

Christchurch Golf Club 150 Years



CHRISTCHURCH
GOLF CLUB



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By David Page & Jennifer Pryor

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CHRISTCHURCH GOLF CLUB 150 YEARS PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

This booklet records 150 years of the administration of the Christchurch Golf Club. Formed in 1873, the club has a long and proud history of providing a first-class golfing experience for its members and the community.

It has been written by David Page with the assistance of Jennifer Pryor using a range of resources including club and newspaper reports, research and other publications.

The Club sincerely thanks the authors for their hard work and dedication in completing this booklet.

The Christchurch Golf Club is the second oldest club in New Zealand to celebrate 150 years of age. We will celebrate the occasion by holding various golf tournaments, and social activities at the club with a more formal celebration at Te Pae Convention Centre on 18 March 2023 with Peter Williams as our Master of Ceremonies and Greg Turner, as guest speaker.

This celebration is an opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the members, officers, our patron, Sir Bob Charles, staff, sponsors, and donors who have contributed so much to the development of the club over the years. We can all be proud to celebrate our club's heritage, our first-class golf course and facilities, and the camaraderie that we have shared over the years.

I am sure that we will all remember this significant and historic milestone.

As we reflect on the past and look forward to the future we should enjoy the memories and help build an even greater future for the next generation of members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Jacqui Lowe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacqui Lowe
President



OFFICERS 2022 - 2023

PATRON:	Sir Bob Charles ONZ, KNZM, CBE
PRESIDENT:	Jacqui Lowe
WOMEN'S CAPTAIN:	Hellen Kroeger
MEN'S CAPTAIN:	Struan Cain
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:	Marty Bengé Mel Brew Jeanette Lawrence Grant Osborn Andrew Sloane Spencer Smith (Advisory Member)
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE:	Fay Cooper Julianne Darling Jackie Henley Ina Lee-Hall Julia Nurse Julie O'Neill Janet Osborn Ulli Schwertheim Wendy Hollyer (9 Hole Convener)
MEN'S COMMITTEE:	John Dickson Stefan Dimou Peter van Eekelen Murray Turnbull
GENERAL MANAGER:	Mike Hadley
GOLF OPERATIONS MANAGER:	Rick Vincent
GOLF PROFESSIONAL:	Anthony Doyle
COURSE SUPERINTENDENT:	Mark Lawson

INTRODUCTION

This history is of the Christchurch Golf Club which up until 1996 had an exclusively male membership. In that year its rules were changed to allow membership for women and as a consequence it amalgamated with the Christchurch Ladies' Golf Club. It is a history of record and not a commentary on what occurred except from time to time.

The men's club was founded in 1873 preceded in NZ by two years only by the Dunedin Golf Club, later renamed the Otago Golf Club. Outside of Scotland there are very few golf clubs older than these two.

There are two major highlights in our 150 years which warrant special mention. The first is the association with Sir Bob Charles which now spans almost seventy years, beginning as a 17 year old playing in an inter-provincial tournament and culminating in being its patron. The clubhouse has a special room named after him containing memorabilia of his great career.

The second major highlight was the playing of the world amateur teams championship for the Eisenhower trophy on our links in 1990. These two highlights form the opening chapters.

The history is then divided into chapters for each decade at the head of which is a list of the officers for each year.

The membership column gives the number of active members in each year, this being the figure which provides the best indication of the number of players. Through the years there have been many changes in categories but this is the only constant. It would be misleading for example to have included honorary members in the count because at some periods they almost equalled the

number of active members. The definition of junior members changed over the years.

We have identified the major events and personalities as best we could, realising that not everything and everybody could be included. In particular there is little about the host of ordinary members who have over the years paid their annual subscriptions, been elated and frustrated by their play and provided companionship on the course and in the clubhouse.

Many changes to the Shirley links have been made over the 122 years that golf has been played on them. These have resulted in some holes being abandoned and new ones built and various re-routings experimented with. In an attempt to avoid confusion holes are referred to by the name they now have, not the numerical order they are currently played in. For example, the current first hole which was number 5 before the clubhouse was built in 1927 is referred to as Charles (previously Wilsons). Details given in Additional Topics.

This final section covers activities which have occurred throughout our history and tables of life members, professionals, course superintendents and managers.

The club is now in the strongest position it has been in its history. Further changes to the layout of the links are unlikely in the foreseeable future, their condition ranks amongst the best in the country, there is an enthusiastic membership and the financial position will be further strengthened when the final payment for the land sold north of Old Nick is received. The future can be faced with confidence.





Sir Bob Charles with the claret jug in front of the new clubhouse built after the Christchurch earthquakes.

Bob's first experience of Shirley was when he was 17 and living in Masterton. He was a member of the Wairarapa team which played in the 1953 interprovincial tournament in the middle of May. He beat Brian Cleland in the match against Canterbury 7/6. Brian continued as an active member of the club until 2020.

Bob returned to Christchurch for the Christmas tournament. He qualified eighth for the match play with rounds of 83 and 74; had an easy win in the first round but was taken to the 19th by Gary Scott in the second. In his semi-final he beat Murray Stanley 3/2 in a match that was reported to have taken five hours. The final was against Colin Caldwell (later 9 times Christchurch men's club champion and club professional), then living in the Hawke's Bay and working as a school teacher. A cutting from Sir Bob's scrapbook reads 'Pupil beats teacher' December 1955.

He played in the 1956 Christmas tournament, this time qualifying top with scores of 71 and 74 and again beating Colin Caldwell in the final of the match play.

Bob shifted to Christchurch with his parents in 1956 and at the committee meeting on 19 July was granted youth privileges. He was the winner of the Christmas tournaments of 1957, 1958 and 1959 and won the club championship in the last year.

He had his first trip overseas in the first half of 1958, travelling at the invitation and urging of club member Ian Cromb. He played in the Masters and the Open and a number of other tournaments in which he acquitted himself well. On his return he was selected for the NZ team to play in the inaugural world amateur team championships for the Eisenhower trophy at St Andrews in October. He was the first club member to be selected to represent NZ since Ewen Macfarlane in the 1920s. The next year he was selected for the team that travelled to Johannesburg to compete in the Commonwealth tournament and in 1960 for the team in the Eisenhower trophy which was competed for at the Merion Club in Pennsylvania.

On his return in September, Bob announced his decision to turn professional. To meet the requirements of the NZ



Colin Caldwell (left) and Bob Charles 1955

Professional Golfers' Association he had to serve a three-month apprenticeship which he duly did by serving as an apprentice to Norman Fuller then the club professional. This did not however involve working in the shop, giving lessons or cleaning members' clubs.

Bob then competed overseas with increasing success in 1961 and 1962 which culminated in his winning the Open in July 1963 at Royal Lytham & St Annes. He was tied with Phil Rodgers after four rounds, but won the playoff over 36 holes by 8 strokes. Those in NZ wanting to follow the playoff had to rely on updates every half hour or so on Radio NZ. It was clear by about 3 a.m. that Bob was going to win so fans could then go to sleep knowing that victory was assured.

When Bob returned to NZ a presentation was made to him by the club on 14 September. At the 1963 AGM it was proposed that he be elected as an Honorary Life Member. Absurdly two members objected to the opening of the membership to a professional, but the motion was passed.

Bob then spent many successful years in the northern hemisphere but returned frequently to play the NZ circuit and won the NZ open in 1966, 1970 and 1973. A comprehensive biography 'Sir Bob Charles' was written by Geoff Saunders and published in 2021.

Since the revival of the club in 1891 the Governors of

New Zealand and their successors, had been patrons of the club. Many had shown a considerable interest in the club. However, when Dame Catherine Tizard replaced Sir Paul Reeves in 1990 she declined the invitation to continue the tradition. Bob Charles was invited to be our patron and the club was delighted when he accepted. His close interest in the fortunes of the club and his wise advice since then have been much appreciated. All were delighted when he was knighted in the 1999 New Year's honours for his services to sport in NZ and particularly to golf and then further honoured by becoming a Member of the Order of New Zealand (ONZ) in 2010.

Jan Ward joined him as patron after amalgamation and continued in that position until her death in 2001.

Bob returned to live in Christchurch in 2008 following his retirement from competitive golf. This has meant that he has been seen frequently at the club and his advice and interest is much welcomed.

In 2022 Bob was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of St Andrews in recognition of his achievements as a champion golfer and for his service to golf in NZ and around the world.

A further highlight was Bob's hole in one on Crossways at Shirley on 3 February 2023. This was the first time he had achieved a hole in one at his home club.

Charles Gallery

Members were informed in July 2016 that funding was now in place for the Charles Gallery to be built on the first floor of the new clubhouse. There would be no call on club funds. The major funder was the Mahar Trust of which Geoff Saunders and Lee Robinson were trustees and there had also been significant contributions from the Charles family and Saunders, Robinson and Brown Lawyers.

Another key funder was Geoffrey Beadel who had been a member since 1947 and whose grandparents, parents and wider family had had a very close involvement with the club. In recognition of his donation of \$30,000 the southern end of the Gallery is called the Beadel Annex.

Sir Bob and Lady Charles were very generous in providing a large amount of memorabilia to display, the prime piece being a replica of the Claret Jug for winners of the Open Championship.

EISENHOWER TROPHY



1990 Eisenhower Trophy

Mathais Gronberg of Sweden, the leading individual and the only player to better par over the four days

Undoubtedly the greatest occasion in the club's history was hosting the world men's amateur team championships, the biennial tournament for men organised by the International Golf Federation. The tournament was first played in 1958 and was named after Dwight D. Eisenhower, the President of the United States at the time, who was a keen amateur golfer.

In July 1981 the NZGA advised the club that they would be applying to hold the Eisenhower tournament in 1984 and they proposed that it would be held at Shirley if the club was agreeable. This application was unsuccessful.

However in 1988 Grant Clements, the executive director of NZ Golf, travelled to Stockholm where the Eisenhower was being played, to present his pitch for the hosting rights for the 1990 tournament. He succeeded in winning enough support from the delegates from the 39 countries who attended.

P.J. Boatwright Jr. who was the joint secretary of the Federation and who was responsible for setting up courses for the US open from 1969 to 1990 visited Shirley in October 1989. He wrote "the Shirley Links will be an outstanding test".

Planning meetings began in February 1989 under the chairmanship of David Hicks, then club captain, with the club taking responsibility for starters, practice area control, scoreboards, security, car parking, crowd control, communications, media liaison, catering and caddies. One way or another almost every member was involved.

The tournament was played from 25 to 28 October 1990 in beautiful weather though with the inevitable

Christchurch nor'easter in the afternoons. Thirty-five countries participated.

Sweden won the Eisenhower trophy by 13 shots but it was the fight for second place that grabbed the local interest. The NZ team was carefully selected after months of trials staged at Shirley and comprised Michael Long, Steven Alker, Grant Moorhead and Brent Paterson (who had been a club member up until 1988 when he moved to Auckland). Going into the final round the United States was second, a stroke ahead of Canada and two strokes better than the Kiwis, but a strong closing performance by the home team had them in the clubhouse sitting alone in second place and watching the scoreboard closely. It came down to teenage star Phil Mickelson who faced a 30 foot putt for birdie on the final hole (which was Shirley in a change in the routing for the tournament). A smooth stroke and a putt that never looked like missing denied NZ a solo second. David Duval was another in the United States team who went on to further fame.

The professional way the event was delivered took the championship to new heights. NZ became the first country to run the event at a surplus.

At the first committee meeting after the Eisenhower tournament on 6 November 1990

David Hicks was thanked for his efforts in making the tournament a success and a letter was sent to Murray Palmer, head greenkeeper, congratulating him on the state of the course.

P.J. Boatwright wrote to the club after the tournament and said that he would have had no hesitation in holding a US open at Shirley immediately following the Eisenhower.

FIFTEEN DECADES

1873 - 1875

	Club Captain	Membership
1873	A Todd	Not available
1874	A Jameson	Not available

The first mention of the game of golf in Christchurch is found in the 25 September 1872 edition of *The Press* where it was reported that 'The Christchurch Golf Club is an established fact and a goodly number of members are to be found playing this national game on Saturdays in Hagley Park. We may remark that serious complaints are made of the danger of allowing cattle and other animals to wander at large in the park, more particularly to ladies and children. Already one or two narrow escapes from being rushed by cows have taken place'. The reporting of the formation of a golf club was premature because on 2 February 1873 a paragraph announced that Mr A. Jameson 'by the last mail received a complete set of materials and measures will be taken at an early date for inviting persons to aid in establishing a club'.

Andrew Jameson had joined his uncle Mr Thomas Duncan as a partner in his legal firm in 1869. On 1 March 1873 he inserted an advertisement which read 'All those who are interested in the formation of a golf club are requested to communicate with me. Sufficient



Mr. A. Jameson

materials for play have been imported to enable a club to be at once formed. A preliminary meeting will be called immediately after receipt of communications'. This meeting took place on the morning of 19 April 1873 in the offices of Duncan & Jameson under the chairmanship of Mr T. Duncan where it was unanimously resolved that a combination of the kind should be formed and that the title should be the Christchurch Golf Club.

The rules of the Dunedin Golf Club were adopted. Officers were elected and the clubroom was to be at the residence of Mr T. Gapes in Hereford Street West. It was resolved that the entrance fee should be one guinea (£1.1.0) and the subscription a like amount. Messrs Todd, Jameson and Carrick were appointed to a sub-committee to draw up rules for playing, suitable to the ground, which was to be in Hagley Park near Christ's College.

Mr Jameson consented to act as honorary secretary and it was resolved that the first general meeting be held on Friday 25 April 1873 when the necessary officers would be elected. In the afternoon a game was played on the club ground which Messrs Todd and Jameson had previously marked out. *The Press* reported that the turf was in capital order and some very good sport ensued.

On 14 July it was recorded that the game of golf was decidedly increasing in popularity. 'The members of the club practice regularly and not a Saturday passes without a number of games being played'.

An annual meeting was held on 19 June 1874 when Mr Jameson was appointed captain. Then on 6 October a handicap match was played in Mr Brittan's paddock at Avonside. The game was three times round a course of four holes which Mr Robison won with an aggregate of 78.

5 April 1875 saw another season underway when a round or two were played in Mr Brittan's paddock. Good amusement was derived from the play which was going to be continued every Saturday, weather permitting, throughout the season. These hopes were not realised because golf died a temporary death, at least as an organised game.

The reasons for this can only be speculated upon. Hagley Park may have been unsuitable because of grazing stock and the length of the grass. Mr Brittan's paddock may

well have presented the same problems. Another reason may have been that Mr Jameson had left his partnership and the city in financial disgrace some time at the end of 1874. Did he take his golf clubs and his enthusiasm with him? He died in Perth, Western Australia of dropsy at the early age of 41.

The mystery as to why the playing of golf suddenly died out is equalled by why it suddenly revived in 1891. There are sparse reports of some golf continuing to be played in the sandhills of Avonside and George Wilder is said to have had a course at his farm at Fernside. More puzzling is how and where a ladies' club was formed. By 1893 there were at least twenty-three in a photograph, all apparently dressed in a club uniform and holding clubs. Reports of their early play also suggest some prior practice.

Dr David Macmillan who was an authority on early Christchurch did note that lack of newspaper reporting on sporting activities in the seventies and eighties did not



Christchurch Ladies' Golf Club 1893

necessarily indicate a failing interest or lack of activity. In this period there apparently had developed, for some now unknown reason, a dislike of publicity amounting almost to abhorrence. There are known instances of reporters being forcibly removed from sporting meetings and functions.

1891 - 1899

	Club Captain	Membership
1891 - 1892	P. Cunningham	No records available until 1898
1893 - 1897	B.H. Burns	
1898	B.H. Burns	41
1899	E. Wilder	108

In March 1891 the first signs of returning life were manifested when a provisional committee consisting of Messrs A. Carrick, P. Cunningham, G. Lambie, I.W. Marshall, J.T. Peacock, W.S. Robison, R.D. Thomas and L.B. Wood met in the pavilion of the Christchurch Bowling Club. They were among a small group who had

been playing in North Hagley Park on Saturdays with the object of finding out if the park was suitable.

As a result Mr Carrick, signing himself as acting secretary, sent out a postcard reading as follows: 'The preliminary steps having been taken to start a Golf



Club in Christchurch, a meeting of those interested in the game will be held at the Canterbury Club on Friday afternoon 22 May at 4 o'clock. Should you desire to join the proposed Golf Club your attendance at the meeting is respectfully requested.

To Mr J.J. (later Sir Joseph) Kinsey fell the honour of proposing the following motion:

'That a golf club be formed to be called the Christchurch Golf Club and that the following gentlemen be declared the first members thereof: Messrs B.H. Burns, T.D. Condell, A. Carrick, W.B. Common, J.J. Kinsey, W.M. Lambie Jnr, A. Otterson, Captain Marshall, R. Westenra, A.T. White Jnr, J. Beaumont, P. Cunningham, D. Craig, J.B. Fisher, Geo. Lambie, H.N. Nalder, J. Palmer, R. Richardson, L.B. Wood, W.S. Robison.'

A motion was then passed: 'That the rules of the old Christchurch Golf Club 1873 be adopted as the rules of the new club, subject to alterations and amendments.'

The annual subscription was fixed at £1.1.0 and life membership at £10.10.0 with no entrance fee.

The first handicap match was played on the Hagley links on 4 September 1891 with 16 members playing. Three players (Burns, Gosset and Charlewood) tied with a gross score of 104. The best net score was 101 by Professor Haslam on a handicap of 14. He was presented with a very handsome gold medal in the shape of a St Andrew's cross with a figure of a golf player which had been loaned by Mr H.J. Hall.

The match for the golf medal was played on 14 September 1892 and was won by a young player Mr W. Lambie 112-16-96. This was the last match for the year as it was expected the growth of grass would prevent play until the following April.

The second AGM was held on 13 April 1893 when it was decided the season would open on 3 May at 2 p.m. Mr Cunningham retired as club captain and was replaced by Mr Burns.

Golf had been resuscitated in Dunedin the previous year and a team from the Dunedin Golf Club visited on the last weekend in July travelling each way by the express train. In the friendly singles the Christchurch team won by 29 holes to 8, each match being played out to the eighteenth. Dr Marshall of Christchurch beat his opponent Mr Melland by 12 holes and it was initially argued by some Dunedin players that that result should be excluded as Mr Melland was not really part of the Dunedin team. In the pairs (presumably foursomes), Dunedin beat Christchurch by 5 holes so the overall result (excluding the Marshall/Melland result) was that

Christchurch won by 15 holes. However, a week later it was advised that the result should be included and the victory adjusted to be by 27 holes. The ground was reported as being in capital condition and the putting greens in perfect order, Captain Marshall having devoted much care and attention to them.

It is believed that this was the commencement of the oldest continuously played match between any two clubs in the southern hemisphere. On 19 July 1898 Mr N.G.W. Hanmer, the then secretary of the club, offered to present a challenge trophy for annual competition by foursomes between the two clubs. The first match for this was played on 23 September 1898 just before the NZ championship and was won by Christchurch.

The Campbell-Hosking challenge shield came into being on 12 September 1900 when Dr Graham Campbell the secretary of the Christchurch club and Mr J.H. Hosking the captain of the Otago club combined to present this trophy to be played for annually in singles between the two clubs at the same time as the competition for the Hanmer shield.

Competition for these two trophies continues as keenly today as in the days of their inception together with the subsequent advent of the Friendly shield, a handicap match for the not quite so 'efficient' golfers, has ensured the bonds of friendship and goodwill between the two clubs remain firmly welded.

On 20 August 1893 a meeting was held to consider building a hut costing £27.10.0.¹ This was approved, the club contributing £10 and members' donations the balance.

The first annual medal and championship was played at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 23 August 1893 and was decided on the best gross score which was that of Mr W.T. Charlewood. His score of 94 was the best of the 13 competitors, the worst being that of Mr W.J. Moore 172-25-147. He must have struggled to complete his round before darkness fell and there is no record of him ever playing again.



Mr W.T. Charlewood

The 1894 AGM was held on 10 May with an attendance of some dozen members. In the past year there had been a brilliant victory over the Otago club. This was not repeated on the following 27 July when the visitors won by 10 holes in each of the formats.

¹ The pound (symbol £) was the currency of New Zealand from 1840 until 1967, when it was replaced by the New Zealand dollar. It was subdivided into 20 shillings (abbreviation s or /) each of 12 pence (symbol d). So for example £5.15.6 was read as 5 pounds 15 shillings and sixpence. Twelve pennies was equal to 10 cents. Shillings alone were written with a following /- so ten shillings could be written as 10/- and the example as £5/15/6. Upon conversion one pound equalled two dollars, one shilling equalled 10 cents and a penny approximated one cent. Thus the example amount converted to eleven dollars fifty five cents \$11.55. (5 pounds equals \$10, 15 shillings equals \$1.50, 6 pence equals 5 cents.) Also sometimes in use was the guinea valued at £1.1.0 which converts to \$2.10.

A gossip column in *The Press* in early May reported that 'Golf is all the rage and unless you belong to a club you have little or no chance of gaining any fun or excitement'. Shortage of ladies' clubs was a problem.

The condition of Hagley Park must have presented difficulties. Reporting on play there are numerous comments such as 'some of the putting greens were very sticky while others were keen, as a whole rather treacherous', 'practically in an unplayable state' and 'water hazards which are now plentiful have brought serious trouble'.



Two championships were held during the year. What was described as the NZ Golf championship began on 25 July 1894. This is now described by NZ Golf as the second NZ amateur championship, the first having been won by J.A. Somerville of Otago playing on his home links in 1893. The final played in Christchurch on 16 July was between two Otago men, H. McNeill beating J.R. Scott 7 and 6. The weather was a strong sou'west, cold and accompanied by rain.

