



## The Adam Cup

A quiet moment during lockdown allowed an examination of the Council minutes from this month one hundred years ago. This revealed the important milestone of the initiation of the Adam Cup. Although far from being the oldest trophy – that being the Gold Medal from 1815, it is perhaps the most sought after trophy in the Club with the victor enjoying the honour of being Club Champion for the year. The following extract is taken from the minutes a century ago:

*Spring General Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> May 1921*

*Mr T. L. Adam has most generously presented a challenge cup to the club in memory of his father Mr Thomas Adam of Denmore, who was for over 50 years a member of the club and always took a keen interest in it. Mr Adam has also presented a sum of money towards providing a memento to the winner of the cup each year. The first annual competition for the cup, which is to take the form of a knock-out competition, all competitors playing from scratch takes place immediately after the Spring Meeting.*

Following this benevolent gesture from Mr T. L. Adam there was no hanging about, with the Match and Handicap Secretary managing to fit a space into the busy schedule that very same year. Whilst the competition did commence 100 years ago, it can be noted that the one hundredth playing of the event will be in 2027, as a result of the hiatus caused by the Second World War. No competition was played in 1940 to 1946, which means that this year's winner will be the 94<sup>th</sup> champion.

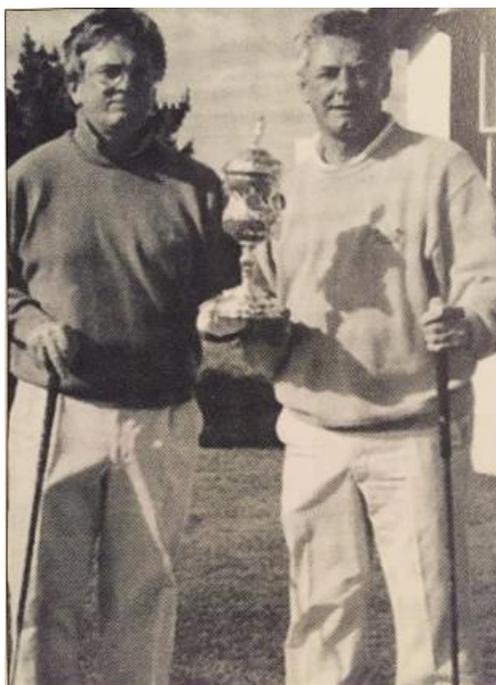
The inaugural winner was W. Mathieson, who reigned supreme throughout the 1920's and early 1930's, winning on a total of 6 occasions. His proud record stood for 86 years, finally being eclipsed in 2019 when Mark Halliday secured his seventh trophy. A most impressive tally, particularly when you note that he has not lost any finals, and only D.F. Macandrew has managed to take him to the 36<sup>th</sup> hole.

Beyond these 2 titans it is interesting to note some of the more successful players who have revelled in the cut and thrust of match-play in the Adam Cup over the years. The following is a top eleven, who have all qualified for inclusion on the list by virtue of winning on three or more occasions.

	Name	Winning Years	Total Number of Victories
1	M. J. Halliday	2008, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019	7
2	W. Mathieson	1921, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1930, 1933	6
3	H. G. Mackintosh	1932, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939	5
4	F. Clark Jnr.	1994, 1997, 1999, 2002	4
5	E. Buthlay	1955, 1967, 1969	3
6	J. P. Grant	1959, 1961, 1963	3
7	J. W. Johnston	1972, 1993, 1996	3
8	H. D. S. Adam	1977, 1980, 1981	3
9	I. R. Miller	1988, 1990, 1991	3
10	D. F. Macandrew	1995, 1998, 2005	3
11	S. J. Buchan	2006, 2007, 2013	3

It is important to highlight that this is not really a top 11, but rather a top 4 with 7 players lying in equal fifth. In other words, Steve Buchan could easily have been number 5, but Eric Buthlay is given that spot on the basis that he won his first Adam Cup on the earliest date of all the hat-trick winners.

Phil Mickelson's inspirational win in the USPGA a fortnight ago gives all 50 somethings hope that they can still get their name up in golf leaf. So, who is the equivalent of Phil and the oldest winner of the Adam Cup? Well, we need to look no further than Ian Edward's informative book on the history of the club, which describes the classic club championship final in 1996 when John Johnston, the winner in 1972 beat Hugh Adam, the winner in 1977. The combined age of the finalists was over 100 years and the winner was 47. John's final victory came 24 years after his first, and his major winning longevity was extended to a remarkable 46 years with his triumph in the Spring Meeting in 2018.



*John Johnston and Hugh Adam, Adam Cup finalists 1972*

Looking back to some of the traditions of the past it is interesting to note the significance which the final of the Adam Cup was given. In the late 1950's the final was given a processional escort being preceded by the Club Steward – John Taylor, who was fully uniformed and who carried a large red flag to prevent any interference with the match. As Ian Edward has pointed out, this was a hangover from the days when the Club played its golf on the Town Links to the south of the River Don, when we had to compete with games of football, cricket, archery and even horse racing!

One of the more recent traditions which died out around the late 1990's was the commitment of the losing semi-finalists to caddy for the finalists the following day. A fair undertaking given the 36-hole final, and perhaps the increasing popularity of powered trollies encouraged this change.

With this year's competition being only a day or two away, many will have high hopes that this year their name can be added to the trophy. Hopefully, the winning man can give a nod to Mr Thomas Adam of Denmore in whose memory the championship was created a century ago.