

# How the R. and A. Attained its Position

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CAPTAIN, ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB OF ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND

On May 14, 1754, 22 Noblemen and Gentlemen, "being admirers of the ancient and healthful exercise of the Golf," met together at Baile Glass's Black Bull Tavern, in St. Andrews, Scotland, and drafted thirteen articles and laws for playing "The Golf". This was the origin of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club, then known as The Society of St. Andrews Golfers.

Having settled their articles and laws, the members subscribed for a Silver Club, paying five shillings apiece toward the purchase of this outward and visible sign of golfing prowess which was to be open for competition to all and sundry in Great Britain and Ireland.

## First Selective Process

Until 1824 the winner of this Silver Club became automatically the Captain of the Society for the year and records exist of the scores made by the respective winners up to 1824.

After that year no scores are recorded and the competition became to be regarded as a competition in name only and not as a test of merit. It can therefore be inferred that it was from 1825 onwards that the holder of the Captaincy was decided by election.

In 1834 King William IV approved of the Society assuming the designation of Royal and Ancient Golf Club and in the same year became its patron.

Up to 1835 the Club was without any local habitation. It held its meetings at the Black Bull Tavern and elsewhere, leading apparently a sort of nomadic life. But in this year the Union Club was inaugurated for the benefit of such members of the Royal and Ancient or the St. Andrews Archers Club as might care to avail themselves of this privilege. Its premises were situated on part of the ground occupied by what was the Grand Hotel and is now a University Residence. Fifty-eight original members were ad-

## THE AUTHOR AND ST. ANDREWS

The 200th anniversary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, will be celebrated next month.

The position of the R. and A. in the world of golf is unique. Although it is a single club, rather than an association of clubs, it is the custodian of the Rules of Golf and the governing body of the game in Great Britain and many other parts of the world.

The Captain of the Club, Lt. Col. John Inglis, has done a great honor to the USA Journal in tracing the Club's history in the accompanying article. Col. Inglis is steeped in the history and the traditions of golf, his father also having been a Captain of the R. and A. Col. Inglis is one of the comparatively few authentic experts on the Rules of Golf and was a member of the R. and A. Committee which wrote the present code in collaboration with representatives of the USGA and other foreign organizations three years ago.

A feature of the R. and A.'s bicentenary year will be a series of matches at St. Andrews during the week beginning May 31 between a representative British Amateur team and teams from Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

mitted, the list including all or most of the leading golfers of the day.

In 1853 the Union Club, whose finances were sound but whose drains were not, decided to build a clubhouse on a new site and in 1854 the present clubhouse was built. It was the mutual wish of both clubs to amalgamate at that date, but it was not until 1876 that the actual amalgamation took place. It was then decided that:—

"The Union Club shall be merged in the Royal and Ancient, and that the latter shall be the sole designation of the amalgamated Club".

The membership of the Club had now grown to 750. The entrance money for members was £8, the annual subscription £3 and the sum payable for life membership £35.

## CULMINATION OF TRADITIONAL CEREMONY AT ST. ANDREWS



Lt. Col. John Inglis (holding driver), the author of the accompanying article, rewards the caddie who retrieved his ball after playing himself in as Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, last fall. The three gentlemen in the background are Lord Simon, Lord Brabazon of Tara and Charles Grace.

Once provided with a home of its own, the prestige of the Royal and Ancient rapidly increased. Up till this date each golf club formulated its own code of Rules, though these were mostly based on those of The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers or of the Royal and Ancient. But from this time onwards golf clubs old and new alike began to adopt the St. Andrews code and recognized the Royal and Ancient as the premier legislative body in the Golfing world.

### Supreme Court of Rules

It was not, however, until 1897 that the Club became, at the request of other golf clubs in the United Kingdom, the authorized governing body of the game, with a Rules of Golf Committee appoint-

ed for this purpose, and the recognized ruling body of golf all over the world.

Gradually, however, differences in certain rules began to appear in the United States Golf Association code. After the Second World War both governing bodies felt that it was unsatisfactory to have two different codes for a game that had become world wide and that it would be for the benefit of the game if it were governed by the same Rules wherever it was played.

In 1951 a joint Committee of the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, with representatives from the British Dominions, conferred and agreed on a unified code of Rules for use all over the world. This code came into force on January 1, 1952.

In addition to being the governing

body for the Rules, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in 1919 took over the sole management of the Amateur and Open Championships, the formulation of rules governing amateur status and the selection of teams for the Walker Cup and Dominion Matches. In 1948 the management of the Boys Championship was also taken over.

How did the Royal and Ancient Golf Club attain the position it holds in the world of Golf today? Undoubtedly from its long and continued connection with golf, where the game was played 200 years before the Club was founded and where the wisdom and experience of years has accumulated and been handed on from one generation to another.

### All In The Family



*United Press Photo*

Recent visitors to "Golf House" were Mr. and Mrs. John B. Beck, of Ascot, England, who are shown here examining Robert T. Jones, Jr.'s famous putter "Calamity Jane."

Mr. Beck was Captain of the British Walker Cup Team which scored the only British victory, at St. Andrews in 1938. He also was Captain of the British side in the first renewal of the Matches after the war.

Mrs. Beck, who was Irish Ladies Champion in 1938 and has many times represented Ireland in Home Internationals, will be Captain of the British Isles Team in the Curtis Cup Match at the Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pa., next September.

Mr. and Mrs. Beck are the only husband and wife to serve as Captains of Walker Cup and Curtis Cup Teams.

### USGA PUBLICATIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST

**THE RULES OF GOLF**, as approved by the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, effective January 1, 1954. Booklet, 25 cents (special rates for quantity orders). Poster, 25 cents.

**ARE YOUR LOCAL RULES NECESSARY?** a reprint of a USGA Journal article containing recommendations regarding local rules. No charge.

**THE RULE ABOUT OBSTRUCTIONS**, a reprint of a USGA Journal article. No charge.

**USGA GOLF HANDICAP SYSTEM FOR MEN**, containing recommendations for computing Basic and Current Handicaps and for rating courses. Booklet, 25 cents. Poster 10 cents.

**HANDICAPPING THE UNHANDICAPPED**, a reprint of a USGA Journal article explaining the Callaway System of automatic handicapping for occasional players in a single tournament. No charge.

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**TURF MANAGEMENT**, by H. B. Musser (McGraw-Hill-Book Co., Inc.), the authoritative book on greenkeeping. \$7.

**USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT**, a 33-page magazine published seven times a year and containing authoritative information on the Rules of Golf, USGA championships, handicapping, amateur status, greenkeeping methods, clubs and ball, new trends and the play of the game. \$2 a year.

These publications are available on request to the United States Golf Association, 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y.