The ladies' championship commenced on 13 August 1894, as with the men the second playing of this championship. It is now described by NZ Golf as the women's championship though in contemporary records it was the ladies' championship up until at least 1994. The final between Mrs Wilder of Christchurch and Mrs Melland of Otago took place on the 17th. The ground was practically in an unplayable state with large pools of water due to heavy rain the previous day. However, the sun came out at noon and after a delay the match began at 3 p.m. There was a large crowd of spectators, including several hundred young men and youths attracted from the football grounds. The crowd behaved better when some ladies formed rings round the greens. By the time the players reached the 16th hole it was 6 p.m., the light was very bad and Mrs



Mrs Wilder

Wilder was 3 up. Mrs Melland won that hole but lost the next so that Mrs Wilder was the victor 3 and 1.

The following day the Christchurch ladies defeated Otago by 25 holes, the ground having improved a little. A challenge cup given by the Countess of Glasgow (the President of the Christchurch Ladies' Golf Club) was presented to Mrs Wilder. Mrs Woodhouse was presented with a trophy for her record round of 99, which was remarkable as she had only been playing golf for three months.

On 18 August a letter was printed in *The Press* signed by 'A Man' decrying women playing golf. He pictured the 'little motherless children in Dunedin left to say their prayers in the hearing of hired nursery maids'. A letter agreeing with him also was printed from a person using the nom de plume 'Scrubbing Brush' who declared she was not a lady of high degree.

These matches continued for the rest of the decade with the last recorded one being held in 1900 at Hagley. They were revived in 2022 at Balmacewen and 2023 at Shirley with the home teams winning. A Longevity Shield is now played for.

The 1895 AGM was held on 21 February with nine members in attendance. It was agreed that the season would open on 5 March. The accounts showed that receipts had been £70.8.8 and payments £65.14.1. For the July medal the ground was in a bad state owing to the large quantity of water lying about in pools.

The highlight of the year was the winning of the NZ championship by Dr George Gosset. This was played at the Hutt club and in the final on 10 October Dr Gosset beat his fellow club member Mr Wilder 5 up with 3 to play.



Dr George Gosset

Dr Gosset had come to NZ in 1883 and joined the Christchurch Golf Club in 1893. His father, the Reverend J.H. Gosset, had been involved in the laying out of the famous course Westward Ho in North Devon. George had played golf extensively and successfully in England from 1867 until he emigrated. He attributed his recent success to Mr Loudon of the BNZ at Leeston, who had set up a golf course at the Ellesmere A & P Showgrounds and therefore provided a practice area with sheep pens and cattle yards. Perhaps this made an immense difference to the confidence with which such hazards could be negotiated.

Earlier in the season (18 September) in the Christchurch championship Dr Gosset had defeated Mr Burns 7 and 6. The players completed the 18 holes with Dr Gosset's score of 79 becoming the course record. The greens were in beautiful condition.

By the middle of the decade a yearly pattern of matches had been established. Opening day was either April or early May. Monthly medals were played on Saturdays usually around the beginning of each month, culminating in the club championship in September. The numbers playing ranged between 10 and 20 in 1896 and only one score under 100 was recorded. The extent of play at other times of the months is not known.

In November 1895 the club approached the Domain Board, which had control of Hagley Park, asking to be allowed to play after 30 September and on Thursday afternoons. It took until July 1896 for the Board to approve an extension of one month but for Thursday mornings only. This allowed for a competition for caddies over 9 holes to be held on 3 October. Thirteen boys competed and J. Land was the winner with a score of 44.

There was then an attempt to form a Ferry Rd Golf Club to allow for summer golf. Its opening day was advertised to be 7 November but there is no further record of it.

The highlight of 1897 was the holding of the Ladies' Golf championships in late August, in which players from Hutt and Dunedin were amongst the 50 participating. The final was won by Miss Wilford from Hutt who beat Mrs Vernon 2/1. The lofting competition was won by Miss Bowen of Christchurch.

At the prize giving a presentation was made to Miss Ida Cowlshaw, the honorary secretary of the Ladies' club, as a token of appreciation from the visiting clubs.

There was some increase in participation in the men's medals in 1897 and 1898 though 31 players was the highest.

The NZ amateur championship commenced on 21 September 1898 at Hagley. There were 38 entries from Auckland, Wanganui, Manawatu, Hutt, Wellington, Timaru, North Otago, Waimate, Dunedin and Christchurch. W. Pryde from the Hutt defeated E. Wilder of Christchurch in the 18 hole final 5/4.

In the presentation speeches thanks were given to Captain Marshall for arranging the greens, which were kept in good order by the unremitting attention of the caretaker Mr A. Marshall. However, in the reporting of the tournament there are several references to less than satisfactory lies. The start of the season had been delayed because of the grass being too long. A swampy area was going to be drained to form what is now known as Victoria Lake. Photos taken round this time show ground that looks no better than a rough paddock.

It is therefore no surprise that at the AGM on 22

October Mr R.M.L. Kitto spoke up. He was the current club champion having defeated Mr Wilder 5/4 in early September and had set a new course record of 76 on the 27th. He said that the Hagley links were unsatisfactory. They were ridiculously easy and sometimes the full course could not be obtained. He knew of 500 acres near Yaldhurst which would be almost ideal and he proposed that the committee should inspect it.

A follow up meeting was held on 5 November where it was reported that land near Yaldhurst had been inspected and found to be perfectly suited to golf. It was available for rent at an annual fee of £5. The expenditure on the new ground for the first year was estimated to be £58. Thirty-three members had agreed to pay an increased subscription from one guinea to two guineas so that Hagley could be kept up for those members who could not afford the time to get out to the new links. A suitable motion was passed approving these actions.

By May the following year (1899) it was reported that 18 greens had been sown and fenced at what was now referred to as Russley, very close to the land now occupied by the golf club of that name. This was good news for the golfers who had been struggling with the long grass at Hagley for the last six weeks.

The official opening of Russley (photo below) occurred on 19 June in glorious weather. The Mayor made a speech and a large crowd was present. The Governor (Lord Ranfurly) played on 21 August partnered by Mr Kitto and opposed by Baron von Wedel and E.D. O'Rorke. The former pair won (it is suggested deliberately, by 8 holes) and the opportunity was taken to apply for a Royal Charter. This was not successful, but Lord Ranfurly agreed to be Patron. This was the first of at least eight requests for a Royal Charter that have been made over the years. All have been refused, the most recent in 2013.



The last club championship played at Hagley was on 18 September 1899, which was again won by Mr Kitto defeating Mr Leigh 7/6.

	President	Club Captain	Membership
1900	E. Wilder	Not available	
1901	Mr Justice Denniston	E. Wilder	120
1902	Mr Justice Denniston	T D. Condell	136
1903	Mr Justice Denniston	T D. Condell	135
1904	Mr Justice Denniston	T D. Condell	78
1905	Mr Justice Denniston	H. H. Loughnan	107
1906	Mr Justice Denniston	H. H. Loughnan	111
1907	A. E. G. Rhodes Esq	J. W. H. Wood	113
1908	Mr Justice Denniston	W. T. D. Harman	138
1909	Mr Justice Denniston	A. M. Borthwick	152

At the beginning of 1900 the club had two courses (or links as they persisted in calling them) at Russley and Hagley. As a result of the publicity the opening of Russley gave the club, the membership increased from 41 to 108.

Considerable effort and expense (£122) was spent on the Russley course. It was reported at the AGM on 26 March 1900 that 18 greens had been laid, each at least one eighth of an acre and all were strongly fenced.

Occupancy of Russley was to be of very short duration. At the AGM on 26 March 1900 Mr E.D. O'Rorke moved a motion 'That in view of the Russley links being so difficult of access and as there is no likelihood of any means of locomotion, such as a regular bus or train service for many years to come, and in view also of the probable difficulty and expenses in making the greens there really good, it be an instruction to the incoming committee to make every effort to procure the lease with a purchasing clause of certain land that is known to them, and which is within ten minutes from town by tram and could be made a first class links with little expense'.



Mr E.D. O'Rorke

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs Orbell and L.B. Wood later reported that there would be no difficulty in obtaining land near Horseshoe Lake which was about 100 acres in extent with 70 acres suitable as a links. At a follow up meeting on 11 June it was decided to purchase this land which was owned by five separate individuals for not over £2000 or, alternatively, to lease if not possible to purchase.

The sub-committee then reported on 26 June that of the five owners no terms were possible with Cox, a lease from Anderson had been obtained for five years at £20 per annum with an option to purchase of £600, similarly from Parish £2.10.0 and £240, and Rangiora Co. £25 and £450. Presumably the fifth owner was Wilson who sold in 1907. The secretary was instructed to complete the leases and L.B. Wood and E.D. O'Rorke were appointed to lay out the course.

By 21 July the latter reported the links were ready to play: a 9 hole course had been laid out at a cost of £6, a man appointed to prepare the ground, the fencing at Russley had been shifted to Shirley, the Russley lease had been cancelled from the end of the year, and an arrangement had been made with Alexander to rent a room as a clubhouse for 3/- a week. The first competition was played on 4 August with the lowest gross score being 93 by T. D. Harman.

The last record of a men's competition at Hagley is a bogey held on 21 July. This does not appear to have been marked in any way. A move to Shirley must have been eagerly awaited as at the end of May army manoeuvres had resulted in the destruction of the greens. The annual match against Otago, the men's championships (won for the third year in a row by Kitto) and the Jubilee tournament (with players from throughout NZ) were all played at Shirley.

In August the committee recommended to members that a clubhouse and caretaker's cottage be built. On a poll this proposal was rejected 17 against and 13 for. Perhaps in retribution the committee resolved that supplies of whisky would not be held at Shirley.

The ladies continued playing at Hagley, holding their championships there at the end of September. At the conclusion of these, competitors 'repaired' to Shirley to play 9 holes. They then enquired whether they could use the Shirley links for 10/- per member, but also continue to play on the Hagley course which had been reduced to 9 holes. This was agreed to at a semi-AGM on 26 November 1900.

Over the summer two days' labour per week was deemed sufficient for the upkeep of the links. Thus at the AGM on 26 March 1901 it was advised that the first medal of the New Year would be able to be held in four days' time, a significant advance on previous years. It was said that the links were second to none in the country. Membership was now 120 men and 40 ladies. It was decided to shift the 'Hagley Hut' to Shirley and allow the ladies to use one half of it. The nine holes at Hagley would be maintained with the ladies' club during the winter.

It was the ladies therefore who approached the Domain Board in July for the rent of the Hagley course to be halved to £2.10.0. When this request was refused it was decided that the lease would not be renewed, as the ground was almost useless as a golf course. The ladies then played their next medal on 22 July at Shirley.

18 holes were opened for play on 22 June 1901. The names of the holes are in Additional Topics. For the first time the final of the club championship was played over two rounds of 18 holes on 29 September. This was won by Kitto who beat Sams 4/3. In his semi-final Kitto had set a new course record of 76. The season could now be extended so that the match against Otago was played at the end of October and the Jubilee competition on 8 November. The first record of a ladies' competition at Shirley is a medal on 22 July. A mixed doubles (presumably a foursome) took place on 26 August.

The 1902 men's season opened on 8 April and that of the ladies on 1 May. The men's membership had increased to 136.

The time had come to put the club on a proper financial footing and to replace the 'Hagley Hut' with a larger clubhouse and this led to the formation of the Shirley Links Company Ltd. Details in Additional Topics.

The larger clubhouse was to have ladies' tea, dressing and locker rooms. There would be similar rooms for the men besides a large dining room and smoking and dressing rooms and a caretaker's room at the back. A tender of £795 for this building was accepted in August.

The clubhouse was declared open on 23 March the following year (1903) by the Governor (Lord Ranfurly). He gave a very brief speech, expressing his pleasure at taking part in the ceremony. Arrangements for the afternoon tea on the lawn and in the dining room were left to the ladies' club, with the expenses to be shared equally between the two clubs. The women considered asking members to help with cakes, but decided 'that would entail much worry for a most likely unsatisfactory result' and settled instead for using professional caterers to provide an afternoon tea with the addition of fruit salad. They asked members for their maids to serve the afternoon tea and decided that the maids should travel out to Shirley on the 1 o'clock tram.

Additional funding from the company allowed for the abolition of the wire fences, proper bunkers to be put in place and the cattle 'got rid of'.

Mr R.L. Orbell was particularly thanked for his untiring exertions in securing the lease of the Shirley links from the various owners and then in promoting the formation of the company. He was presented with life membership (worth 20 guineas and subscribed for by members) and as a 'ticket of membership' a spirit stand in cut glass and oak bearing an inscribed silver plate.



First Clubhouse at Shirley. The photo was taken in 1915

The Auckland Golf Club's professional, Hood, arrived on 3 July 1903 for five weeks. Mr Hood was the first in a line of 12 club professionals to date.

The NZ Golf championship was held in the first week of September 1902 with players from Otago, Wellington, Timaru, Wanganui and Gisborne participating. *The Press* provided detailed reporting hole by hole of the matches. The final was won by Mr S.H. Gollan from Napier who beat Mr C.E.S. Gillies from Auckland 3/1. There was also a long driving contest, the winner hitting the ball 195 yards.

The minutes of a committee meeting on 24 April 1902 reported that the ladies' club had decided to amalgamate with the men's club with the following conditions:

- Use of links at all times.
- Annual subscription to be £1 with 2/6 to be left for the ladies' club.
- Men's club to have no expense re ladies except to provide the course.
- Men's club to receive all entrance fees.

This arrangement was apparently not acceptable, to whom it is unclear, so on 1 May 1903 new negotiations were reported and the following offer made which implies the continuation of separate clubs:

- Lady members to play at all times except Saturday afternoons, from April to September inclusive.
- Ladies' club to pay 17/6 per member annually to the Christchurch Golf Club.

- Ladies' club to nominate a member of the Christchurch Golf Club's greens' committee as their representative to whom they will address any communications re greens etc.
- Agreement to be dated 1 Jan 1903 and to be terminable (sic) by one year's notice either side.

A letter was received from the ladies' committee on 9 June, which it is assumed accepted these terms.

However, almost exactly one year later it was decided to terminate this agreement and get a better arrangement. Perhaps this is why in March a ladies' golf club was granted use of part of Hagley Park by the Domain Board. And perhaps the explanation why there was a match between the Hagley Park Golf Club and the Christchurch Ladies at Shirley on 29 July.

At the AGM on 11 March 1904 it was reported that there were now 135 members and the links were becoming congested. Thanks were passed to Mr A.L. Muggeridge for constructing a new green and two tees at his own expense. He returned to London in the Turakina's saloon steam ship the following week leaving behind only his name for one of our par threes. It was noted that Mr Cuthbert, the Wellington Golf Club professional, had spent three weeks at Shirley during February.

The NZ ladies' championships were held at the end of August 1904.

The membership at 5 April 1905 AGM was reported as being 142 consisting of 2 life, 78 active, 21 country, 25 honorary and 16 absentee. It was resolved to employ a coach if possible and in June J.M. Heard of Launceston accepted the position for five months and stayed until 1909. He was probably in his very early twenties and was said to have learnt his golf at St Andrews.

The season opened on 10 April and was attended by Lord and Lady Plunket, the Governor and his wife.

In August a telephone line was installed costing nine guineas per annum.

In July 1906 Mr R.L. Orbell presented a challenge cup to be played for competition between teams consisting of six ladies and six men from members of recognised clubs in Canterbury and Otago. It was initially held by the Timaru club and the first challenge was from our club on 26 July, played at the Highfield course and easily repulsed by 132 points to 90 before a large attendance. Otago won their challenge on 5 April 1907 and held the cup for many years. Then unexpectedly the Timaru club beat Otago and in 1921 Christchurch beat Timaru. From there the competition developed into an annual mixed match between the Christchurch and Timaru clubs and continues to be closely contested to this day.

The NZ ladies' golf championship began on 20 August 1906 with a record entry of 32 players. The final on the Friday 24 between Mrs Bidell of Wairarapa and Miss Mendelson of Timaru was all square after 18 holes. Miss

Mendelson made a brilliant putt at Charles to extend the match but Mrs Bidell replied with a putt from the outside of the green at the Briggs to win the match. The prize giving was at the Café Royal to which members of the men's club were invited to attend at 9 p.m.

On Saturday there was a teams' match between Dunedin, Christchurch and Timaru, which was won by Dunedin by 7 strokes from Christchurch. On Sunday there was the annual match between the Otago and Christchurch ladies' clubs, which was won by Otago by 10 holes.

The NZ men's championships were also held at Shirley starting on Monday 10 September 1906. For the entertainment of visitors a smoke concert was held after the first day's play and a dinner and prize giving on finals' day. As well as match play for the championship there were medal rounds on Tuesday and Wednesday, a bogey handicap on Thursday afternoon and on Saturday foursomes and another medal handicap. After a long spell of fine weather the wind turned on the first morning to the sou'west with heavy rain. The consequence was that the turf became moist and soft and the putting greens sodden, in some cases water-logged. The players moreover were chilled to the bone by the cutting wind and drenched to the skin with frequent showers. The weather did not improve in the afternoon and play again suffered as a consequence.

The weather did improve as the championships progressed, though for the semi-finals a strong nor'easterly blew. For the final played over 36 holes it was calm and cool. S.H. Gollan from Napier had no problem beating W.T.D. Harman of Christchurch 8/7 having taken 81 strokes in the morning round against his opponent's 87.

The Press gave hole by hole reports of this final and earlier rounds, detailing problems like gorse bushes, reeds, swamps, deep sheep tracks, boggy lies and fences. It would seem that they were wearing rosy glasses when describing the links as being in excellent order at the beginning of the championships.

Indeed some visiting players expressed opinions that were far from complimentary. They complained that the greens were uneven and uncertain and the approaches altogether too rough. They criticised the undulating nature of the country and the rough condition of the fairways which necessitated using their irons to an extent to which they were not accustomed. Another objection was that the bunkers all ran at right angles to the line of flight, there being practically no side bunkers. One very prominent player declared that the links were the worst he had ever played on. The links had been laid down with sheep grass, but no sheep had ever been run on it and it had consequently become very rough. He declared that he could not understand how anybody could possibly expect to learn how to play golf on the Shirley links.

Negotiations for the purchase of Wilson's 10 acres and a house began in January 1906 when his asking price was

£2,000. It was eventually purchased by the Shirley Links Company in May 1907 for £1,775 and subsequently the club agreed to lease it.

The 1907 club championship was won by B.C. Rutherford who beat M.L. Cotton 14/13. Rutherford had played the first 18 holes in 75, which included taking 6 at Muggeridges.

At the 4 November meeting it was resolved to appoint a resident greenkeeper at £2 per week and this might increase by 50/- a week. A free house would be provided. Greens and fairways were to be cut and rolled and the clubhouse kept clean. Meals were to be provided at the following prices: cold lunch 1/-, late tea 1/-, afternoon tea 6d. Aerated waters and cigarettes could be sold. Meals during tournaments would be charged at 1/6. Crockery, glass, linen and cooking utensils would be provided by the club.

The AGM held on 12 March 1906 was advised that Wilson's land had been incorporated into the course. Membership had now reached 211.

At a special meeting in late November which had a large attendance it was reported that 24 acres of land of the Browns Estate had been purchased 'across the road' for £1,770. It was 1/8th mile in width and 1/4 mile long. The treasurer considered that he would be able to make ends meet in the coming year without raising subscriptions, as recently there had been 35 new members and only 4 or 5 resignations. Any increase would be small.

Mr S.K. Sleigh remarked that he did not see why the subscription should be increased at all. Before the men's subscription was increased the club should certainly get an increased sum from the ladies. He did not see why the men's subscription should be continually increased whilst the ladies got off 'scot-free'.

He also objected to the proposal to engage a professional at 30/- per week for the full year. Neither the club nor its members would derive any benefit from this expenditure as members had not taken advantage of the service of the professional over the last summer.

Nonetheless J.A. Clements was engaged as the professional on trial for a month, for a 12-month engagement. He had won the NZ open in 1908 and 1909.

1910 - 1919

	President	Club Captain	Membership
1910	A. E. G. Rhodes Esq.	C. F. Thomas	191
1911	R. E. McDougall Esq.	C. F. Thomas	218
1912	R. E. McDougall Esq.	H. H. Loughnan	221
1913	A. E. G. Rhodes Esq.	G. E. Rhodes	190
1914	Mr Justice Denniston	H. H. Loughnan	150
1915	G. Humphreys Esq.	M. H. Godby	143
1916	G. Humphreys Esq.	M. H. Godby	158
1917	Wm. Wood Esq.	S. K. Sleigh	154
1918	Wm. Wood Esq.	S. K. Sleigh	152
1919	G. Humphreys Esq.	J. D. Millto	187

Membership – the War Years

Fourteen members are listed in the 1914 report as having joined the forces to fight the Empire's battles. The committee decided that during their absence with the Colours their membership should be maintained without payment of subscriptions (minutes 8 October 1914).

Five further members enlisted in 1915. The deaths of H.M. Butterworth killed in France and K.S. Jameson killed at the Dardanelles were recorded with deep regret.

A significant concession in May 1916 was to allow ladies who were regular Red Cross workers to be allowed to play on Saturday afternoons. Seven members enlisted in 1916 and twelve in 1917. In the latter year the deaths of Captain Stuart Ramsay D.S.O., Lieutenant A.W. Bishop and Private W.P. Bryden were recorded, killed in action while doing their duty for their country. Finally in 1918, the

supreme sacrifice had been made by H.R. Brittan (twice holder of the Canterbury championship), E.T. Harper and C.H. Green.

