPHY** 1964: Presented by the widow of John Orr who was Captain in 1942. This is awarded to the player who has the lowest net handicap scores from four selected annual competitions. Again the Orr family has had a continuous connection with the Club.

**BOB TAYLOR TROPHY** 1960: This was presented by Mr Bob Taylor and his fellow Directors of the Silver Bell Restaurant where many Club dinners and social events were held. It is played as a 18 hole pairs better ball handicap medal round.

**JOHN FALLON TROPHY** 1964: This was presented by Mr J. Fenton a Huddersfield businessman in recognition of the famous professional and son of Lanark Golf Club who was then professional at Huddersfield. It is played as a greensomes trophy and is unique in that the winners actual signatures are engraved on this salver.

**COLIN BAIRD TROPHY** 1966: Mr Colin Baird who was a founder of the well known Baird Bros. departmental store and a Club member from pre-1930 to 1982. The winner of the medal handicap event also receives a Bairds departmental store voucher.

**E. G. STEELE ROSE BOWL** 1966: Presented by Mr & Mrs Steele who were long term members of the Club. Mr Steele was a member up until his death at the age of 90 years. It is the coveted prize for a

very popular mixed foursomes competition.

**MR & MRS JOHN GLAISTER TROPHY** 1967: This trophy was presented by Mr & Mrs Glaister in the year when they were the Captains of their sections of the Club in 1967 and is for matchplay handicap foursomes play by family pairings from each section. Mr John Glaister was Club President from 1989 until his death in 2000.

**LANIMER TROPHY** 1970: Donated by the Lanark Lanimer Committee with the permission of A. Robertson & Co. the soft drinks company who originally presented it to the Lanimer Committee for a Pipe Band Contest to commemorate the centenary of the Company. This Trophy is presented to the winners of our open mixed foursomes competition with entrants from all over the country.

**LANBROKER TROPHY** 1970: This was presented by Messrs Brooks, Outfitters. Andrew Brooks the well known amateur and professional golfer as a Lanark member from 1956-1969 was a Walker Cup player in the team of 1969 which unfortunately lost to USA at Brookline. As a professional in 1969 he played in the PGA tour, then as Club Professional at Carluke and currently at Royal St. George's.

**G. O. THOMSON TROPHY** 1972: Presented by Mr G. O. Thomson who was Club Captain in 1970. It is won by the winner in a medal round among the six Sunday medal qualifiers throughout the season.

**PAST CAPTAINS TROPHY** 1973: This trophy was presented by Mr John T. Reid Captain in 1971. It is competed for by Past Captains in a medal round upon the day following the Captains Prize competition.

**IAIN C. BOWIE MEMORIAL TROPHY** 1975: Presented by Mrs M. Bowie in memory of her son who was a keen golfer and member of the Club and who died at the early age of 32. He had been a member of the Junior section and of the senior Club Council. His father also had been a keen member for many years.

**BOB SPEIRS TROPHY** 1976: This was presented by his son Robin in memory of his father who was Club Secretary from 1941

to 1946 and Treasurer until 1969.

**HANGOVER TROPHY** 1976: Presented by Mr William Criggie a local solicitor and member of the Club from 1961 until his death in 1985. It was specifically donated for foursomes competition among members and guests who attend the annual dinner for play upon the morning after the dinner.

**KILSPINDIE CUP** 1977: This trophy was inaugurated for the annual outing of the Club Council when it was held regularly at Kilspindie Golf Course. The venue has varied over the years but recently the venue has been Largs.

**T. HENRY SHANKS TRI-AM TROPHY** 1984: Presented by Mr T. Henry Shanks to the Club for team play among the Gents, Ladies and Junior (boy or girl) sections. Mr Shanks acted as Honorary Club Lawyer since he became Captain in 1962, was a Captain of the Junior section and was made an Honorary Member in 1989. He was re-elected Captain for this year 2001 at the same time as his wife as Lady Captain for 2000/2001.

**HAUD IT 'N' DAUD IT TROPHY** 1987: Mr & Mrs Wm Law who were Captains of their respective sections in 1979 and 1980 presented this Trophy to the Club which is in the unusual form of a rolling pin and is restricted to foursomes play between husband and wife pairings. Mr Willie Law was Club Secretary/Treasurer from 1980 to 1990 and his late wife Bett Assistant Match Secretary until 1998 as well as being Lady Captain and Lady Secretary. Both were made Honorary Members.

**CAIRN QUAICH** 1989: This was presented by Mr and Mrs John Pearson for a medal foursomes competition among pairings of a gent and a junior girl. John & Margaret Pearson were Captains of their respective sections in 1997 & 1994.

**TINTOCK TAP TROPHY** 1990: Mr E. M. Foulis presented this trophy for senior handicap medal play. Mr Foulis was Captain in 1966, Honorary Vice President in 1989 and President in 2000.

**GORDON BRAND JR. TROPHY**: This was presented by Tour Professional and Ryder Cup player Gordon Brand Jr. for play in an annual senior open handicap tournament.

**SCOTGOLF** 1992: This was presented by Mr Phil Taylor of Scotgolf Limited for an annual open handicap tournament in the

handicap category 6 to 18.

**J. & D. FLYNN TROPHY** 1994: Mr Joe and Mr David Flynn, father and son members, presented this trophy for annual competition among four man teams taking their best two handicap scores.

**ECLECTIC SCORES:** Scratch and Handicap - An engraved teaspoon is awarded to each of the winners with the annual best scores.

Currently every winner of an official Club competition receives a similarly engraved silver teaspoon from the Club. Past Captain Robert Gibson and Club Champion John Bauer have both received gold spoons in recognition of their having won fifty silver teaspoons.

In 1968 the Club was given a Goblet which was previously a Trophy donated by the Hon. A. Bingham in 1855 and won by James Vassie. It was retrieved by Past Captain George Loudon and presented to the Club again. It is used by the Captain of the year for official occasions.

## AND FINALLY

Looking back over the past half century of Lanark Golf Club's history it can be seen that the essential features of Club and course have remained the same. There are currently 920 members in all categories and the Club has always been fortunate in that the membership covers all levels of golfers with different personalities and backgrounds. However the game of golf is probably more competitive nowadays and to play a round of golf at Lanark is no longer the leisurely stroll around the Moor with a smell at the flowers as it might have been in 1951. Although there is less opportunity to stand and listen to the larks there is no doubt that when the sun is shining upon Lanark Moor and the heady scent of the gorse wafts over the golf course there are few more pleasant spots in the world to enjoy the game of golf.

This little booklet has been concerned with the history of the past five decades which shows how the cement of the club spirit and the energies of its office-bearers have bound the Club together and kept it lively and active. The first centenary Captains Board ends with the Latin phrase:-

*“Magnus ordo ab integro nascitur”* which roughly translates as “A great new chain of command is renewed and begins again”.

If it is still relevant to use a Latin maxim today an appropriate one to carry into the second millennium might be:-

*“Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis”* - “As times change we alter with them”.

It might also be true to say looking over the historical records of the Club over the past 150 years and noting that the problems which had to be addressed then have still to be faced today, the maxim (in keeping with our current European Union connections) *“plus ça change - c'est plus la même chose”* might equally be appropriate now as it was fifty years ago.