The end of the war brought the expected increase in membership as members who had served overseas returned.

Finances

The losses from 1911 to 1914 largely resulted from the costs incurred in the development of the outside paddock. In 1913 the cost of horse feed was identified for the first time: £13.15.6.

The financial position of the club was not strong so an offer by the ladies in November 1914 to raise their sub to 55/- and pay 50/- to the club was accepted and the ladies thanked for their generosity.

A careful watch on costs was kept during the war years

to compensate for the loss of subscription income, the upkeep of the links reducing from £516 in 1914 to £318 in 1918.

In November 1916 it was decided that sheep should be grazed on the links, presumably as a temporary measure. However, this was made permanent in March 1917 and it was decided to 'get rid of one man and a horse'. Grazing of sheep brought in £66 in 1917 and again in 1918. In October 1918 it was reported that 900 sheep at 1 pence per head per week were on the links (down from 1½ pence), but by January though the sheep were still there they were not producing any income as feed was abundant throughout the province.

By the time of the February 1919 AGM the club's finances were reported as being satisfactory. Permission was granted to five lady members, engaged in office work during the week, to play on Saturday afternoons until further notice. It was decided to install electric lights in the clubhouse.

In 1919 the committee deliberately increased expenditure to improve the condition of the course with the costs rising to £641.

Course

At the AGM held on 1 March 1910 the men's club captain, Mr C.F. Thomas, reported that during the previous year the Company had purchased and leased to the club 24 acres of land beyond Land's End. Work was progressing on constructing new holes. These were not in play by the time the NZ championship matches were played later in the year.

At the prize giving ceremony for these, Mr Thomas said that perhaps Shirley was not up to the standard of a championship course. He had heard it referred to as a 'toy' course. (There were at least 6 par 3s in the layout.) However he assured his audience that the next time it would be equal to anything in the world.

The committee decided on 14 April 1911 to engage D. Soutar of Sydney, a successful Australian professional, to advise on the layout of the course. His fee was to be £25 plus expenses and Clements was to be paid £5 to assist him. He was in Christchurch in the middle of May. No copy of his report has been found. However, the committee on 25 July voted £75 to put part of the course in new ground (presumably the far paddock) according to Soutar's plan.

At a committee meeting on 28 March 1912 the new layout was approved, mostly according to Soutar's proposal. It was to be adopted after the Easter tournament. However at the March 1913 AGM it was reported that the changes to the course had been delayed for various reasons. Now that they were in place they had proved an improvement in every respect. Farthest North, Crossways and Nor'west were in play for the club championships in July 1914. By August 1915 it was reported that a large series of improvements had been carried out: replotting

of the course, construction of new greens and planting of ornamental trees. There is no record of any further work during the war.

The first formal appointment of a greenkeeper was recorded in February 1913 when G. Smith, who had been groundsman at Lancaster Park, was engaged. Financial problems in early April 1914 resulted in the staff being reduced to two men and other employees being put off. W.M. Iles, the professional, was appointed supervisor in January 1915. Watson (described as a greenkeeper and presumably the husband of the caterer) resigned in February 1918 and the pair were replaced temporarily by Mr and Mrs Boys.

Improvements to the course during this decade included the building of the pagoda through the generosity of Mr R.E. McDougall. A further land purchase was made in July 1914 adjacent to the links across the road for £700.

A new water supply was installed in 1915 costing £678. This involved water being pumped from the creek by an oil engine into a tank holding 5,000 gallons where the pagoda now stands.

In March 1919 Brice's 11 ¼ acres were purchased for £2,000. Two months later it was decided to sell the buildings on this site that were not required and invite designs for a clubhouse. By August the layout of this land had been determined and the whole mound reserved for the clubhouse site.

Professionals

At the 1910 AGM Mr Thomas gave enthusiastic praise for Mr J. Clements. Players had improved greatly under his tuition. P. Trolove had recently set a new course record of 69.

Mr Clements resigned as professional in September 1912 after having won another NZ open, this time at Heretaunga. William Iles (aged 30) from Tasmania was appointed his replacement in the following February, for a trial period of six months at a fee of £78 per annum plus coaching fees of 2/6 per hour. Iles beat Clements in the final of the NZ Professional championships in October 1913 when the latter missed an 18-inch (50cm) putt on the 18th.

Championships

The NZ ladies' championship was held at Shirley beginning on Thursday 18 August 1910. There was a rest day on Sunday with the final being played on the following Tuesday. This was won by Miss Collins from Wellington who beat Miss Wray from Manawatu 6/4. The presentations took place in the Art Gallery.

The following day (24 August 1910) a match took place between the Christchurch ladies and the Wellington ladies. It was a feature of the year that inter-club matches also took place against the ladies' clubs of Hagley, Timaru and Miramar.

The men's championship began on Monday 5 September

1910. The tournament had been open to professionals since 1907 and the format was now four rounds of stroke play for the open championship over the first two days which also served as qualifying rounds for the professional and amateur championships which were then decided by match play.

The winner of the open championship was A.D.S. Duncan of Wellington on 295 whose four rounds were 75, 74, 73, 73. He was a comfortable winner over Clements on 306, his rounds being 73, 78, 75, 80.

The amateur match play championship was won by H.B. Lusk who beat his fellow Christchurch member B.B. Wood 2 up over 36 holes. There was a record crowd following the afternoon round which was partly composed of golfers, and partly of people who knew nothing about the game. The result was that the latter were inclined to get out of hand. At hole after hole the large crowd stood pressing round the players and there was a constant murmur of conversation. Still worse, the spectators were rushing in all directions when shots were being played. This was seen to disadvantage Wood who was described as 'being of a highly strung nature' and undoubtedly was put off his game by this behaviour.

The professional match play championship was won by J.M. Heard now based in Napier who beat Clements with ease. Then presumably all adjourned to the ball that was held to entertain the visitors.

The following year (1912), when the championships were held at Heretaunga it is noteworthy that the open championship was won by Clements with a score of 322 with B.B. Wood second on 325. Wood won the amateur championship beating a fellow Christchurch member H.Wright 6/5.

The conditions were frightful during the week with one competitor saying that it was very difficult to hole a 6-foot (2 metre) putt when a paradise duck was waddling through the water on the line.

In 1913 B.B. Wood defended his title at Balmacewen with a 5/4 win over Dr Ross of Dunedin.

On 12 October 1910 the first competition for the Tuson cup was played between teams from the Christchurch and Wellington clubs at Heretaunga. There had been two matches against Wellington previously (12 June 1909 and 19 June 1910) both at Shirley. The latter match was won easily by Christchurch 7½ to 2½ as six of the Wellington players had missed the steamer for the trip south.

Colonel Tuson had been an honorary member of the Wellington club since 1908 and on his return to England presented a cup which it was decided should be played for bi-annually against Christchurch on a home and away basis. Detailed conditions were drawn up. The first match was won by Wellington.

The Easter Tournament was held but the men's and



B.B. Wood

ladies' championships were abandoned for the duration of the war. The number of competitions was reduced. In their place numerous fundraising tournaments were held, mainly for the Red Cross fund, though there was one run by the ladies for a hospital in Serbia and another to provide ditty bags for sailors.

The matches against Otago and Wellington were suspended throughout the war years.

Golf on Sundays

The question of whether golf should be played on the Sabbath was first raised at a meeting on 19 June 1910 of the Waimairi Council in whose district the links stood. It was resolved to ask the Christchurch Golf Club to discontinue playing golf on Sundays. A month later at a meeting on 12 July it was reported that a letter had been received from the club acknowledging receipt of the council's resolution. That meeting also received a letter from the Shirley Methodist congregation. It was said that residents were loud in their complaints against Sunday golf and would be thankful if it could be stopped. After considerable discussion the council resolved to get a legal opinion 'regarding abating this nuisance'.

Four days later *The Press* carried an article on 'Sabbath Observance' given at a recent meeting of the English Congregational Union. The writer had spoken to an employee of a golf club who had not had a free Sunday for seven years. Such a condition of things was said to be an intolerable scandal.

The Wellington Presbytery discussed the issue in September under the heading 'Desecrating the Sabbath'. Reverend Mr Douglas said that he had seen a tram 'chock-a-block' with golfers dashing past his church. He understood it was the golf tram.

At a meeting of the general committee of the Ellesmere A & P Show on 28 November Mr J Osborne referred to the show grounds being used on Sundays by golf

players. There was, he said, considerable feeling in the district about the grounds being used for that purpose. Dr Gosset remarked that those who played golf on Sunday were mostly people who were confined in offices in Leeston during the week and had no exercise. It was better for them to be playing golf on Sunday than lying in their bunks reading trashy novels.

1920 - 1929

	President	Club Captain	Membership
1920	G. Humphreys Esq.	C. J. Ronaldson	178
1921	Jno. Montgomery Esq.	C. J. Ronaldson	173
1922	Jno. Montgomery Esq.	M. H. Godby	170
1923	Jno. Montgomery Esq.	M. H. Godby	178
1924	R.E. McDougall Esq.	M. H. Godby	199
1925	R.E. McDougall Esq.	T. W. Woodroffe	198
1926	H.O.D. Meares Esq.	T. W. Woodroffe	217
1927	H.O.D. Meares Esq.	T. W. Woodroffe	231
1928	N. Francis Esq.	G. T. Weston	224
1929	N. Francis Esq.	M. H. Godby	224

Membership

By 1922 it was noted that there was congestion on the links in the winter months. The 1923 committee therefore decided to limit the membership, but to introduce a new category of midweek membership at a reduced subscription. This innovation was a great success and about 25 members were elected. Their numbers were included in the category of active members throughout this period. The limit for full active members was set at 200 in 1926.

Golf became increasingly popular in the twenties and the forming of the new clubs of Rawhiti, Harewood and Russley was evidence of this. In May 1924 it was reported that the course was very crowded and it was taking three hours for a round. Stewards were appointed in September 1925 to report members who were remiss in knowledge of the rules and etiquette of the game and to look out for those who were responsible for slow play and the defacement of the fairways by not replacing divots.

Finances

During 1920 there was a heavy cost of alterations and improvements to both the course and the clubhouse which resulted in a large deficit. To deal with this crisis a special general meeting (SGM) was called four days before Christmas. The committee proposed increasing the annual subscription from 6 guineas to 9 guineas. After a profitable discussion the final resolution was to make an immediate levy of 3 guineas and leave the question of increasing the subscription for twelve months.

This new figure became permanent for the next year

with that for midweek members being set at 8 guineas. In 1926 the subscription was 10 guineas and in 1927, 11 guineas where it remained for the rest of the decade.

On 12 June 1924 a SGM was called to authorise a levy of £3 on active members to complete Arthur Ham's bunkering scheme at a cost of £430. Ham was an Englishman who had come to Wellington to be Heretaunga's professional two years earlier and had submitted a report in November 1923. The proposed method of raising the money was rejected at that meeting but subsequently agreed to at a further meeting on 7 July. One or two members of the ladies' club were willing to contribute.

Course

In 1920 two further holes were developed in the outside paddock: Mairehau and Nor'west. This relieved the congestion on the northern side of the pagoda with the replacement of a hole called 'The Nest'.

The new layout was the one which lasted until 1973. The major change from the previous one was that there was a new first hole (Farthest South), a par 3 heading south from the old clubhouse. When the new clubhouse was opened Charles became the first hole but the routing was otherwise identical.

In 1923, in conjunction with the club's professional, Arthur Ham had reported on a scheme for bunkering which in its main features was adopted by the club. A start was made that year but was not completed until 1926. It lengthened the course from 5,833 yards to 6,123 yards and at a rough count required at least 70 bunkers and numerous pits to be dug. A hole-by-hole detail of the

plan was in *The Press* of 21 July 1924 which detailed very extensive changes to almost every hole.

It was decided to appoint a greenkeeper to take charge of the work on the course and after considering a large number of applications and personally interviewing some of them a man named Cormack was engaged in February 1924. He was said to have had considerable experience of Scottish courses. He encountered one of the wettest winters known in Canterbury which was followed by one of the driest summers, but the committee was well satisfied by his start.

In 1929 after extensive investigations it was decided to purchase a McCormick-Deering tractor and a Worthington quintuple mower. This enabled the two older horses to be sold and greatly reduced the time required for cutting. The club was now in a position to attempt to improve the fairways. Members were told that this would be a lengthy and costly programme taking two to three years and a gradual improvement was all that could be expected. Quick results were not to be expected at Shirley.

During this decade there was extensive coverage of golf in *The Press*. Each Friday the events for the weekend at each of the Christchurch clubs were detailed. On the following Monday full results were given. There was a weekly commentary on golf in the city, NZ and overseas, by a person using the nom-de-plume 'Jigger' as well as regular instructional articles by Harry Vardon who had won the Open six times.

Professionals

W. Iles returned from war service during 1920 but resigned at the end of the year, after 7 ½ years at the club, to take up a better appointment in Australia. He was replaced by R.C. Butters at the beginning of 1921.

Butters not only took over professional duties but also was put in charge of the greens staff. He reported to the committee at their first meeting in 1921 that the new layout would be ready for the NZ championships towards the end of the year. He was instructed to keep three men on and to pay special attention to grass cutting and watering. The new triplex grass mower was working well. No sheep were to be grazed on the course without the greens committee's consent.

Early in 1925 Butters resigned and his successor was Harry Blair who had been selected from a large number of applicants. He had been the professional at Maungakiekie from 1913. In 1920 he caddied twice for the Prince of Wales when he visited Auckland and was presented with a tie pin incorporating the Prince of Wales feathers. This was given to the club by Harry's family in 2019 and is on display in the Charles Gallery.

Harry served in an official capacity for 25 years. During this period in the varied circumstances such as wars, depressions and staff problems he was asked to perform many duties outside the sphere of his normal activities.



Tie pin incorporating the Prince of Wales feathers

This he did willingly and well.

Championships and Inter-club fixtures

1920 was a year of returning to pre-war conditions. It was decided to hold the Easter tournament and following it to reinstate the matches against the Otago Golf Club. A team travelled to Wellington to play for the Tuson cup, but with the greens at Heretaunga being unplayable no matches were played.

The NZ amateur championship played at Hamilton was won by the 23 year old Sloan Morpeth who had volunteered for active service and had been through the principal period of the war. He was from a family of whom six sons had gone to the war. Two had been killed, one had lost a leg and the other three had been wounded. He was responsible for course design at Shirley in the 1970s.

A highlight was an exhibition match on 18 October 1920 between Iles and the Australian Joe Kirkwood, the latter having won both the Australian and NZ professional championships that year and who went on to win 13 tournaments on the PGA tour. There were 5000 spectators who paid an entry fee of 2/6. In the morning Kirkwood scored 70 against Iles's 82. At the lunch break Kirkwood announced he would attempt to break the course record of 69 in the afternoon and started with a 34 for the first nine. However, he faded over the last three holes, dropping four shots and could only manage a 41.

This match resulted in a profit to the club of £16

comprising gate receipts of £68: £30 to Kirkwood, £10 to Iles and £12 sundry expenses. The pair continued on to play matches throughout the South Island with Iles being the winner 3/2 at Otatara.

The club hosted three national championships during this decade:

The NZ men's championship was played from 17 to 22 October 1921. The open championship was won by E.T. Douglas, the professional at Miramar whose 70 in the first round set the course record for the new layout. His four-round score of 302 won by 9 strokes. He also won the professional match play defeating E.J. Moss 2 and 1. The amateur championship was won by A.G. Sime of Greymouth who defeated J.L. Black of Hutt 5 and 4.

In spite of heavy rain just before the championships started, which had made the course heavy and the greens sticky, it was the opinion of all the visitors that there was no better course in the Dominion thanks to the work put in by Butters, the caretaker and the professional.

The NZ men's championship was next played at Shirley from 25 September to 3 October 1925. The entry was limited to 70 amateurs so those with handicaps greater than 11 were excluded. Twenty-four professionals entered.

The open championship was won by the Christchurch club member E.M. Macfarlane, an amateur, with a score of 81-77-73-77=308, two strokes ahead of two professionals. Not surprisingly his win was a popular one and he was carried shoulder high to the clubhouse to the accompaniment of cheers and the singing of 'For he's a jolly good fellow'. His last hole was the present Shirley on which he took 7. Having hooked his drive into the rough he found the fairway bunker with his second. He just got out of it and then took two more to reach the green. He was left with a metre putt which he left short. He commented that he had made an error of judgement in not playing for safety with his second shot.



Ewen MacFarlane

Macfarlane began his golfing career at Rangiora in 1904 at the age of 14. He joined the Christchurch Golf Club in 1908 and had been the club champion in 1922 and 1923 and the Canterbury champion in 1923 and 1924. Unfortunately he lost his match in the first round of the amateur championship. The title was won by T.H. Horton of Masterton who defeated A.D.S. Duncan of Wellington 9/8.

Harry Blair reached the final of the professional match play and was 2 up after the first eighteen. However, he faded in the afternoon and was beaten 4/3 by E.J. Moss who was the professional at Auckland and was winning the title for the third time in succession.

The NZ ladies' championship was played from 26 September to 3 October 1929. The final between two ladies from the Otago club, Mrs Dogshun and Miss Kay, was described as a grim struggle though with very good golf by both players. They were all square after 36 holes and halved the 37th in fours (described as birdies), Mrs Dogshun sinking a magnificent long putt. Both hit indifferent drives at Briggs, Mrs Dogshun pulling her shot to the left and Miss Kay finding the long narrow bunker. Miss Kay failed to get out of the bunker with her first attempt and then was forced to play sideways towards the Muggeridges green, eventually reaching the green in 5. Mrs Dogshun's fourth was on the lip of the hole and the match was conceded.

The twice-yearly matches for the Tuson cup continued to be beset with weather problems. The Christchurch team in November 1923 did not reach Wellington until late in the Saturday afternoon due to a heavy gale and a slight mishap to the ferry. They returned the following weekend and were comprehensively beaten.

There was a proposal in February 1924 that the ladies should have a competition with Wellington contemporaneously with the men but nothing came of this. However a competition for veterans (those over 50) was instituted for male players.

In June 1925 the visitors had a hard trip on the ferry to Lyttelton and were heroic to play the whole match which was won 10-2 by Christchurch. Because of the appalling weather the veterans played only in the morning.

Clubhouse

The committee meeting on 19 March 1920 reviewed plans for a new clubhouse which was estimated to cost £5,500. In addition provision needed to be made for new land (£2,000), course improvements (£500), incidentals including lighting (£500), giving a total cost of £9,000. This was to be financed by a mortgage at 5½% over land owned by the Company. The annual cost including the interest was estimated to be £620 and would be covered by 50 new members' subscriptions and increased fees from the ladies' club. It was decided to post the plans in the clubhouse for members' inspection with a suggestion book for criticisms.

A SGM was held on 21 May, which authorised the committee to take steps to provide this new clubhouse and to ask the Company to arrange finance. It was then found it was impossible to proceed because of what were described as present building conditions. Therefore it was not until October 1926 that another SGM was held to formally approve building a new clubhouse and effecting other improvements at a cost not to exceed £10,000. This was to include a suitable dwelling for the greenkeeper, an implement shed and a workshop for the professional. This expenditure was authorised the following February. The implement shed was shifted to be beside the greenkeeper's dwelling in 1964. There were many discussions about replacing or upgrading it throughout subsequent years. As at the time of writing plans are being investigated.

The foundation stone was laid by Mr L.B. Wood, the oldest member of the club, on 7 April 1927. Time had been too short for a silver trowel to be secured for presentation to Mr Wood, but one was presented later. This was gifted to the club in 1933 by Miss Diprose, a niece of Mr Wood. It is now played for annually and presented to the winner of the men's Calcutta competition.



1927 L.B. Wood, laying the foundation stone for the new clubhouse

It is a matter of regret that the foundation stone was destroyed at the time the clubhouse was demolished after the 2012 earthquake and no replacement was laid.

The architects were Helmore and Cotterill who designed numerous elegant large houses in Christchurch and



Clubhouse and Pro Shop 1927

beyond in the era between the world wars. It was built by P. Graham and Son of brick and wood with a slate roof. A covered porch led to the entrance hall and to the east side a dining room, lounge, kitchen and staff accommodation. On the other side was a large locker room, smoke room, and bath and shower rooms. Upstairs was the ladies' locker room, sitting room, committee room and staff bedrooms. Along the front was a verandah and loggia 17 metres long. There were large bay windows in both the smoking room and the lounge. One writer described it as a building that 'looks over the links with a quiet dignity, spreading the untroubled assurance a founding generation imparted'.

It was ready for use for the 1927 Christmas tournament, a little more than eight months after the laying of the foundation stone. It was officially opened by the president, Norton Francis, on opening day 17 March 1928 when the A.E.G. Rhodes bowl was competed for. Sixty-four couples were reported as having played and the winners were K.W. Robinson and Miss Rutherford with a score of 3 up. The worst score was recorded by C. Wood and Miss Wilkin who were 12 down.

Other notable events of the decade

- January 1924 Fire burns over several fairways killing 200 young trees.
- February 1924 Midweek members class introduced.
- June 1925 Thursday event for midweek members started.
- December 1926 Cup presented for Presidents v Captains match.
- September 1927 First match for Cowlshaw Cup.
- February 1928 Randolph Cup presented by sons of late W.D. Wood.
- October 1928 Miss Dorothy Chrystall won the NZ ladies' championship.
- May 1929 Revival of matches against Otago Golf Club.

1930 - 1939

	President	Club Captain	Membership
1930	N. Francis Esq.	M. H. Godby	235
1931	N. Francis Esq.	Sir Cyril Ward	215
1932	N. Francis Esq.	Sir Cyril Ward	199
1933	N. Francis Esq.	Sir Cyril Ward	188
1934	N. Francis Esq.	Sir Cyril Ward	217
1935	N. Francis Esq.	Sir Cyril Ward	212
1936	N. Francis Esq.	Sir Cyril Ward	198
1937	N. Francis Esq.	Sir Cyril Ward	199
1938	N. Francis Esq.	Sir Cyril Ward	194
1939	N. Francis Esq.	Sir Cyril Ward	192

The decade was a period of stability in both officers and staff. Norton Francis had become president in 1928 and continued until his unexpected death in October 1939 and Sir Cyril Ward was elected captain in 1931 and continued in this position until his death in November 1940. Both gentlemen had proposed at the committee meeting on 9 October 1939 that they should retire, but had been persuaded to continue.

Membership and Finances

When the worst of the Great Depression hit NZ, farm prices between 1931 and 1933 reached their lowest point in more than half a century, leading to an almost complete loss of farm income. City dwellers also fared badly as jobs disappeared overnight and wages were reduced for those fortunate enough to have employment. Christchurch was the worst hit of all the main centres, with 14.5% still out of work in 1936 and over 5,000 men and their families living off charity and relief handouts. The town's most prestigious retail business, Ballantynes, survived without having to lay off staff by adopting time-sharing and an across the board wage cut of 10%.

It is remarkable that little mention is made in committee minutes or annual reports of these troubled times. There is a record in the January 1935 minutes that restoration of cuts in wages was left for consideration. The Tuson cup and matches against Otago and Timaru were cancelled in 1932 due to economic stress but were resumed the following year.

The AGMs in both 1938 and 1939 recorded concern about the need for more members and particularly young players. It was said that there were not a dozen under 20. A new sliding scale of subscriptions for those under 30 was worked out and approved at a SGM on 17 January 1939.

The concerns in the 1939 annual report relate to the outbreak of war and the consequent enlistment of many members expected in the coming year. Some of this loss

of income would be compensated for by the cancellation of the ladies' championship and centennial tournament for which expenditure had been budgeted for in 1940.

The subscription remained at 10 guineas up until 1938 when it was increased by a guinea.

Course

The average annual rainfall for Christchurch preceding this decade was 25 inches (64 cm). It fell to 17.81 inches in 1931, 21.09 in 1932 and 18.85 in 1933. These low figures undoubtedly gave impetus to consideration of extending the watering system to the fairways.

A start was made in December 1932 when the old pump and motor were scrapped and a new 12½ horsepower motor and a pump operated directly from the mains were installed. Rotary spring shower sprinklers replaced the old fixed jet types and the large storage tank was discarded. This was an immediate success spreading the water evenly and gently on four times the ground covered previously.

The club was persuaded to develop a scheme to reticulate the fairways. This required a 27 h.p. motor and 3-inch centrifugal pump located near the Farthest North tee. The main pump line was from there to the pagoda, from there to the pump on number 1 drain and then to the clubhouse. From this, circuits and branch lines, mostly 2-inch galvanised piping radiated over the links.

The total cost was £1,606 which was raised through second mortgages over the links property, repayable by equal monthly instalments over 15 years. This was just less than the amount that had been approved by members at a SGM on 24 June 1933.

The first fairway to be completed was Land's End which was in full working order by December 1933 and the whole scheme was completed by the following May. This was the first comprehensive high-pressure hoseless system for fairway watering installed in NZ.

The committee received a watering report on 17 November 1937 which said that in the previous year the number of hours per week for night work had been that of one man for 44 hours. The fairways were watered on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Sunday and Thursday nights were allotted to greens and tees. An increase to 60 hours per week was requested and approved.

The benefits obtained were almost immediate and visitors and others in ensuing years were enthusiastic over the improvements achieved.

Apart from this no major works were undertaken. New greens were laid at Dobbie (1930) alias Home, Farthest South and Shirley (1934), Nor'west and Upshot (1936) and several tees were lengthened and bunkers tidied up.

Onhunga weed made its appearance in 1936 and members were urged to take great care in brushing their clothes and shoes to avoid carrying the seed to other places on the course.

P. Cormack's resignation as head greenkeeper was accepted in March 1931 and Benton, a staff member, appointed as foreman pending a replacement. A new horse was purchased in January 1936. This was necessary as the old horse was unsound and not equal to the work. Its disposal was left in the hands of the captain. The annual report commented that the change over from horses to tractors was taking place.

Championships

The Kirk-Windeyer cup was competed for at Shirley in April 1930. This was a three-way competition among New South Wales (NSW), Victoria and NZ which was played for only up until 1934. NZ beat Victoria 3½ to 2½ and then beat NSW 4½ to 1½ to win the cup. In the NSW team was Harry Hattersley who won the Australian amateur that year and impressed with his prodigious hitting, driving the old Nor'west green when it measured 324 yards and hitting his second through the green at Land's End. A very successful dance was held at the Dixieland at the conclusion of the tournament.

Most of the Australian players then competed in the Easter tournament with Hattersley winning the Dobson cup for match play, beating A.D.S. Duncan 2/1.

The 1931 NZ championships were played from October 15 to 24. A.J. Shaw won the open championship with E.M. Macfarlane runner-up. Shaw went on to win the professional championship having beaten Harry Blair in a semi-final. The amateur championship was won by R. Wagg of Hutt who beat A.D.S. Duncan of Miramar 2/1. This final was postponed to Monday 26 due to heavy rain on the preceding Saturday.

Duncan had first won the amateur title in 1899 and ten times subsequently. The Governor-General Lord Bledisloe presented the prizes. In subsequent remarks Duncan said that the condition of the course had been perfect and certainly better than any other championship he had played in.



1931 New Zealand Championship

The 1935 NZ championships began on 13 October. The 72-hole championship was won by the 25 year old Auckland professional Alec Murray with a score of 286. Shaw had started the final round four shots ahead of the field. However, his play deteriorated in the howling southerly and he came to the last hole needing a birdie to tie Murray. A poor drive put paid to his chances and he finished with a 5. Hornabrook was another whose play fell away on the final day. He had started the tournament with two 69s but then had two 78s.

Murray won the professional match play by beating Shaw 2/1. In the amateur match play John Hornabrook beat Bryan Silk 5/4. The morning round had Hornabrook just 1 up but Silk faltered in the afternoon, possibly since he had gone to the forty-first to win his semi-final. Silk spent the last few years of his life in Christchurch, being a member of our club in the early 1990s. He had won three NZ Amateur titles as well as being the leading amateur in the NZ open four times. He was a NZ representative eight times. He was a very popular member, seen often on the practice fairway still seeking perfection of his 'silky' swing.

Social Activities

An active social programme of dinners and dances continued. An example is the annual function held in show week which was written up in detail in *The Press* of 3 November 1934. 'The clubhouse had changed its appearance into something rich and strange and festive. The dining room and common room were cleared for dancing, supper was set in the men's sitting room and the women's sitting room upstairs was arranged as a lounge and bridge room. The wide verandah with its roof extended was set up as a lounge with amazing floral decorations'. A list of those present was provided with detailed descriptions of the dresses of prominent ladies.

In 1930 the ladies' membership stood at 130 but had risen to 168 in 1937. In addition, by that time there were 91 honorary members. The men's active membership was full in 1930 and reported as 378 in 1931 and 373 in 1937.

Prominent Visitors

Gene Sarazen (winner of seven major championships) played an exhibition match on 1 December 1934. He was partnered by C.J. (Jim) Ward and their opponents were C. Holdsworth and Harry Blair. Sarazen started with a birdie and played the first nine in 33, so the breaking of Shaw's record of 67 looked possible. However, he bogeyed

Farthest South and drove into the creek at Te Oranga. Remarkably Blair and Holdsworth won the match 1 up. Blair was square with the card prior to the eighteenth where he picked up. Holdsworth picked up five times in the first eight holes, but then struck a purple patch birdieing five of the remaining holes.

Sarazen declared the course to be as good as any he had played in Australasia with a special mention of Land's End which he said was 'a grand hole, the best I have seen yet'.

He returned in 1936 with Helen Hicks and they played an exhibition match against Jim Ward (then the club champion) and Harry Blair which finished all square. Helen Hicks was an American and one of the first women to turn professional having done so in 1934.

A British touring group played in January 1935 led by the Hon. Michael Scott who had been the 1933 British amateur champion and included Mr H. Gillen the secretary of the Royal & Ancient Club. They pronounced Shirley the best course in NZ.

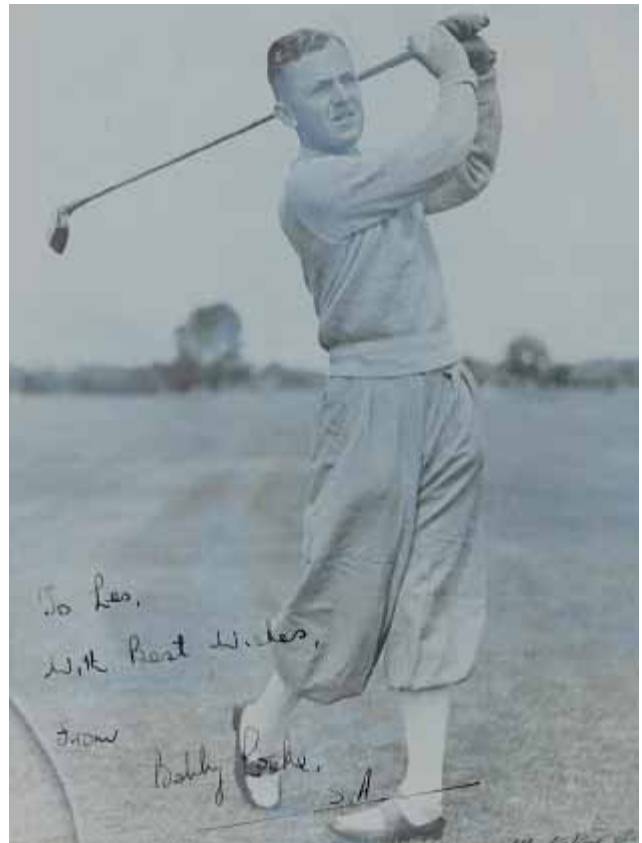
On 6 October 1935 a team of six British women, which included the famous Pam Barton, played a team from the South Island and won all matches. Their play was described as masterly though there was plucky resistance from the South Islanders. A crowd of 1,200 watched. The next year Pam Barton went on to win both the U.S.A. and British amateur championships. She was killed in an air crash in 1943 while serving and one of the courses at Royal Mid-Surrey is named in her memory.

Walter Hagen (winner of 11 major championships) and Jo Kirkwood gave an exhibition match on 8 March 1937 beating Harry Blair and Charlie Clements 1 up. There was a gusty nor'west and the form of the visitors was below the standard expected of them. After the match Kirkwood gave an exhibition of trick golf which was described as amazing. Both paid a tribute to the condition of the 'grand' course.

Another famous visitor was Bobby Locke (winner of four Opens), who played at Shirley on 5 November 1938, then at the beginning of his famous career. He partnered Joe Clements against Harry Blair and Norman Fuller, losing 1 down. Locke hit two shots out of bounds at Land's End so not surprisingly did not agree with Sarazen's view that this was the best hole on the course. In his view O'Rorke's was by far the best. In an instruction book he wrote after World War II he included our last hole in a selection of the 18 best holes in the world. His memory however allowed him to include some fanciful details.

Hole in Ones at Crossways

An achievement which will always be prominent in the club's annals was the halving of Crossways in one on 31 May 1936 by W.T. Harman and M.H. Godby. This was the first time in golfing history that squaring holes in one had been recorded in a four ball match. M.H. Godby's partner was his son and Harman's, Captain K.J.



Bobby Locke 1938

('Johnny') Walker. In later years Captain Walker would regularly come on Saturdays to sit with his dog behind the green, no doubt from time to time reminiscing on this feat.

At that time the green was saucer-shaped so that any ball landing on the green had a good chance of finishing close to the hole. Twos were frequent. It was rebuilt in 1950.

Other significant events in the 1930s

- 1931 The links were closed on 9 February as a mark of respect for the victims of the Napier earthquake.
- 1934 Appointment of secretary/manager suggested at AGM on 11 December but not progressed.
- 1935 Jim Ward won the NZ plate which was for players knocked out of the first round of the NZ amateur. The last time it was played for was in 2003 as the plate competition was no longer relevant.
- 1936 Dance held in aid of the sports queen (Miss Betty Cotterill) who was a member.
- 1937 Opening day was 15 February, a month earlier than in previous years, presumably because of the watering system.
- 1938 Edna White-Parsons won the NZ championship in Dunedin.
- 1939 Acting secretary appointed, Miss M Beadel, on retirement of Mr J Donald.

1940 - 1949

	President	Club Captain	Members
1940	Sir Cyril Ward	R.W. Morgan	187
1941	M.H. Godby	R.W. Morgan	200
1942	M.H. Godby	R.W. Morgan	158
1943	M.H. Godby	R.W. Morgan	158
1944	M.H. Godby	R.W. Morgan	177
1945	M.H. Godby	F. S. Taylor	189
1946	M.H. Godby	F. S. Taylor	198
1947	M.H. Godby	F. S. Taylor	225
1948	R.W. Morgan	F. S. Taylor	238
1949	R.W. Morgan	O.A.Y. Johnston	259

The club was saddened by the sudden death of Sir Cyril Ward on 11 November 1940. He had been a member since 1913 and had been on the committee since 1924. He had won the Borthwick vase in May defeating R.M. Adams 7/5 in the final. A fortnight before his death the club had hosted Viscount Galway, the retiring Governor-General, and Lady Galway at a party. Lord Galway and Sir Cyril had played a round and both had holed 5-metre putts on the last green.

Mr B.G. Donovan returned from active service in 1945 and resumed his position as secretary for a short period before resigning. It was resolved to place on record the services rendered by Mr D.E. Millar as secretary during the past four and half years. As an appreciation the freedom of the clubhouse was extended to him. He returned as acting secretary in 1949 after Mr Donovan's resignation and continued until Bill Green was appointed in 1950.

Membership

1940 was a sombre year. By October 53 members had joined the fighting forces: 12 of them active, 16 active juniors, 8 country, 14 honorary and 3 youths. These members were included in the membership numbers. At least 40 members are recorded as serving overseas in the years 1941 to 1943. By 1944 some of these had returned and in 1945 the number overseas was down to 22, the majority of those being active juniors and youth.

During the war eight members made the supreme sacrifice and 78 served either overseas or in NZ.

The 1946 annual report painted a positive picture of recovery since the war including the ladies' club. The committee therefore discussed closing the active membership and in June 1947 agreed on a limit of 300 to include youth and junior members. At that date the membership comprised life 11, active 216, active junior 33, midweek 14, country 33, honorary 141 and youth 29.

Finances

Immediate steps were taken at the beginning of 1940 to reduce and control costs. In what can only have been a symbolic gesture the visitor book and the green fee book were amalgamated.

The AGM was held on 16 December. It was reported that despite a substantial falling-off in revenue the committee, by rigid economy, had shown a small surplus for the year. It was decided unanimously to introduce a charge of sixpence per round. At the SGM on 23 March 1946 it was agreed to continue this, but to allow members to pay an annual fee of £2.10.0 in lieu if they wished. In concluding the meeting Mr Reg Morgan, the new captain, commented that it was the duty of the older members to keep the club in its present excellent condition until the younger members returned.

The annual report in 1941 said that the club had had a successful year in spite of a series of financial problems. The club had continued to provide playing facilities to members of the services stationed at Burnham, Wigram and Harewood. Mr Godby said that the finances were in a sound position. The club was capable of weathering the storm for a number of years before it reached breaking-point. The acting club captain (Mr F.S. Taylor) referred to the latest petrol restrictions but said that the club would be able to carry on.

This proved to be the case. Additional staff and maintenance catch-up caused a more substantial loss in 1945, but the increased subscription income allowed for satisfactory results from then on.

Course

Cost-saving measures were put in place at the beginning of 1940. The greens staff was cut by two and petrol consumption was greatly reduced. The width of fairways and size of greens were reduced and no major works were undertaken. In June 1940 notices covering play near gun

emplacements were erected and the military took over the clubhouse for a short period.

Petrol rationing was introduced in January 1942 and Easterbrook was told to procure two horses and the necessary gear immediately and to continue on with just two men and a boy. One greenkeeper was to be eliminated at a saving of £4 per week. Discussion took place as to closing the outside paddock but this did not eventuate. Later in the year it was noted that Easterbrook was ill, perhaps through overwork.

There was an unfortunate start to 1943 when on 11 January the old clubhouse was destroyed by fire. It had been occupied by Easterbrook and though some of his furniture was able to be removed by members who were playing on the course he suffered a very substantial loss. He lived in a caravan for a period, but on 8 March his letter of resignation was received. The state of his health had seriously interfered with his work and it would take him a long period to recover.

In the meantime Harry Blair supervised the greens staff: Pearson was paid six guineas a week and is described as the greenkeeper, Port: five guineas and Plank: two guineas. Excellent playing conditions were maintained through their efforts.

In April 1944 Pearson advised that he wished to be replaced after Easter. The position of head greenkeeper was then advertised throughout NZ. Mr L.E. Miller was clearly the best candidate but he lived in Rangiora and raised difficulties over his accommodation. It was therefore decided to build a greenkeeper's house and shift the implement sheds closer to it.

Times were still tough. Fertilisers were unprocurable. There were difficulties in replacement and maintenance of the plant. There was also abnormal spring growth. Whether the horses should be retained was discussed, but enquiries for an increase in petrol allowance were unsuccessful. The greens were cut only once per week and which day should be chosen was discussed.

By 1945 petrol restrictions had been eased, the horses dispensed with (one of them fetching £7.10.00) and a tractor bought (costing £300). A greens mower was bought in 1948 which it was reported could mow all eighteen greens in six hours, half the time it took previously.

A report on the course from Mr W.H. Horton had been received in May 1945, but was not discussed by the committee in detail until June 1946 when it was agreed that it should be the basis for future work. No copy survives but later in the year several bunkers were filled in, notably Donald's Gap bunkers (probably named after the current secretary) in Land's End, the shapes of which still survive 100 metres ahead of the rough.

Professionals

At the end of 1945 it was noted that Blair had been the professional for 21 years. It was agreed that to mark this he should be granted the privileges of the clubhouse. The President was to advise him of this and the committee's appreciation of his work. This privilege however was only granted on an annual basis and from then on the committee at meetings following the AGMs dutifully extended it for an additional 12 months, always referring to him as "Blair".

The first committee meeting of 1949 was advised that Harry Blair wished to resign, having served the club for 25 years. There were two major occasions to farewell him. On 3 May the ladies held a party for him and his wife and on 8 May there was a foursome competition when more than 300 players competed. A cheque for £300 was handed to him and he was granted full privileges to the clubhouse and the course for the coming year. Later the committee advised him that it would be a recommendation to incoming committees that these privileges be extended year-by-year. Accordingly until a year before his death the first committee meeting of every year reaffirmed these privileges. Just before his death in 1974 he was made a Life Member.

After his retirement he was asked to officially start any event of consequence at Shirley.

For many years he was a regular visitor to the club on Saturday afternoons sitting with his friend Sid in the Nor'west corner of the 19th with their bottle of whisky. From this position he could observe players coming up the eighteenth and then make suitable comments on their play when they came into the clubhouse.

His successor was Bob Glading who was 29 at the time. He had won the NZ open championship in 1946 and 1947 and then won the professional championship in 1949.

The Golf Ball Shortage

A major problem, which continued for many years, was obtaining golf balls. The minutes of 1944 report an approach to NZ Golf in February for reconditioned balls, in April that Mr John Montgomery had donated one dozen new balls and that Mr Johnston would supervise their distribution, in August that two dozen used balls had been purchased from NZ Golf and in September that Blair had accepted the offer of some balls. A dozen golf balls given by Mr Satterthwaite were to be competed for.

The scarcity of golf balls was still a live topic in December 1945. Boys had been on the course and stolen balls. Their names and addresses were known and Mr Weston was to take action. The problem still continued in June and now included girls. A strongly worded letter was sent to the Golf Council because it was felt that they had not supported applications for import licences with

sufficient vigour. A donation of golf balls from Messrs Satterthwaite and Kavanagh got a mention in November 1947.

Ladies' Club

Sunday play for ladies was approved in 1941 between the hours of 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. and after 2.15 p.m. This was particularly for those ladies involved in war work during the week.

Fundraising for Christmas presents for members overseas in August 1941 raised twice the amount from the previous year, primarily from an afternoon tea organised by the ladies. Letters of thanks for these parcels were received in the following February.

Not for the first (or last) time the committee in 1942 had to deal with a member who had spoken out against the club allowing ladies to play. This he had done in the presence of members and lady visitors. A letter was written to the offender pointing out that the AGM was the place to raise such matters. A letter was also written to the ladies' club pointing out that the conditions for Sunday play were not being adhered to.

Towards the end of 1945 the ladies' club was advised that the special playing privileges granted during the war were now being withdrawn, but ladies were allowed to play with men after 2.15 p.m. on Sundays.

Concurrent with this at the 1945 AGM it was noted that the revenue from the ladies' club had fallen from £694 in 1939 to £381 in 1945. It was suggested that it might prove necessary to give more playing facilities to the lady members to assist them in rebuilding their membership.

Accordingly a SGM was held on 23 March 1946 to discuss a motion from the committee that ladies be permitted to play on Saturdays and Sundays during specified times as authorised by the committee. In moving the motion Mr F.S. Taylor said that young girls were working and could not play during the week and young married people were finding it difficult due to domestic reasons. The result was that the ladies' club would probably go out of existence. In the discussion which followed Mr P.H. Wood opposed the motion saying that the club's success was due to it being a men's club. Mr Peate (who fathered four daughters) thought that it might be difficult to take away the rights once granted and suggested increasing the men's membership. The motion was carried seemingly unanimously.

Championships and Visitors

The first NZ ladies' championships since the war began on 17 October 1946 at Shirley. Zoe Hudson and her partner won the foursomes championship, but that was the only success for local players. The final was won by Jean Horwell of Timaru who beat Mrs G.W. Holley of Titirangi 4/3. The start of the third round of match play was delayed by snow, followed by hail and rain.

A month prior to the tournament Mr Godby told the

committee that he and Mr Taylor would like to give a private sherry party to participating players. A month later the proposal was withdrawn as the number of people applying to attend had reached embarrassing numbers.

Norman von Nida, a prominent Australian professional, played an exhibition match against Tim Woon, a Christchurch amateur who subsequently won the NZ amateur title twice on 21 March 1948. His score was 70 and he won 5/4. On a not unusual Christchurch day there was a strong northerly to begin with which turned to the south with heavy rain halfway through the round. There were 1,000 spectators which resulted in a profit to the club of £55.

Von Nida commented that the greens were the finest he had played on in five years. If the course could be lengthened by 200 yards it would easily be one of the best in the southern hemisphere and would be suitable for any world championship.

Dress

The 1947 annual meeting had a discussion on the wearing of shorts. 'Suits and so on should be done away with', said Mr W.K.L. Dougall. In the army, shorts and open shirts were worn in the summer months and he saw nothing wrong with wearing shorts on the course provided they were neat. One member said that he felt one of the dignities of the club would be lost with the introduction of shorts. Mr C.J. Ward said that anyone playing on the course with braces showing should be reported to the committee and a letter sent. A decision was left to the incoming committee.

Clubhouse

Agreement was reached in May 1947 with the ladies that they would pay half the cost of painting the lavatories. Such agreement unfortunately did not set a precedent as the division of payment for clubhouse improvements was a matter of much dispute in coming years.

By the beginning of 1948 the active list was closed and moreover no further applications to go on the waiting list were allowed. Discussions began with Mr Helmore on extensions to the smoking room (which was never referred to as the '19th' until many years later) to provide for the increased membership. His plans and estimates were awaited for several years and eventually an extension was not proceeded with until 1959. There was also talk of glassing in the verandah at a cost of £250. This also took many years to be carried out, in this case until 2004.

Social Activities

In 1948 social activities included the 'At Home Dance' during show week and a party in the same month to celebrate club members' successes at the NZ ladies' championships. There was a reception for the Morgans in February 1949 when they returned after a seven-month trip overseas. A dance made a profit of £70. In November there was an 'At Home' where 100 double tickets were sold.

Finally, on 2 December 1949 there was a party to honour Zoe Hudson, a some-time dairy farmer, who had won the NZ championship. This was highlighted by the arrival of Sid Holland for dinner, who the day previously had led the National Party to victory at the national election. He was greeted with cheers and acclamation. He had been a member since 1938 and had donated a cup for competition. An article and photograph appeared in *The Press* 4 December 1949.

Other notable events and occasions

There was no play on 25 May 1940 as the King had asked for a day of intercession. At this time the German forces were closing round the British Expeditionary Force at Dunkirk and disaster loomed.

The Harewood Club ceased operating in March 1940 and this was seen as an opportunity to obtain new members.

The annual Norton Francis cup in 1940 included teams from the armed forces with the Air Force team winning.

The new Governor-General, Sir Cyril Newall, and his wife presented the prizes at the club for closing day on 25 November 1941.

1947 saw the resumption of matches against Otago in March, Timaru in November and Wellington in December.

Driving from the Charles tee on 5 May 1948 Alec Henderson hit his ball into the cup on the home green (Dobbie) the only recorded occasion of this occurring.

The possibility of golf being a sport in the 1950 British Empire Games was raised in 1948 and it was thought that Shirley could be the venue. This was perhaps a precursor of the Eisenhower tournament being played in 1990.

The Press on 29 May 1947 reported that Dennis Smith had reached the final of the Godby trophy. The conditions of match play at this time were that a match that was all square after 18 holes had to be replayed over 18 holes. For one opponent the match had to be played three times and for another twice. After all that, Smith was defeated in the final by Matt Robinson (subsequently club captain and president). Smith's other claim to fame was that he got a wicket with his first ball in a test match against the MCC.

Inter-club Golf

There was no formal organisation running golf in Christchurch until the Christchurch Metropolitan Association was formed in 1941, subsequently became Canterbury Golf Association. Nonetheless a cup was presented by Mr J.L. Woodward in 1938 for competition amongst clubs which was first won by Russley. It was won by Christchurch in 1939.

Competition did not take place during the war but started again in 1946 and was won by Christchurch in that year and the next. There was then a long gap without success with annual reports simply recording that a team had been entered, that they had enjoyed their golf but had not been successful.

1974 at last saw a victory by a team captained by Andrew Robinson which had a blend of experience and youth. The Woodward was won by Russley in 1975 but a challenge for the Kelliher Trophy, a competition amongst all NZ clubs, was won from the Hastings Club and a subsequent challenge from Paraparaumu Beach was repulsed. The next year the club won the Woodward but lost the Kelliher in a challenge from Russley. However, five more successes in the Woodward followed.



1975 Kelliher Trophy Team from left Barry Quirke, John Orr, Geoff Saunders, John Williamson, Andrew Robinson (Captain), Donald Hope, John Parkes, front Maurice Blank, Wayne Tucker, George Hunter (President), Matt Robinson (Club Captain), John Gimblett (Team Manager) Joe Whitaker.

There have been regular successes since then, the most recent in 2019.



2019 Woodward Cup Team - from left Nic Franzman, Jason Sincock, James Simpson, Richard Reed, Glenn Bongartz (captain/manager), Jordan Bakermans, Mike Toeke, Peter MacDougal, Finlay Jones and Nic Kay

1950 - 1959

	President	Club Captain	Membership
1950	R.W. Morgan	O.A.Y. Johnston	265
1951	R.W. Morgan	O.A.Y. Johnston	267
1952	R.W. Morgan	C. J. Ward	279
1953	R.W. Morgan	C. J. Ward	288
1954	R.W. Morgan	C. J. Ward	310
1955	R.W. Morgan	C. J. Ward	292
1956	R.W. Morgan	C. J. Ward	301
1957	R.W. Morgan	C. J. Ward	302
1958	F. S. Taylor	G. R. Hunter	319
1959	F. S. Taylor	G. R. Hunter	321

The appointment of a secretary/manager was first raised at the 1934 AGM, but no action was taken until January 1950 when Bill Green was appointed with this title. He carried out these duties from his accounting and share broking office. However he advised the committee in early 1951 that it was impossible to carry on for the remuneration provided. Mr E.C. Borradaile was appointed from July at an annual salary of £600 plus allowances. In recognition of his services Mr Green was given £25. Mr Borradaile's resignation was received with regret at the end of 1952. His replacement was Mr W.E. (Bill) Coates who began a long and happy association, initially at the same salary as his predecessor.

Membership

A membership sub-committee prepared a report in 1953 and it was decided that the active list membership would remain limited to 325, this to include active juniors. The category 'youths with playing privileges' was to remain at 20. There was provision for exceptions e.g. sons of members, lower markers and golfers living more than 30 miles (50 kilometres) from Christchurch.

A waiting list was put in place in 1954 and continued throughout this decade. It did not cause as much concern as it did in the next decade.

Finances

The subscription had been unchanged since 1937 at 11 guineas prior to a prompt payment discount of a guinea and the committee indicated in 1954 that they were reluctant to increase it. It was discussed at the AGM in December 1956. A decision on any change was held over to the New Year though it was intimated that there would be an increase. An increase of three guineas was proposed at a committee meeting the following March but not implemented until a SGM in September. The impact for the following two years was significant as evidenced by the surpluses in 1958 and 1959.

Course

Mr L.J. Miller continued as greenkeeper throughout the decade. In the early years there were problems in getting staff and he had only two assistants. His work was consistently praised in annual reports.

In the autumn of 1951 the Farthest North and Crossways greens were completely redesigned, but a wet winter meant that they had to be resown in the spring. The wet winter also disclosed that several wood and tile drains had collapsed and had to be replaced. A new Te Oranga green was brought into play in November 1959.

There are regular notes in annual reports of new bunkers being dug and old ones filled in and of tees being extended.

Discussions started in 1958 on developing the west side of Foley's farm to develop a new fifth hole. The lease with the pig farmer was re-negotiated to reduce its area which mitigated a little the stench which came across the course when the easterly blew. This did not finally end until the whole paddock was taken over in 1970.

The council started putting concrete banks into number 2 drain. It was said to be magnificent golfing country. Trees were planted and the ground ploughed. Mr Babbage, who had been designing courses in the North Island, was invited to make recommendations, but he was then found to be unavailable.

Consideration was given to building a boy-proof fence along the northern boundary to prevent balls being stolen but this did not proceed.

Professionals

In August 1951 Bob Glading advised that he wished to retire to go to England to take up a flying career. During the second World War he had served in the Fleet Air Arm and had been awarded a DFC. The position was advertised and applicants from England were considered.

After due consideration Norman Fuller was appointed. The committee deliberated over three months before making an offer as he had been a conscientious objector during the war. He was born in 1911 and had been working in Christchurch for the last 14 years for two sports' firms.

The final decision was influenced by his being well-known, was the right type as well as a good coach and golfer and the club would be faced with less difficulty should he prove unsatisfactory, than in the case of a man from overseas. In fact he proved to be an excellent and popular appointment and there was no reaction to it.

Championships

1950 marked the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the First Four Ships to establish the Canterbury settlement and the club was granted the holding of the NZ open championship as part of the general celebrations. The first committee meeting of the year discussed the liquor requirements and it was agreed that an import licence should be sought for 30 cases of whisky, 10 cases of gin and 10 cases of brandy. This application was declined.

The championships commenced on 10 October 1950. Peter Thomson led from the first round with a 70 in a strong southerly, followed by a 69 in the second round. He faltered in the first nine of the third round going out in 39 but recovered with a second nine of 32. His final total of 280 gave him victory by 9 strokes. He had a double bogey 7 at Pagoda (then the 16th) but completed his round with a classic birdie at the last.



1950 Peter Thomson Winner of New Zealand Open

This was the first national championship he won. In his subsequent career he won five Opens and seven further NZ opens in a total of 98 professional wins worldwide.

In the professional match play which followed he was beaten 5/4 by Alex Murray in the first round, saying that he was burnt out after his stroke play success.

Bobby Locke came for a second visit and played at Shirley on 30 October 1950. He had won the NZ open in 1938 and was the reigning Open champion, eventually winning four times. Unfortunately the conditions were atrocious with heavy rain and a strong southwest wind so his 73 was commendable. In spite of a low attendance the club reported a profit of £78.

The first interprovincial tournament was organised by the Canterbury Golf Association and played at Shirley on 28 February, 1 and 2 March 1951. It was part of the Canterbury Centennial celebrations and six provinces participated. It was won by Wellington on a count back with Canterbury 13 games to 12½.

Peter Thomson was back on 22 March 1952 giving an exhibition match as part of a nationwide tour where he played a match almost every day for three weeks.

The first test match between Australia and NZ since 1948 was played at Shirley on 3 and 4 October 1952, the result being a draw.

The third playing of the interprovincial championship took place 21 -23 May 1953. Prior to the second playing Lord Freyberg had presented a Rose Bowl which was won by Manawatu-Wanganui at Paraparaumu. At Shirley darkness prevented the last match being completed though its result would not have affected Manawatu-Wanganui being the winner.

Norman von Nida played in an exhibition match on 1 March 1954. He had developed a reputation for bad temper and throwing his clubs, particularly his putter. He apologised on this occasion for playing so badly for a 73. 'You try your best but you just can't do it. That's the beauty of golf.' He then gave a demonstration of trick shots which enthralled the crowd of several hundred.

A team of six junior British women players were amongst the competitors in the NZ women's championships played in October 1955. They dominated the three-round stroke play for the Mellsop cup which was won on a countback by Miss J Robertson from her fellow team member Miss B. Jackson, both on 230. All four places in the match play semi-finals were occupied by British players and the final was won by Veronica Anstey who beat Gillian Atkinson on the thirty-sixth hole after being 2 down with 3 to play, getting three pars to her opponent's bogeys.

The NZ men's championships were played at Shirley for the eleventh time starting on 10 October 1956. No overseas professionals entered and the tournament was dominated by the six-man Australian team who had been touring the country.

There had been heavy rain in the preceding fortnight which had produced thick rough which had been let to grow at least 180 yards from the tees and was 'impenetrable'. The course had been lengthened to 6363 yards and the fairways reduced to 'thread like narrowness' according to one report. In addition the last two stroke rounds were played in rain with a strong southerly so that the scoring was poor compared with that of 1950.

The open championship was won by Harry Berwick of Australia with a four-round total of 292. Two shots behind were Bob Charles and Stewart Jones. Colin Caldwell was fifth on 296. In the amateur match play final Peter Toogood of Australia beat Bob Charles 3/2, the latter after a superb start playing poorly in the first nine holes of the afternoon round.

Peter Thomson, Gary Player, Harold Henning and David Thomas played a round robin tournament on 1 and 2 November 1958. These top-line professionals attracted a large crowd and good golf was enjoyed. The club gained financially.

Clubhouse

The issue of whether the club should seek a liquor licence was discussed prior to the 1950 men's championship. Under the then current law this would have prevented the club dispensing liquor on Sundays or after hotel hours during the week i.e. after 6 p.m. It was thought likely that the current locker system would have to continue. This meant that alcoholic beverages could not be bought at the club and members would have to bring their own. Spirits were usually kept in small lockers in the changing room for which there was a small annual charge

The Fire Brigade Inspector carried out an inspection of the clubhouse in 1953 and as a consequence it was resolved to buy a new extinguisher for the kitchen and move the existing extinguishers to other parts of the clubhouse. This was despite an earlier minute which said that insurance companies had little faith in extinguishers to even hold a fire.

Mr Helmore was a regular attendee at committee meetings during 1954 proposing and discussing suggestions for extending the clubhouse. At the December AGM members were told that a building plan had been submitted but the cost was extremely high.

Discussions continued and a proposal to glass in the verandah was approved at the AGM on 13 December 1956. Nearly every committee meeting minute in 1957 mentions work on the design of the verandah and further approval was given to it at the AGM, after a long discussion when a wide variety of opinions were given.

Three committee members (Messrs Boon, Green and Bullock) retired at the 1957 AGM and after a ballot Messrs Simes, Hall and Glasson were elected. The new committee immediately set up a sub-committee to investigate extension of the clubhouse and enlargement of the professional's shop rather than glassing-in the verandah.

This proposal and a tender for £2095 were accepted by the committee in July 1958. This would appear to have 'jumped the gun' as agreement to the committee proposal was not given until the AGM on 12 December 1958, when it was also agreed not to proceed with the glassing-in of the verandah. The discussion on this was acrimonious though the final motion was approved unanimously. The smoking room was extended to the west by 20 metres with a flat roof. It appears that Heathcote Helmore was the architect as he was commissioned to advise on the interior decoration. This addition was not in sympathy with the main building and set an unfortunate precedent for two later additions. To the west a new building was erected, the east half of which provided additional lockers and two poky showers and the west half an office for the secretary/manager. Initially it was suggested that a dance be held to mark the opening of the extension. Delays in construction meant that this was changed to a cocktail party, held in June and attended by 180 guests in what was described as a comfortable, bright room with ample space.

Originally the building alterations were to include upgrading the professional shop but in the event this was limited to an extension to provide storage space for trundlers. The committee did find time to select a suitable ashtray for the smoking room from several samples.

Social activity

Not only was 1950 the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the First Four Ships, it was also the 50th anniversary of the first game at Shirley. A dinner dance to commemorate this was held on 22 July at the Winter Gardens. Three hundred and fifty guests attended with many more joining to dance after the dinner. There were eight speeches and between them amusing topical interludes were provided. A profit of £150 was made which was spent on new crockery and cutlery.



50th Anniversary Dinner of the first game at Shirley

The club continued to be a centre of social activity. Dinner dances and cocktail parties were held frequently, were well attended and featured in the social pages of the daily newspapers. The numbers of honorary members in both clubs (men's and ladies') were well in three figures: this membership gave rights to the clubhouse but not to the links and was for many simply a status symbol along

with membership of the Christchurch or Canterbury Clubs and the Canterbury Jockey Club.

As an example the next dance held in the clubhouse on 12 December 1952 was attended by 200 members and their guests. As in pre-war days the verandah was enclosed and the tables were gay with masses of roses arranged in large white vases. *The Press* gave detailed descriptions of the dresses of the most prominent ladies.

A reception was held for Miss Zoe Hudson on 15 May 1953 just before a NZ women's team left for Great Britain of which she was the captain. Speaking before over 200 guests Mr R.W. Morgan (the President) said 'Miss Hudson must be overwhelmed with her great popularity shown by this attendance. Members of the men's club share the great pride that Miss Hudson's fellow members in the ladies' club feel'. She was presented with three suitcases.

Another dance was held during November 1954 and the ladies' committee was complimented on the excellent supper provided. A profit of £30 resulted.

Susan Grigg was the guest of honour at an 'At Home' on 30 October 1957 held by the ladies' club to congratulate her on winning the NZ ladies' golf championship. She was a pupil of Norman Fuller. An 'At Home' for all members was held on 23 November 1957 where the supper table was decorated with silver candelabra and bowls of pink flowers.

Ladies

Throughout this period relations with the ladies' club were amicable, assisted by significant increases in their capitation fees.

Discussions on a new contract began in February 1950 and continued during the year. In October agreement was reached on what the levy should be. However, the club's seal on an agreement was not affixed until September 1952.

A problem arose in March 1954 when it was found that the ladies' programme for the year included more Tuesdays than they were entitled to. They promised that in future they would submit it for approval before it was printed. However in February 1955 it was reported that they had refused to do this and the secretary/manager was instructed to check the contract. A month later it was reported that a round table conference with the ladies had been held though the results were not recorded.

Reciprocal Clubs

Rights were agreed with Royal Mid-Surrey (1956) and the Australian Golf Club (1959).

Other notable events and occasions

The first mention of carts (trundlers) was made on 17 April 1950 when they are reported as being stored in one of the whares.

Peter Thomson recounted that when he came to play in the NZ open in October 1950, as a 21 year-old Australian

professional, he was addressed by the President as "Thomson". He replied that he answered to either "Mr Thomson" or "Peter". Not many young New Zealanders would have been so bold.

A record worth noting was the winning of the club championship in 1952 by Dr John Gosset 57 years after his father Dr George had achieved that result. When the father won a group of friends clubbed together to pay his expenses to the third NZ amateur championship in the Hutt which he duly won.

And the final flourish for the year 1952 was a match between the men's and ladies' clubs which was won by the ladies, 6 matches to 5 with one half.

During the Interprovincial Rose Bowl tournament of 1953, an escaped prisoner was found hiding in trees on the course. He had lain hidden for three days while scores of golfers passed by.

Problems with shoe sprigs damaging the greens were brought to the attention of NZ Golf for discussions with manufacturers (1953).

A letter was sent to the Waimairi County Council complaining of stock belonging to Mr Flutey of Horseshoe Lake Road straying on the road and entering the club's premises and doing damage (1953).

A sign was erected prohibiting dogs on the course (1953).

It was noted that the Hagley Golf Club had celebrated their 50th anniversary, a meeting on 17 March 1904 having decided to form it. They had opened with 78 women and 18 men.

Since the inception of the club *The Press* and the then daily evening paper *The Christchurch Star Sun* had covered golf very extensively, reporting club results and other general comment. In early 1958 they decided to exclude these and a letter was written to the editors requesting reconsideration. This was supported by the Canterbury Golf Association and the editors rescinded their decision. This meant that Mr R. T. Brittenden's contributions continued until the 1980's. He also wrote authoritatively and amusingly about cricket, rugby and wrestling.

1955 was notable for the start of the Golf Foundation for young persons on the initiative of A.R. Blank who had recently retired as the headmaster of the Fendalton Open Air School. In the May holidays, 150 boys and a few girls attended coaching in Hagley Park. Eventually this led to the revival of the course at Harewood which was initially for young people only. This was the nursery for many adolescents who subsequently joined our club.

Another long running issue was the design of a new blazer. This began in June 1957 with a discussion on the type of cloth to be used. By September it was decided to purchase eight dozen large buttons and six dozen small buttons. In November a sample of an embroidered badge was approved.

Jim Ward won the NZ plate for the second time in 1952. A variety of topics were raised at the 1958 AGM. Of particular concern was the dry condition of the course and members were reminded to be careful with matches. There had been three reports in recent years of fires in the plantations which had been attended by the Fire Brigade. Two hardy annuals were also raised: the non-availability of the course when used by outside societies

and the ladies not adhering to their allotted times. There was a call for more social life and the purchase of a radiogramme or a piano was suggested.

Viscount Cobham was now Governor-General and followed the precedent of becoming Patron of the club. He played often when in Christchurch and on one occasion in November 1958 almost drove O'Rorkes.

1960 - 1969

	President	Captain	Membership
1960	O. A.Y. Johnston	G. R. Hunter	325
1961	O. A.Y. Johnston	P. Hall	325
1962	O. A.Y. Johnston	P. Hall	322
1963	O. A.Y. Johnston	P. Hall	331
1964	O. A.Y. Johnston	P. Hall	331
1965	C. J. Ward	A. W. Robinson	329
1966	C. J. Ward	A. W. Robinson	359
1967	C. J. Ward	E. S. Williams	359
1968	C. J. Ward	E. S. Williams	348
1969	C. J. Ward	G. M. Turrell	349

Bill Coates retired due to ill health in 1966. He was made a life member in 1967 and continued for some years giving his assistance. John Morton was his replacement.

Membership

The major issue which the committee grappled with was how to deal with the long waiting lists for admission to the club. In 1961 the men's waiting list for active membership was 20 and applicants were waiting up to a year. The limit for active members was raised to 360 in 1966, but applications from members' sons or transfers from out of town were allowed above this number. The ladies were restricted to 200 members and prospective members were waiting five years. Included in this number were wives of many of the male members.

A suggestion was made in 1963 that a husband could play with his wife in the hours set aside for lady members on the payment of green fees. The ladies' club was reluctant to agree to this and at a SGM in June 1964, the committee was urged to try to get their agreement. Another possibility raised was that every second lady admitted to membership should be the wife of a member.

This situation continued and by the 1964 AGM the waiting list for ladies was seven years. One problem in resolving it was that a copy of the agreement with the ladies made in 1952 could not be found. The next move was in January 1966 when Messrs Ward and Robinson were delegated to meet with the ladies. Three meetings were held and agreement was reached that non-member wives could play with members in mixed matches. The ladies also agreed to go through the waiting list and offer

twenty honorary memberships enabling these ladies to act as markers in mixed matches on the payment of green fees. This would be in addition to the three games a year that they were entitled to under honorary membership.

The demand for male membership also continued and in mid-1967 the waiting list was closed. Those on the list were categorised A, B, C and D with those on the D list being written to and advised that there was little chance of their becoming active members. They were offered midweek or honorary membership. The waiting list for midweek membership was then closed. The introduction of summer membership in 1968 alleviated the situation a little.

Finances

The reports on finances for the last two years of the 1950s had been 'euphoric'. George Hunter in 1958 said that the past year had been fantastic: record income and profit. Jim Ward in 1959 said that the past year had been one of the most successful in the club's history: the profit of £600 was satisfactory and 'not too much'.

Given the full membership this trend continued throughout the 1960s. Subscriptions were increased in 1965 and 1968 to match the increased cost and wages caused by inflation.

Course

At the September 1959 meeting Mr Hunter asked for the views of the full committee on the siting of the new holes, seemingly the first reference to the changes that would be required west of number 2 drain i.e. to Mairehau and

Nor'west following the shifting of Farthest North to the east of the drain.

In April 1960 a quote of £469 was accepted for a watering system for the new fairway which would comprise a single line with fourteen off-points. By June the new Mairehau green and Nor'west tee had been pegged out, perhaps by Mr L.J. Miller the course superintendent, though he resigned the next month on account of ill health. There is no mention of the reason for the positioning of the new Mairehau tee which was set up where the Nor'west green is now. To hit the fairway required a slice round a large eucalyptus tree since a straight drive would head to the drain.

It seems likely that these new holes did not come into operation until early 1962. It was immediately obvious that the new Farthest North lacked interest and an attempt to alleviate this was the placement of two knobs just off the right hand side of the fairway about 200 metres from the tee. These were referred to mischievously as 'Hall's balls' in reference to Peter Hall, the club captain.

During these years (1959 to 1961) the greens at O'Rorke's and Te Oranga were relaid and the present Muggerridges' green was developed north of the old one.

Mr C.W. Hewitt had been appointed head greenkeeper from St Clair in August 1960. He was a willing worker, but lacked the skills necessary for the position. At the December 1962 AGM there was vigorous criticism of the state of the course. In due course Murray Stanley who was head greenkeeper at St Andrews in Hamilton began on 26 March 1963 and in short order provided a list of the problems he was faced with. The first step was to obtain a report on the watering system which was now 30 years old. Many of the pipes were corroded and the main pump needed replacing. The committee was concerned about the noise impact of a new pump on neighbours, a concern which was justified after the pump was installed with the problem dominating committee meetings for a year until a solution was implemented.

Murray Stanley effected immediate improvements in other areas. At the AGM in 1963 one of the strongest critics the previous year congratulated all concerned on the present excellent order of the course. At the next year's AGM referring to the NZ open championship, it was reported that many overseas players had said that Shirley was the best course they had played on for some time. A subscription list was opened to enable Mr and Mrs Stanley to visit Australia particularly to see golf courses on the sand belts outside Melbourne. He reported that these courses were planting eucalyptuses and as a result upwards of twenty were planted at Shirley. It would generally be accepted that this was an unfortunate development and it took until 2022 for all of them to be removed.

In early 1961 the committee had become concerned that the links might be going to be acquired under the Public

Works Act. Mr George Francis was asked to undertake investigations for alternative locations. In June 1961 he reported on three days' investigations into suitable land in the Sandy Knolls, Aylesbury and West Melton areas.

A discussion on this report took place at the 1961 AGM and it was resolved that the matter should be kept under review.

In April 1962 it was suggested that O'Rorke's and Upshot should be sold to provide the finance for the purchase of new land. This was rejected. A further concern was advice from the Drainage Board that they intended to develop a conduit across the course ending in the Horseshoe Lake. Three alternative routes had been suggested to the engineer but his reply was that the matter had been fully explored and the chosen route across the course was the only practicable one.

The matter was revived in August 1966. Andrew Robinson (the club captain) had viewed a site of 500 acres on the Old West Coast Road at £190 per acre which would have been £50 an acre 5 years ago. At the AGM the following August, and after considerable discussion, the committee was authorised to consider purchasing additional land. However at the 1967 AGM, it was reported that the committee had given careful consideration to this, but had found nothing suitable and had decided to concentrate instead on the improvement of the course and facilities at Shirley. Plans for course improvement remained uncertain because of the proposed expressway north of the course which it had been indicated would go through the pig paddock.

After many representations to the Waimairi County Council they had agreed that the new expressway would go to the north of the club's land and would not require the acquisition of the pig paddock so a sub-committee was formed in May 1968 to consider the alternatives for a future layout. In July they advised members of Mr Ward's plan for two additional holes, the deletion of the par 3's Old Nick and Farthest South, and a new tee for Pagoda adjacent to the Shirley green to allow for the extension of the practice area. A SGM was held in August where the meeting was assured that these were first thoughts and nothing would be done without the membership being informed. In February 1969 aerial photographs were taken to be forwarded to Peter Thomson to allow him to submit plans for the development.

At the March committee meeting there was considerable discussion and this now included the provision of a new watering system. Considerable concern was expressed at the lack of progress for many years past. Given Peter Thomson's unavailability a report was received from Sloan Morpeth and discussed in April. The need to keep members informed of progress was emphasised.

In June Mr Morpeth's realignment scheme and the proposed practice area were accepted by the committee while the estimated cost of a new watering system was

given as between \$40,000 and \$50,000. A SGM was held in August and the motion to empower the committee to proceed was passed by 56 votes to 40.

Professionals

Norman Fuller's health began to decline during 1966 and Colin Caldwell became his assistant. Norman Fuller died at the end of that year and his passing was deeply regretted by a host of members. A donation of over \$1,000 was made to his widow plus a contribution by the club. Colin was confirmed as the club professional during 1967. He was ably assisted in the shop by his wife Anne whose cheerful cooperation and assistance were greatly appreciated by members.

Championships and Exhibitions

The Tasman cup match for women between Australia and NZ was competed for on 15 October 1960. All were most enthusiastic about the playing conditions.



Kel Nagle

The NZ open was held on 19, 20 and 21 November 1964 with the final day played over 36 holes. It was won by Kel Nagle of Australia with a four round score of 266 which equalled the record he had set two years previously at Titirangi and which lasted until 1986. His last two rounds were 66 and 64. Second was Frank Phillips also from Australia who was 22 strokes behind. The leading amateur was P.C. Rankin from Miramar on 294.

1.42 p.m. THE CHRISTCHURCH GOLF CLUB (Inc.)
SHIRLEY, CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

PLAYER *NAGLE K.D.G.*

Holes	Yards	Player	Marker	Holes	Yards	Player	Marker
1	WILLIAMS	4	4	10	UPHOLST	4	4
2	BODDY	3	2	11	O'CONNOR'S	4	4
3	FRINGLES	4	2	12	FINEY	4	4
4	LAND'S END	4	4	13	OLD HICK	3	3
5	FARTHEST HTH	5	4	14	SHREY	3	3
6	MARSHALL	4	4	15	FARTHEST SH	2	2
7	NORTHWEST	3	4	16	FRICOLA	4	4
8	TERRA NOVA	4	4	17	LE GUARDIA	4	4
9	CADSWAY	2	4	18	HOPK	3	3
		33				31	
				IN		33	
				OUT		64	
				TOTAL		64	

Member's Signature *Frank Phillips*
 Player's Signature *K Nagle*
 Date *21/11/64* Secretary

1964 NZ Open fourth round card

Visiting professionals with wide international experience considered that the course was up to the highest standard and were impressed by the efficient organisation of the club. Unfortunately Bob Charles could not participate as he had a commitment in the United States.

However, an exhibition match between Bob Charles and Arnold Palmer was played on 20 October 1966. This was part of a four-match series sponsored by Benson and Hedges (a tobacco firm!) played at Balmacewen, Shirley, Miramar and Middlemore. The series was won by Bob by 8 strokes, at Shirley scoring a 68 to Palmer's 71. Tickets were 15 shillings with children free.

There was a troublesome easterly, but the better ball score was eight under so there was 'royal fare' for the crowd of 5,500. Palmer's round was marred by a 7 at Land's End. He attempted to draw his second round the lone poplar



1967 Andrew Robinson (Club Captain), Arnold Palmer, Norman Fuller (Pro)

at the corner and take the ball over the road and back onto the green. However, he hit a wicked hook inside the tree and the ball finished within six inches of the fence near the Upshot tee and in thick rough. He played a one iron left handed and managed to move the ball into the bunker which used to be on the left of the green. From there he struggled out, hit a chip too strongly and then two putted.

His caddie was Andrew Robinson, then club captain, who had put in some road running training before the match. It would have helped since Palmer, in contravention of the rules of golf, carried 16 clubs in a huge bag weighing over 23 kg. The previous evening the two players had been interviewed on the local television station (CHTV3) and Palmer was one of the guest speakers at a sportsmen's dinner which was attended by 565 people and raised £1200 for the Crippled Children's Society.

The next year (1967) Andrew won the NZ plate at the amateur championship and in 1968 he and Ian Cromb competed in the open at Muirfield.

NZ ladies' championships were held at Shirley in October 1967. The only member who had success was Mary Ensor who partnered Mrs J. Hanratty to win the foursomes. The winner of the match play championship was Mrs D.A. Whitehead from Manawatu who beat Miss N. White from Titirangi at the 36th.

The 1968 men's open was held on 28, 29 and 30 November. Kel Nagle was again the winner with a score of 272 by seven strokes. He was the only player to master the difficult conditions in the final round caused by a southerly wind. The leading amateur was Bob Farrant on 293. Bob Charles wrote a daily column for *The Press*. Of the last day he wrote, 'I had got the feel of my swing in the morning round for the first time in the championship, but it deserted me completely in the afternoon'. He finished 5th. This was the ninth time the championship had been played at Shirley and was again a highly successful tournament in large measure due to the wholehearted support of members.

An exhibition match was played between Bob Charles and Gary Player in November 1969. This was the second of a four-match series played throughout the country. Player had won the match at Balmacewen by four strokes, but Charles made up three at Shirley carding a 70 (37-33) to Player's 73 (37-36). Player's only birdie was at the last whereas Charles had five.

Before the match the players gave an exhibition with each commenting on the other's play. Conditions were warm and windless. The paying crowd numbered 1,400 but it was estimated that at least that number 'gate-crashed'. Unfortunately there was an anti-apartheid protester and *The Press* report covered that incident almost as much as the golf. The final result of the series was a win to Player by seven strokes.

Clubhouse

Even with their membership limited to 200 the ladies' facilities were under stress. In August 1965 Mr J.D. Hall was invited to prepare plans for extension of the common room to the east, much as had been done to extend the smoking room. Preliminary drawings were approved the following March with final plans approved in October. Tenders were called with the lowest being £8,700, more than £2,000 above the architect's estimate.

When next discussed, new caterer's quarters had been added and the estimate became \$32,000. This was approved at a SGM held on 17 October 1967 though with some dissent. There is no record of what the final cost was nor when it was completed. A major flaw in the design was that a 50cm board was placed in the windows at eye-level so that when seated, views of the course were obscured. For this and other reasons the new room did not get a great deal of use.

Ladies

The membership question was not the only tension between the two clubs in this period, perhaps accentuated by the personalities of the presidents and club captains of each club.

The 1960 AGM had approved the closing of the course on Mondays without any consultation with the ladies and this had to be rescinded by the committee the following April without reference to members.

Access by ladies to the smoking room was contentious. In June 1962 they were allowed access on mixed match days but only after 3 pm. In August a request to use the smoking room for a function was refused because they had sufficient other rooms. In November 1968 the smoking room was to be out of bounds to ladies at all times.

Amongst all the discussions in October 1966 on the layout of the course, it was noted that the ladies should be given an opportunity to contribute. In April 1967 one member of the ladies' committee was to be invited to join in furnishing deliberations. There is no record of any of these intentions ever being fulfilled.

Social Events

A ball was held on 26 January 1960. There was a disappointing attendance although a good party was had. A small loss was made.

What was called the annual cocktail party was revived on 1 November 1967 and held again in 1968 and 1969 with over 200 guests and members attending. Special mention was made each time of the excellent floral arrangements provided by Mrs J.L. (Edna) Kerr.

1970 - 1979

	President	Club Captain	Membership
1970	C. J. Ward	G.M. Turrell	351
1971	E. S. Williams	G.M. Turrell	350
1972	E. S. Williams	G.W.A. Green	350
1973	E. S. Williams	G.W.A. Green	370
1974	E. S. Williams	M.J.C. Robinson	371
1975	G. R. Hunter	M.J.C. Robinson	368
1976	G. R. Hunter	M.J.C. Robinson	370
1977	G. R. Hunter	O. C. Abbott	369
1978	G. R. Hunter	O. C. Abbott	374
1979	G. R. Hunter	N. M. Gapes	374

C. J. (Jim) Ward's retirement as president marked the end of his office holding which had begun in 1946. He was made a life member at the 1970 AGM.

Bill Green died after a short illness in October 1973. This was a sad loss for the club. The success of the centennial celebrations had been in no small measure due to his enthusiasm and organising talent.

Ossie Abbott was re-elected club captain at the 1978 AGM but resigned the position at the first committee meeting in 1979 due to pressure of business.

Paul Nelson commenced as the secretary/manager in mid-1971 replacing John Morton.

Club Centennial

Preparations began early in the decade to commemorate the club's centennial. There were five days of events commencing with a church service in the cathedral on Sunday 15 April 1973. This was conducted by Dean Michael Underhill who was an enthusiastic member, continually advocating for reduced subscriptions for clergy. The highlight of the celebrations was a dinner and ball at the Christchurch Town Hall on Monday 23 April. Also attending were the captain and several members and their wives of the Australian Golf Club.

Membership

In 1970 membership was full and was reported as being highly sought after. There were 53 on the waiting list.

At the 1977 AGM it was agreed that the maximum number of members should be raised to 410. However, this change did not need to be implemented as there was then a significant downturn in applications for membership and by the following year concern was expressed that there was no waiting list.

Finances

A SGM held on 10 September 1970 raised subscriptions by 10% and introduced an annual levy for the next 20 years to meet interest and capital repayments on the

watering system loan. There was a further increase in subscriptions the following year. In 1973 there was a further increase to \$87 for a full active member plus the \$8 watering levy.

These increases were insufficient to meet the rising costs caused by rampant inflation and the subscription was raised to \$115 in 1975, \$132.50 in 1976, \$200 in 1977, \$220 in 1978 and \$250 in 1979.

Course

Given the approval at the SGM held the previous August to proceed with the realignment of the course the committee in February 1970 accepted a quotation from Harding & Vincent Ltd of \$35,962 for the watering system and decided to raise the necessary finance by a debenture issue.

However in early April a special meeting was called by 20 members seeking the rescinding of the motion on realigning the course. This took place on 30 April. The motion was moved by Peter Mahon, later famous for conducting the inquiry into the Erebus disaster and using the phrase 'an orchestrated litany of lies' to describe the evidence given by Air NZ staff. He eloquently set out the case that the course existed primarily for members who had no interest in providing a test for itinerant professionals. The motion was seconded by Mr J.K. Davidson, but after considerable discussion was lost in a secret ballot 63 votes to 77.

This was of course a considerable relief to the committee who had accepted the watering system quotation though they had now to set out to raise the necessary finance from a lot of unsympathetic members. By December only \$23,000 had been raised.

The new watering system was operational at the end of 1970 after several delays. This was eagerly awaited as the twelve months up to April had been very dry. There were complaints from neighbours about the noise from the Golf Links Road pump house which meant that watering

had to be restricted to daylight hours. The building had to be bricked in and insulated and quieter motors installed. This was not fixed until 1973 and involved legal disputes including an injunction against the club.

Sloan Morpeth made a final visit in March 1970 to confirm the shape of the new holes (Farthest North, Morpeths and Old Nick.) The first players to try them out were the committee on 19 November 1971 which was followed by a dinner at the Canterbury Club. They were then brought into play for the membership at the end of March 1972.

On the preceding weekend Old Nick and Farthest South were played by the men for the last time. Remarkably Jim Ward got a hole in one at Old Nick. Even more remarkably Eileen Nutt (then the ladies' president) had done the same when the ladies played the hole for their last time earlier in the week. She donated a rustic bridge to mark the occasion which was by the ladies' Robinsons tee but demolished during the recent course alterations.



1972 Jim Ward's Hole in One at Old Nick

There was severe weather during the 1974 winter which resulted in constant flooding on many parts of the links. In particular the Nor'west and Terra Nova fairways were severely flooded. The weather was just as bad the following year with a wind storm in August closing the links for a week whilst a start was made in clearing and disposing of the fallen trees and debris. Club members put in a huge voluntary effort in dealing with the tidying up.

The opportunity was also taken to tidy up the plantation between O'Rorkes and Upshot and to fell mature trees. The proceeds were used to plant *pinus radiata* on the

four acres north of the new Old Nick green which it was envisaged would produce future income. A new green was formed at Charles: an upturned saucer which never produced a satisfactory surface but plenty of four putts.

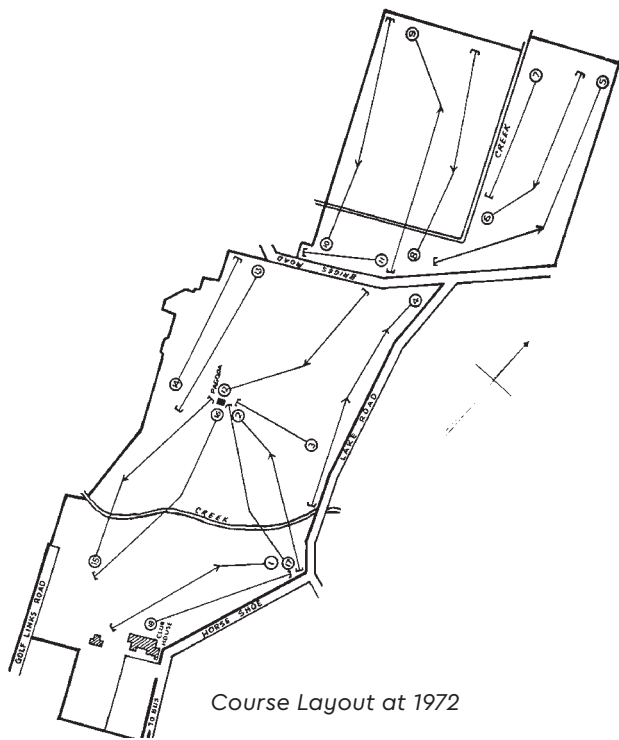
These various events did mean that preparation of the links for the NZ open in November 1974 was impeded and they were not presented in as good a condition as for previous opens. Indeed a few weeks earlier it had been thought that the NZGA would have to be asked to find an alternative venue. Many professionals were therefore critical which in the circumstances was felt to be unfair.

There was a most exciting finish when three players tied on 283 for a playoff: Bob Charles, Jack Newton and a then completely unknown American, Bob Gilder. Bob Charles had unfortunately hit his second into a bunker then at the back of the 18th green (Dobbie) and had been unable to get up and down. This bunker was filled in by Peter Thomson during the course renovations in 1998.

The playoff was over three holes: Pagoda, Te Oranga and Dobbie. Newton three-putted Te Oranga and dropped out and Gilder's drive at the last was in thick rough. He played a miracle sand iron about five feet from the hole. Bob Charles after a superb drive put his second just through the green and had to chip for his third and then could only watch whilst Gilder slotted his putt. Gilder went on to have six victories on the PGA tour and ten on the champions tour.

1977 saw the start of the Dudley Creek diversion across the Nor'west and Terra Nova fairways which involved a major excavation and the laying of a huge pipe with the outfall to Horseshoe Lake. These holes were taken out of play and replaced by the old Old Nick and Farthest South during the two years that this took to complete. The opportunity was taken to dispense with the lateral water hazard along the Terra Nova fairway and to pipe Judds drain which went across the Terra Nova and Mairehau fairways about 50 metres short of those greens. (The outfall from the latter now flows into number 2 drain by the pump house.) The fairways were ploughed, drained and resown. Matt Robinson had over many years been negotiating with the Christchurch Drainage Board and obtained \$10,000 in compensation, nearly all of which was spent on restoring the links. Another wet winter and delays in the contract meant that these holes were not playable until the beginning of 1979.

There continued to be dissatisfaction by some members with the new layout. A SGM was held in March 1979 to discuss a change to the course layout moved by Wayne Tucker and seconded by Donald Hope. A trial was agreed to by 44 votes to 34 to play Mairehau as a par 3, abandon Old Nick and reinstate Farthest South and the back tee at Pagoda. A SGM in March the following year agreed without dissent to abandon these changes.



Course Layout at 1972

Dress

Dress regulations on both the course and in the clubhouse continued to be a hot topic. There was a challenge at the December 1970 AGM to the regulation that ties and cravats were to be worn at all times in the smoking, dining and common rooms. This resulted in a tied vote of 21 for and 21 against. The chairman cast his vote for the status quo. However at the following committee meeting the requirement to wear jackets was relaxed for the months of November to February. Military shorts were allowed provided they were worn with calf length socks and were not worn in the smoking room after 4 p.m.

There was another long discussion at the 1972 AGM. Max Minson made a plea that the club move with the times and allow the wearing of modern sports shirts which did not require a tie or cravat. This was rejected by 25 votes to 13. In April 1975 the committee confirmed that jackets needed to be worn in March, and in May 1977 reaffirmed the decision that shorts could not be worn in the smoking room after 4 p.m. There was a further attempt at the December 1975 AGM to abolish the requirement to wear ties and cravats but this was lost on the voices.

At the December 1977 AGM Barry Lake asked if polo necked jerseys (which had become fashionable) could be worn in the clubhouse between March and November. This was referred to the incoming committee and at the 1978 AGM it was reported that the answer had been 'no'. However it was decided that shorts could be worn after 4 p.m.

Ladies

Every annual report has a similar comment thanking the Ladies' Golf Club for their support and cooperation during the year. It was suggested in April 1971 that one of the men's committee should be appointed to be their spokesperson but this does not appear to have been acted on. There were numerous discussions on tee starting times that did get resolved in July 1976 as far as weekends and public holidays were concerned by allowing ladies equal rights with men to tee off between 9.30 and 11 a.m.

A continual irritation was the ladies' late payment of their capitation fee.

Social activities

Regular social events continued to be a feature of club life with at least five dinner/dances held during the decade. A highlight was the first visit from a group of Americans in November 1970. They came under the auspices of the 'People to People' organisation initiated by President Eisenhower to support friendship among nations through golf. A friendly game was played in the afternoon followed by a dinner paid for by the visitors. There were frequent visits over many years.

By 1976 a committee match followed by a dinner had become an annual event. In that year George Hunter presented a silver salver for the winner of the golf in memory of his late wife 'Johnny'. There was considerable embarrassment when the first winner was a committee member who had travelled overseas at the beginning of the year and on his return had claimed to customs officers that the set of clubs he had with him had been purchased at the Christchurch Golf Club pro shop before he had left NZ. This was done in an attempt to avoid the large import duties which were imposed at that time.

His trial at which he was found guilty received considerable media publicity and at the 1 March 1976 committee meeting he was asked by George Hunter to apologise and resign for besmirching the club's name. This he refused to do though he did not stand for re-election. The salver is still played annually.

Other notable events and occasions

Mr R.H.C. (Charlie) Port who had been on the greens staff for many years died on 23 September 1971. He was a familiar figure, often seen sweeping the greens with a long cane on Saturday mornings to remove dew. It was reputed that after his death his bath was found to be full of golf balls.

Geoff Saunders won the Bledisloe Cup for the leading amateur in the NZ Open in 1976 and also the Jellicoe Cup for the lowest round of the tournament.

1980 - 1989

	President	Club Captain	Membership
1980	M. J. C. Robinson	N.M. Gapes	342
1981	M. J. C. Robinson	N.M. Gapes	326
1982	M. J. C. Robinson	J.D. Bull	355
1983	A. W. Robinson	J.D. Bull	378
1984	A. W. Robinson	J.D. Bull	380
1985	J. D. Bull	B.T. Quirke	356
1986	J. D. Bull	B.T. Quirke	324
1987	O.C. Abbott	J.H.B. Fisher	301
1988	O.C. Abbott	J.H.B. Fisher	301
1989	B. T. Quirke	D.H. Hicks	307

Paul Nelson retired as manager/secretary at the end of 1981. He was replaced by Ian Ferguson who resigned in April 1983. Paul then returned for the period up until Gordon Reid took over the position in January 1984.

Membership

In the first years of the decade there was a significant drop in membership from the figure of around 370 that had been steady through the 1970s. Under John Bull's captaincy this was reversed but then fell precipitously for the rest of the decade. The causes for this can only be speculated on. Possible reasons may have been the turmoil in the NZ economy leading up to the 1987 market crash. There would also have been the effect of the movement of many head offices from Christchurch primarily to Auckland such that it was suggested at the time that State Highway 1 was clogged with removal vans heading north.

Finances

The 1983 surplus was the first for four years but was a result of a surplus of \$8,184 from running the 1982 open, a donation of \$5,000 and a 15% increase in subscriptions. There was high inflation during these years and subscriptions had to be increased from between 12½ % and 15% annually. Levies were also imposed.

The committee in 1984 advised members of \$142,000 of looming capital expenditure which the current surpluses would not allow to be carried out. Various schemes were then proposed. The only one which was carried out was to purchase two poker machines which at other golf clubs had proved significant generators of revenue. The ladies vehemently opposed this when they heard about it but the deed had already been done. As is documented in 1990 these proved to be a disaster. They were barely used and were perhaps the only poker machines ever to have run at a loss after accounting for their maintenance and licence costs.

The Club attempted to run the Pro Shop in the late 1980s with totally unsatisfactory results.

Course

The first committee meeting for the decade recorded that Mr H.E.H. Denham had been granted permission to use a trolley. Later in the year Mr W.R. Paterson was allowed to use a small motorcycle during his recovery from illness.

Few alterations to the course were made in this decade. The Old Nick green was brought forward about 40 metres and relaid in 1981. This was reported in 1982 as having been "disappointing" and further work was required.

Change to the course layout was tried in the Autumn of 1980. This had Pagoda as an alternative starting hole followed by O'Rorkes, Pines, a reinstated old Old Nick and Shirley and then continuing on to Charles.

There was considerable dissatisfaction with this layout. It was short-lived with no solution to the problem of players who had started at Charles arriving at the Pagoda tee whilst players were waiting to start their rounds. For a while the loop of Pagoda, Te Oranga and Home was tried with a similar problem.

In February 1986 Geoffrey Beadel proposed a layout which became known as the 'Alternate Course'. This had Pagoda as the opening hole followed by O'Rorkes. Players then crossed the road and played Crossways, Farthest North, Thomsons, Old Nick, Mairehau, Upshot, Shirley. The second nine were Charles, Briggs, Muggeridges, Land's End, (crossing the road) Nor'west, Terra Nova, Pines, Te Oranga and Dobbie. Though not perfect it did allow for two nine hole loops.

This layout was initially given a trial, though in December John Bull called it a 'disaster' and John Fisher observed that visitors found it strange that members could not find their way round the course. It continued to be used throughout 1987. When it was discussed at the 1988 AGM it was agreed that it would only be used on some occasions. When it was used in April 1989 committee minutes noted that members were

vociferously against it. In June the committee agreed for its use on two more Saturdays. However on 18 July 1989 the group of men playing on Tuesday afternoons voted to play the standard course irrespective of other players on the alternate course. This seems to have been the final straw. In October it was decided that the alternate course would only be used for specific tournaments.

The photo of the Midweek Masters was taken in 1985 and many are still playing today, but sadly many have passed on.

MID-WEEK MEMBERS



Top Row: Ian Pringle, Owen Morgan, Ross Leckie, Brian Shackel, David Page, Brian Cleland, Peter Reed, Peter Sturge, David Hicks, Don Forbes.

Middle Row: Raj Rajendra, Ian Walker, Grahame Buist, Bruce Cooper, Barry Fletcher, Anthony Seeto, Vaughan McMillan, Dennis Maguire, Russell Standage, Tony Mckeogh, Michael Hawarden, Rob Davidson, Freerk Kempfers, Bill McKean, David Macdonald, Derek Hamilton, Mark Thomson, John Sutherland.

Front Row: Alan Woodfield, Robert Sloss, Roger Gowans, Kevin Manning, Ned Robilliard, Brian Columbus, Rodney Trowsdale, Toby Gordon, Derry Lee, Peter Sheppard, John Baugh.

In 1983 problems with our neighbours at O'Rorkes and Farthest North became acute. A wire netting fence was erected to the north of the O'Rorkes green and the bunker in the front of the green grassed in. The problem of balls being sliced out of bounds at Farthest North and damaging the houses had no easy solution. The 1983 report contemplated a complete re-design and the possibility of needing to build two new greens. This continued to be a problem with claims for broken windows being paid regularly until Peter Thomson re-routed the hole and developed a ridge planted with tussocks 50 metres short of the green on his 1998 visit.

Members complained about the number of trees being felled but were assured that they were either millable or rotten. An extensive tree and shrub planting programme was implemented in 1986 and continued in the following years.

A common complaint was the inadequacy of the watering system, particularly during the dry summer months. Financial constraints prevented anything being done about this.

Leading up to the 1982 open there were reports of dissatisfaction with the standard of the course and these were discussed with Murray Stanley. In the event the NZGA representative, Mr Pulman, expressed his

satisfaction with it. Murray Stanley retired in September 1985 and was replaced by Murray Palmer.

Professionals

Colin Caldwell had advised that he wished to retire on 31 March 1983 and a nationwide advertisement was placed for his replacement. Mark Guy was appointed. He left in January 1987. The position was again advertised but only two applications were received, both of which were unsatisfactory. Colin Caldwell agreed to be available for coaching. David Hartshorn who was the professional at the Russley Golf Club then became involved and arranged for his assistant, Shane Scott, to carry out some coaching.

Tournaments

A match between Japan and NZ was held on 2 and 3 February 1981. A flag-raising ceremony was held on the preceding day and the committee was told that their attendance was compulsory. There were certainly some for whom experiences in World War II were still vivid and who would have attended reluctantly.

1982 NZ Men's Open

This event was overshadowed by the way the course was set up by Roy Pulman, the NZ Golf tournament director. He narrowed the fairways and grew thick rough to their edges and around the fringes of most of the greens. Vigorous nor'westers meant that Old Nick, Nor'west and O'Rorkes were virtually impossible to reach in regulation and the tees for these holes were moved forward after the first round.

The winner was Terry Gale with 284 for the four rounds. He had made a late run to overtake Bob Charles over the closing holes. Terry Gale commented 'Shirley is a good course and there was no need to trick it up by growing grass around the edges of the greens'.

John Williamson

John joined the club in 1970. He was first a member of the Woodward cup team in 1979 which won the cup for the fourth successive year. He was selected for the Canterbury provincial team in 1980 and continued as a member every year up until 1990, captaining the team from 1981 onwards. He



John Williamson

won the Club Championship six times which equalled Colin Caldwell's record. This has subsequently also been achieved by Richard Reed. John was the leading amateur in the 1982 NZ open and represented NZ in the Malaysian open amateur event which he won. In 1984 he

represented NZ in the Eisenhower cup played in Hong Kong.

The 1988 Government Life interprovincial tournament was held at Shirley and won by Canterbury. Three Christchurch Golf Club members were in the winning Canterbury team, John Williamson, Brent Paterson and John Sanders with Rick Vincent as the reserve.

Ladies

The minutes record many examples of discourteous behaviour by the men towards the ladies. In April 1988 a series of complaints of disrespectful conduct by male members during the ladies provincial championships resulted in the course being closed to men during the 1989 tournament.

Reciprocal Rights

During 1982 reciprocal rights were agreed with the Royal Adelaide Golf Club, Murou Royal Country of Japan, Royal Queensland, Metropolitan, Royal Hobart and Royal Perth.

Clubhouse Extension (later referred to as the Eisenhower Room)

The first mention of this is in the committee minutes of 15 August 1989 although the need for greater space had been discussed for some time. This was given impetus by the awarding of the Eisenhower tournament. Proposals for discussion and / or approval at the SGM had all been posted in the men's smoke room. The ladies' club was to arrange a special meeting of their members at which the captain would explain the proposals fully. Two ladies on the development sub-committee would be invited to attend as observers at the SGM. Messrs Hicks and Good were to prepare a document listing costs and envisaged methods of financing.

The SGM was held on 19 September, when approval to proceed was given. The committee then turned its attention to how it would be financed where suggestions were put forward such as selling the clubhouse and its land, selling the course to an unspecified Hong Kong investor or leasing land for a high rise development. It was left to the finance sub-committee to come up with a proposal.

By 21 November plans and specifications were to be available the following week and tenders were to be called. On 11 December the tender of John Condon Builders for \$253,352 was unanimously approved by the committee.

Organisation

Discussions began in September 1983 on formulating a five-year plan for the club and proposals submitted by Don Forbes were approved at the next meeting. There is no record of what these were. There were further discussions on the management of the club during 1984 and these focused on the number of vice-presidents to be elected. The motion to reduce them from three to two was lost by 7 votes to 4.

In October 1986 a survey was sent to members seeking their views on the club applying for a liquor licence and amalgamation with the ladies' club. Alcohol could be kept in small lockers in the changing room for which there was a small annual charge. The survey found 119 wanting a licenced bar and 63 wanting the locker system retained. There were 128 'for' amalgamation, 30 'against' and 43 'don't know'. Sub-committees were set up to progress these issues.

It was found that it would be possible to have both a bar and the locker system but the positioning of the bar posed problems. Paddy Helmore, who was the club's architect, advised the committee that one central bar would require gutting the clubhouse and would be most expensive. He suggested selling the clubhouse and building a new one.

Nonetheless an application for a liquor licence was commenced in April 1987, but was not granted until February 1989 after having to go through due process.

Regarding amalgamation, John Fisher recommended no change at the moment. He did propose that two members of the ladies' club could be invited to attend committee meetings with the right to speak, but not to vote and one lady invited to attend house committee meetings. This was agreed to in principle. Jocelyn Davidson and Shona Svenson attended the meeting on 17 February 1987 according to the list of those present. In October 1988 Merv Good reported on 'positive moves' towards amalgamation and Jocelyn Davidson confirmed that there was nothing against it. However, in January 1989 it was said that it was not a short-term exercise. Three members of each club were nominated to progress discussions. They reported back in October that it would not happen quickly so it was no surprise that slow progress was reported the following April. The ladies were adamant that amalgamation would not be taken further until after their centenary in 1992.

1990 - 1999

President	Club Captain	Membership	
1990 B. T. Quirke	D. H. Hicks	330	
1991 J. H. B. Fisher	Sir Roger Clifford	327	
1992 J. H. B. Fisher	Sir Roger Clifford	313	
1993 E. K. Maxted	M. T. Gibbon	332	
1994 E. K. Maxted	M. T. Gibbon	350	
1995 E. K. Maxted	M. T. Gibbon	356	
President	Men's Club Captain	Women's Club Captain	Membership
1996 N. M. Gapes	D. P. Page	Mrs R. J. C. Carthy	565
1997 D. P. Page	P. C. Guthrey	Mrs R. J. C. Carthy	565
1998 D. P. Page	P. C. Guthrey	Mrs S. D. Wade	570
1999 D. P. Page	P. C. Guthrey	Mrs S. D. Wade	578

At the 1995 AGM Mac Gapes was elected president and David Page club captain. However in June the following year the ladies' club amalgamated with the men's club and new elections for these positions were held as a consequence. For personal reasons Mac Gapes and Michael Gibbon did not stand for election.

Gordon Reid retired as secretary/manager on 31 December 1990. His replacement was Allan Wood who was made redundant when the position of secretary/manager was disestablished following the amalgamation of the clubs. Struan Cain was appointed general manager in August 1996.

Membership

This continued to fall in the early years of the decade. It was not surprising since the parlous state of the club's finances was widely known and there was perceived to be a constant threat of a significant levy being required. In 1995 the Millbrook course near Arrowtown was opened and the contrast between its pristine condition and facilities showed how far our club had fallen behind.

However, the enthusiasm of Michael Gibbon's club captainship had kept morale high and the financial competence of Errol Maxted and David Page maintained confidence that the club would survive.

A promotions sub-committee was set up in 1993 with a target of 50 new members which was gradually achieved.

In 1996 the ladies' club amalgamated with the men's and the membership figures reflect the combined membership from then on.

At the same time NZ Golf was promoting nine hole golf. The club rules were changed in 1997 to allow for nine hole membership, but this could not be satisfactorily accommodated at Shirley. A number of ladies shifted to clubs with nine hole loops. A small group remained playing on a Thursday morning and with the introduction of nine hole loops at Shirley in 2015 more members could

be accommodated and membership, including men and women, stood at 42 in 2023.

Finances

It was an unpleasant surprise for the committee in January 1991 to find that the funding for the Eisenhower room and other recent capital items had been carried out on overdraft. This was now at \$394,000 incurring an interest rate of 18½% and the ANZ bank threatened foreclosure unless it was repaid immediately. A mortgage on part of the club's land was hurriedly put in place.

A levy of 20% on members was imposed. This was initially rejected by the ladies' club but eventually accepted.

Proposals to sell club land were rejected by members at SGMs: the Farthest North fairway on 10 May 1990 and the practice fairway on 25 June 1992.

Errol Maxted then led a very successful campaign to raise debentures from members which achieved \$175,000, some being placed at nil interest but at an overall rate of 6.67%.

Careful cost control, increased membership, a hole sponsorship scheme initiated by Bryan Andrews and profit from Shirley Opens meant that the financial position was strong enough by 1994 for new irrigation for the whole course costing \$240,000 to be approved by members and installed in the following two years. This was a remarkable recovery.

Course

The Charles green was less than satisfactory and it was decided in July 1991 that it should be rebuilt. Work eventually began in the autumn of 1994 and cost \$3,000 more than the estimate of \$12,000. The replacement was flat and uninteresting with shallow bunkers on either side and a path and garden running between it and the Te Oranga green. It was opened on 31 March 1995.

The club had been aware for some time that it was likely that the land west of Terra Nova would be developed for housing but this became a pressing issue in March 1994. It was recognised that the hole would need to be realigned and that tree planting would be required. Nick Davidson was retained to provide advice on the application by a developer for the rezoning of the land to residential. He advised that this was likely to succeed and that opposing it could be very expensive. After negotiations the developer agreed in October to pay the club \$70,000 plus legal costs for its expenses in carrying out a re-alignment in return for not opposing its application.

John Darby of Boffa Miskell had been engaged during this process to provide professional advice. By April a temporary green had been put in place and the new green and fairway shaped. They were seeded in the spring and it took three attempts before a successful strike was achieved on the green. Eventually the new green came into play on closing day 1997.

As part of the work Judd's Drain was filled in and piped at the Council's expense. This had run from west to east about 50 metres short of the Terra Nova and Mairehau greens. It had wooden sides and was about a metre wide and two metres deep. It now drains into number 2 drain by the pump house.

In the meantime amalgamation had taken place and at its first meeting the new board decided to review the appointment of a course architect. From three proposals it selected Thomson, Wolveridge and Perrett of Melbourne to prepare a report. Peter Thomson visited at the end of January 1997 and presented a report in early March. After much communication a plan of action was agreed to and advised to members at three meetings in June.

Peter supervised the implementation of the first stage in early September which primarily involved the building of sixteen new bunkers, the filling in of ten and the remodelling of four. Upshot fairway was widened by about fifty metres through the removal of a large number of trees on its right and eucalyptuses at Charles and Briggs were also removed. An article entitled 'Thomson gives Shirley facelift' appeared in *The Press* on 10 September 1997 alongside a photograph of him in the new bunker he had placed alongside the Robinsons green.

The results were quite outstanding, giving the course a marvellous facelift, particularly enhancing the look of Briggs, Lands End and Upshot.

Peter had played in six NZ opens at Shirley as well as several exhibition matches and confessed that he would often play an imaginary round when he was finding it difficult to sleep. He was accompanied by his skilled machinery operator called Spider who had worked with him on building many courses worldwide and knew how to implement Peter's ideas without consultation. However Peter cut short his first visit when his wife Mary rang to remind him of a bridge commitment

but promised to return in November. At that time his attention went mainly on realigning Farthest North and the hole named after him, i.e. Thomsons.

Peter's charge for his initial work was \$56,607 which included his and Spider's travel costs. This was far less than the board had expected and they decided that he should be invited to carry on. The costs of his subsequent visits were similarly modest, some of them after the earthquake being at his own expense or being supported by members.

He persuaded the board that Mairehau should be realigned with a new tee closer to number 2 drain and a new green for Nor'west built where the old tee was. The Terra Nova tee was to be shifted away from the out of bounds fence to eliminate balls being hit into the houses. A group of members gathered sufficient signatures to call a SGM to oppose these changes. They were defeated and Peter returned in March 1999 to carry them out. At Old Nick he replaced a large eucalyptus in front of the green with a bunker and extended the green to the east.

Peter had been the victorious non-playing captain of the international team in the President's cup the previous year and spoke at a members' dinner where he explained amongst other anecdotes how he had outwitted Jack Nicklaus, the United States captain. This remains the only time an international team has won the contest.

At the end of the year Murray Palmer advised the board that he wished to retire as course superintendent. Murray had occupied that position since 1985 during which time he had worked with great dedication. His legacy was our superb greens which had received accolades from the players from all over the world who had played in the 1990 Eisenhower tournament. Murray continued to work on the staff.

Following advertising and interviewing Mark Lawson was appointed as Murray's successor. Mark was already on the staff having started as an apprentice ten years earlier. It was a pleasure to appoint someone who had been trained by Murray. Mark has continued to work with the same dedication and commitment to deliver a course which is regarded as one of the leading ones in New Zealand. He has led and managed many irrigation installations, the two drain projects and the changes put in place by Peter and Brett Thomson.

At the beginning of 1999 a fungal disease appeared on many of the greens, most noticeably on Dobbie. At one stage it appeared that some of them would need to be dug up. However, coring in March averted this although the 18th green had to be treated three times. It sent the clear message that renovation of the greens had to be carried out on a regular basis, regardless of the temporary inconvenience to members.

In February 1995 the Drainage Board advised the club of its intention to naturalise number 2 drain. This waterway was about two metres wide and ran north south between the Old Nick and Mairehau holes between concrete slabs

banks which were three metres in depth. There were pine trees on either side.

A Mrs Iremaia from the Drainage Board turned up in May with a plan which showed a new waterway meandering across the Farthest North, Thomsons, and Old Nick holes. This was clearly not acceptable, but by the next year the council had advised that they had no funds and development was unlikely in the near future. The project was revived in September 1999.

In the meantime the club was investigating the possibility of developing the land in the south east corner of the Farthest North which was redundant after the hole's re-alignment.

Professional and his shop

The arrangement for coaching by Shane Scott was reported as being satisfactory in May 1990. His formal appointment to the position of club professional was made in the following year. Blair Gough assisted Shane with advice and finance and a formal agreement was drawn up in March 1991. Shane was granted the sole rights to coach on 1 November.

The pro shop at this time could be accurately described as a tumbledown structure with holes in its south wall through which the wind whistled. When the agreement was signed the board affirmed that when the club had sufficient funds it would provide a new building commensurate with its standing.

Drawings were prepared by Paddy Helmore in 1994 and costed at \$150,000 in 1995. It was beyond the club's resources to progress at that time. Richard Blunt became the club's architect in 1997 and prepared draft plans for the development of the clubhouse and the pro shop which formed part of the strategic plan discussed by members at a meeting in September 1998. At the AGM in November 1998 the board sought approval from members to proceed with the new pro shop and to acquire two new fairway mowers costing \$115,000. The plan formed part of the papers distributed at the AGM and clearly showed the general manager's office occupying the west end of the nineteenth. The motion was carried by a small margin.

As the building progressed those members who used the nineteenth, primarily those men who played on Tuesdays and Thursdays, expressed their opposition to any part of the nineteenth being taken away. Pro shop staff responded by conducting tours of the partially completed building to demonstrate how all the space was required for their needs. To counter this, the Tuesday and Thursday men spread themselves out in the nineteenth to demonstrate how they required all of it for their needs.

As the building neared completion the board called a SGM on 23 June 1999 to resolve the situation which was attended by just over 200 members. An amendment that the general manager's office should not occupy the

nineteenth was carried decisively. This left the board with the problem of where it should be situated. It decided that it had a contractual and moral obligation to allow the pro shop to occupy all of the new building and proceeded to allow this. The new shop opened on 7 August.

At the SGM the suggestion had been made that an office for the general manager could be built on the first floor above the west end of the nineteenth and Richard Blunt was asked to prepare plans. A group calling themselves 'Save the 19th' met with the board on 13 October and accepted this idea, but refused to be involved in any fundraising for it. However, by the end of the year Orm Hutchinson and John Brown had offered their services for a fundraising campaign, the general manager had set up in the dining room and a resolution was awaited in the New Year.

Organisation restructure

There were several discussions regarding amalgamating the two clubs in the early years of the decade. At the first meeting in 1996 the men's committee unanimously endorsed in principle a move to a board of seven members and also agreed that this would be an ideal opportunity for the two clubs to amalgamate.

Draft new rules were prepared by David Page using those of the Auckland Golf Club as a template. The ladies had three concerns: that their subscription would continue at 65% that of men, that there would be provision for at least two women to be on the board (this was accommodated by making their captain and vice-captain ex officio board members) and that they would decide on the disposition of their accumulated funds (which were approximately \$60,000 held at the Sydenham Money Club). Jan Carthy, women's club captain, was at the forefront of promoting amalgamation of the two clubs to the women some of whom vehemently opposed the proposal.

An SGM for the men's club was held on 10 June which unanimously approved the set of rules which provided for the new structure and allowed for ladies to be admitted. The SGM of the ladies' club followed the day after at which the winding up of their club was agreed. As required by statute, another meeting of the ladies took place a month later which confirmed the decision made on 11 June. The final step in the process was another SGM to elect members to the new positions which was held on 8 August 1996.

The new structure bedded in remarkably well. The two committees took a little time to adjust to their new responsibilities but there were no significant problems. This was a tribute to the two club captains: Jan Carthy for the women and Peter Guthrey for the men.

A consequence of the structure was that the position of secretary/manager was made redundant. and its occupier was made redundant.

Clubhouse Extension

Unfortunately this extension which had been designed by a Mr McClurg of the Ministry of Works had many failings, not the least being that its external appearance was not in sympathy with the old building. Internally there were no opening windows and moreover the window sill was too high to allow a view of Dobbie's green when seated. Air conditioning units were eventually installed in 1993 at a cost of \$8,500 and paid for by the ladies. The shape of the building meant that acoustically it was disastrous. This was first referred to in July 1991 but attempts to remedy this over the years were largely unsuccessful.

It was originally called the common room but then the Eisenhower room. Disparagingly it was referred to as the 'elephant house'. It was built on time and on budget. It was the only part of the clubhouse which survived the 2011 earthquake and was able to be used until the clubhouse was replaced.

An unexpected consequence was that the male membership split into two groups for their after match refreshments on Saturdays. The older group continued to use the nineteenth and to dress formally whereas younger members migrated to the common room where informal dress was acceptable. To obviate the need for the club captain to announce the day's results twice, a speaker system was installed so that wherever the announcements were made from they could be heard in the other room. The cost of \$4,000 was paid for by the ladies. This soon meant that all announcements were made from the common room (where most members were) and a disembodied voice came from a speaker in the nineteenth. This was soon abandoned when very few members were in the nineteenth. The nineteenth did however continue to be used by the group calling themselves the midweek masters who played on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Championship Centenary Dinner

The centenary of the first club championship was celebrated on 21 August 1993 by a dinner attended by club members which included sixteen former champions. Each spoke briefly on memories of 'their big day'. A commemorative salver was presented to John Williamson who won the special match of the day.

Members' Successes

A series of major highlights for the club began in 1997 when Chris Johns won the NZ amateur championship. The last member to achieve this feat had been B.B. Wood in 1914. The tournament was played at Harewood which allowed a large crowd of supporters to be present. A dinner was held at



Chris Johns

the clubhouse on 14 May to honour Chris. Chris and Karl Kitchingham were then selected to represent NZ in Australia. (Photo 32: Chris Johns)

It was while they were away that the Johnnie Walker national inter-club final was held at Lochiel near Hamilton. This was the successor to the Kelliher trophy which the club had held in 1975. The team of Kevin Ansley, Jason Leary, Carl Brooking and Isaac Randall triumphed by a clear margin. The team was managed by Peter Baken.

At the NZ open the team of Chris Johns, Karl Kitchingham and Carl Brooking won the O'Rorke challenge vase for club competition, retained it in 1998 and won it again for the club in 1999 with Isaac Randall replacing Chris Johns. It is no longer played for.



Karl Kitchingham

In 1998 Karl won the NZ stroke play championship and progressed to the semi-finals of the match play. He and Carl were part of the NZ team which competed in the Australian amateur.



Carl Brooking

Carl competed for NZ in a test against South Africa at Heretaunga and also represented NZ in Singapore and Argentina and at the Eisenhower in Santiago. Chris Johns was also in the Santiago Team, the first and only time two members from the same club have been in a NZ team.



Isaac Randall

Isaac Randall played for the NZ team in the junior Eisenhower tournament in Japan and had the fifth best individual score.

In 1998 the men's club won all three Canterbury interclub trophies: Woodward, Blank and Simon. Peter Guthrey commented in his Captain's report that a special tribute must go to Shane Scott for his outstanding coaching of so many of our successful members.

In 1999 Carl reached the final of the NZ match play. He was the leading NZ player at the Asian Pacific teams championship in Pakistan and was in the team for the Southern Cross tournament in Argentina.

His final achievement before turning professional was to be in the Eisenhower team in Germany in 2000.

	President	Men's Club Captain	Women's Club Captain	Membership
2000	D. P. Page	P. C. Guthrey	Mrs E. P. Wait	587
2001	D. P. Page	P. C. Guthrey	Mrs E. P. Wait	600
2002	R. S. Gowans	R. F. Mercer	Mrs R. A. McElrea	619
2003	R. S. Gowans	R. F. Mercer	Mrs R. A. McElrea	620
2004	R. S. Gowans	D. W. Robinson	Mrs M. R. Marlow	637
2005	R. S. Gowans	D. W. Robinson	Mrs M. R. Marlow	655
2006	B. C. Taylor	D. W. Robinson	Miss G. Falloon	633
2007	B. C. Taylor	D. W. Robinson	Miss G. Falloon	632
2008	B. C. Taylor	D. W. Robinson	Mrs C. M. Johnstone	631
2009	B. C. Taylor	J. S. Fraser	Mrs C. M. Johnstone	599

Richard Mercer resigned as club captain in October 2003 to move to Australia. Michael Fisher was appointed in his stead for the remaining months of the year.

100 years at Shirley

There were a series of celebrations commencing with a full field on opening day 2001 when Sir Bob and Lady Charles were present. The NZ amateur championships were held at the beginning of April, a special tournament for ladies in July, and a match for men on 4 August the Saturday closest to the first ever competition at Shirley. The major commemoration was a formal dinner on 11 November. This was held in a marquee between the Charles and Pagoda fairways. Nearly 350 members and guests attended and it was a particular pleasure to have representatives from the Royal Adelaide, Pymble, Auckland, Wellington and Otago Golf Clubs present. A piper began proceedings by leading a procession from the clubhouse to the marquee. The dinner was followed by speeches and dancing and Court Theatre actors performing from their show 'Trafford Tanzi' led by club member Mark Hadlow.

Membership

The upper limit for men members was raised from 400 to 420 in 2005 and the entrance fee from \$500 to \$750. The total membership of 655 remains the highest number in the history of the club. The 2007 and 2008 reports noted a slight decline in applications. The dip in 2009 presaged declines in the next two years. Several reasons could have contributed to this. The first would have been the 2008 global financial crisis which was affecting the economy. The second would have been the fairway renovations which had a third of the holes out of play in each of the years beginning 2008. The third would have been proposals by NZ Golf to promote a national membership that would have been competitive with club membership. There was also wide publicity of their view that golf clubs were a thing of the past.

Finances

A SGM was held in August 2000 to discuss a strategic plan which had been prepared by the board. There was unanimous approval for plans for the western end of the clubhouse and for the sealing of the car park. It included the former general manager's office being situated in the western end by taking part of the smoking room although that had been so vigorously opposed two years previously. It also provided for upgrading of the ladies' changing rooms and a sloping roof over the western end that fitted in with the exterior design of the clubhouse.

At the same meeting authority was given for the sale of land in the southeast corner of Farthest North. Funds were also available from a brilliantly organised fundraising campaign, chaired by Maurice Ryan with the very active participation of Orm Hutchinson. Orm had been involved in fundraising for other organisations and prepared a detailed plan which is still available in the club archives. It is a blueprint for other fundraising efforts, unfortunately unused subsequently. Nearly \$215,000 was raised net of costs. Sadly Orm died before the campaign was completed.

An unsolicited offer was received for a landlocked tongue of land south of the practice fairway. Approval was given at a SGM on 27 March 2001 for the sale of this for \$165,000 including GST.

In 2002 the board approved a number of additional projects on the course primarily relating to landscaping the car park and improvements to the practice facilities.

The deterioration in the results from 2006 onwards can be attributed to a number of factors. Work on renewing the fairways, the development of the practice area, the global financial crisis and fall off in membership resulted in the Club's indebtedness being over \$800,000 by 2011.

Course

New fairway irrigation was installed early in 2000 for Old Nick, Mairehau and Nor'west meaning that all holes were covered by the computerised system. The new Nor'west green was in play for the NZ amateur tournament in April 2000. Peter Thomson made a brief visit the following month to discuss the projected redevelopment of number 2 drain with council representatives. There was still concern about the fungal disease which remained in most greens, but it was expected that continuous renovation would get on top of the problem and that the drastic solution of digging up some or even all of the greens would not be required.

Peter Thomson made his sixth visit in May 2001 and laid out a new Charles green which joined up with the Te Oranga one. During the time before it came into play an interesting temporary green was played south of the left hand bunker short of the green. He also finalised the plans for number 2 drain, work on which began in September. The fill from this was used to raise the height of the land which had been approved by members for sale in the south east corner of Farthest North. This was a win/win situation since the council would otherwise have had the expense of removing this soil and the club gained from the enhancement of the land for sale.

At the 2001 AGM, Michael Gibbon and Ted Jones moved a motion that all tussocks should be removed from the course. In addition to the ones that still remain at Lands End and Farthest North native grasses (the preferred term for tussocks) had also been planted at Terra Nova and Te Oranga. They had been a matter of contention since Peter Thomson had recommended their planting. It had been problematic to find a variety which suited the soil of the links and their establishment had been made more difficult through some of them being pulled out by some senior members of the club. After a vigorous discussion it was agreed that a decision should be deferred for twelve months.

The proposers of the motion decided not to reintroduce the motion at the next AGM and the board promoted a resolution that 'selective plantings of native grasses form an acceptable element of course design' was carried unanimously.

Peter Thomson paid a fleeting visit in 2002 and was very impressed by all he saw.

The levelling of all tee blocks and extension of some of the irrigation coverage took place in 2003. The standard and presentation of the course continued to improve and was the benchmark for Canterbury and beyond.

By 2005 there was frustration that the water level in number 2 drain had not been raised as planned and that the banks were still untidy. After many meetings with the council it was agreed to a finalisation date of spring 2007 and this was met. Some 15,000 cubic metres of

material was excavated and distributed round the sides of the fairways in the outside paddock. The planting of this mounding and the banks of the drain took many months to prosper.

The condition of the fairways were showing signs of deterioration in 2007. A decision was made to replace the fairways and to close approximately one third of the course each year over a period of three years for major reconstruction to take place at significant financial cost.

Two major works were undertaken on the practice fairway. The first was the erection of a protective fence at the end of the fairway to prevent balls going on to the Shirley green. This was approved by the board in May 2004 at a cost of \$57,000.

The second was the completion of permanent practice facilities. Shirley Boys' High School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) made a donation to the club in 2005 of \$24,000 to assist in the building of all-weather coaching and practice bays together with a professional's coaching room. Their intention was to set up a golf academy and attract overseas students. This never came to fruition.

Professionals

Shane Scott first indicated to the board in July 2000 that he might be involved in a project for a new driving range at Ferrymead. This went through various stages of development and the board became concerned on how much coaching Shane would be able to provide to members. This issue came to a head in February 2003 when Shane had been away for an extended period in Japan caddying for Eddie Lee.

In August 2004 personality clashes with NZ Golf's chief executive culminated in the resignation of Mal Tongue, their head coach. His resignation has been described as the blackest day for amateur golf in NZ. In the aftermath Shane joined other regional coaches in resigning from this relationship with NZ Golf. These very unfortunate events resulted in Shane rethinking his career path. The upshot was that in November the shareholding of the golf shop was changed to include John Sanders and Anthony Doyle, the latter who had been working for some time as Shane's assistant. Shane continued coaching until in January 2007 Anthony Doyle was officially appointed the club professional.

John Sanders had joined the club from Otago in 1982, in that year achieving the unique feat of being the club champion at both clubs. He represented New Zealand in a stroke play event against Australia in 1984 played in Tauranga. He also represented NZ at senior level (over age 50) many times, playing in the Asia Pacific Senior Teams event three times in Thailand, Malaysia and China and also in the annual match play (Ryder cup style) event against Australia from 2009 to 2018. This event was played at Shirley in 2012 and 2018.

Championships and other major events

The NZ men's amateur championships were held in April 2000. The stroke play was won by Tim Wilkinson and the match play by Eddie Burgess.

In March 2001 a PGA Australasian development tour event was held. The club's understanding was that we were guaranteed this event for the next two years. This was overtaken by the decision to hold a BUY.com tournament (then the second level on the USPGA circuit) in Christchurch and that was played at Clearwater.

The Clare Higson Trophy for competition between Australian and NZ Under 19 year olds was played at Shirley in September 2002.

A Four Nations Tournament among Australia, Canada, Japan and NZ was hosted in April 2003.

The NZ women's amateur championship was held between 5 to 9 December 2005.

Clubhouse and other buildings

Roger Gowan's first annual report as president in 2003 advised members of a likely capital expenditure in 2004/5 on refurbishing the kitchen and other clubhouse improvements. This was followed up in the 2004 annual report by a detailed description of the latter which

proposed better use of the space in the dining room, at the front entrance and foyer, and on the verandah. The estimated cost for the whole project was \$400,000. Work started in January 2006, was completed on time in April and within budget, as had occurred for all the projects that Richard Blunt had been involved in as the club's architect. The 2006 annual report commented that 'The renovation has exceeded our expectations. The flow through the building is better and the ambience created this past winter by the roaring fires, comfortable seating and cheerful bar have more members using the facilities.'

Proposals for funding included the sale of special life memberships. This option was available to the board following a rule change at the 1998 AGM. It took until June 2006 for 18 members to confirm at the price of \$25,000, 15 of whom are still active members.

A new front fence was funded by a family with long associations with the club in 2003. It also was designed by Richard Blunt.

Other notable events and occasions

Roger and Joanna Gowans and Bruce and Ruth Cooper represented the club at the 250th celebrations of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews in June 2004.



2002 Clubhouse and environs prior to the earthquakes

2010 - 2019

	President	Men's Club Captain	Women's Club Captain	Membership
2010	K. W. Fergus	J. S. Fraser	Mrs P.M. Idour	557
2011	K. W. Fergus	J. S. Fraser	Mrs P.M. Idour	549
2012	K. W. Fergus	J. S. Fraser	Mrs J. Christie-Anderson	488
2013	D. W. Robinson	J. S. Fraser / D. Isaac	Mrs J. Christie-Anderson	465
2014	B. Andrews	J. S. Fraser	Mrs J. Christie-Anderson	463
2015	B. Andrews	J. S. Fraser	Mrs G. Sinclair	494
2016	B. Andrews	G. D. Bongartz	Mrs G. Sinclair	456
2017	B. Andrews	G. D. Bongartz	Dr J. A. Pryor	441
2018	B. Andrews	G. D. Bongartz	Dr J. A. Pryor	459
2019	B. Andrews	J. S. Fraser	M. Timu	420

In June 2013 Simon Fraser resigned as club captain and David Isaac filled the vacancy for the remainder of the year. The following year Simon took up the post again. No nominations were received for club captain in 2019 and Simon Fraser took up the position describing himself as 'temporary acting'.

The September Quake, 4.35 a.m. 4 September 2010

Neither the clubhouse nor course suffered significant damage as a consequence of this quake. Some members even played during the day.

The Big Quake, 12.51 p.m. 22 February 2011

The usual group of Tuesday men were on the course. Amongst them was Russell Standage who was playing for one of the first times after recovering from a stroke. As the earth shook his first thought was that he was having another stroke. He managed to keep his balance and was then comforted to find all his playing companions had been thrown to the ground. The pro shop staff then did a great job going out with carts to bring these men and their clubs back to the clubhouse and making sure they would be able to get home safely.

Michael Hawarden was playing with a Scottish friend who had just completed his drive at the first when the clubhouse collapsed and geysers of liquefaction erupted on the fairway. In the best traditions of his forebears he insisted on running down the fairway to retrieve his ball.



2011 Earthquake damage on Clubhouse

It was very fortunate that rain in the early morning had forced the cancellation of the ladies' match of the day. Had that not happened many of them would have been in the clubhouse having lunch at the time of the quake and there would almost certainly have been injuries and perhaps deaths. Many parts of the course were damaged through liquefaction but a great effort by Mark Lawson and his green staff meant that all holes were in play in a remarkably short time, albeit with different tees and large areas of ground under repair. This meant that all competitions could be completed.

The clubhouse was red-stickered so a marquee was used as the 19th for a while and then facilities were set up in the trundler storage area, the pro shop having survived with only minor damage.

The most difficult decade

A review of this decade must begin by acknowledging the huge problems resulting from these earthquakes and consequent aftershocks. These were unparalleled in the club's history and presented challenges that had never been faced before. Those grappling with them were also involved in their personal and business lives with the stresses that came from the continuing shakes and dealing with insurance claims and the rebuilding of homes and offices.

There is no doubt that the club's officers, particularly the president and club captains, had hard decisions to make. They presented a positive outlook so club morale did not suffer.

Finances

In 2010/2011 the Clubhouse and course was severely damaged by the Christchurch earthquakes.

The 2011 accounts included receipts from donations and insurance claims totalling \$140,000 including financial donations from other reciprocal clubs. By the time of the 2012 accounts insurance payouts of \$685,000 had been received mainly relating to the irrigation system and the

club flat. The situation was transformed in 2013. The insurance payout of \$4,477,148 for the clubhouse had meant there was \$3,919,412 credit in the bank accounts on which \$52,717 interest had been earned and the insurance expense had dropped to \$25,162. The club had come close to breaking even for the first time in many years.

By 30 September 2016 the club had paid for the new clubhouse and its fit out resulting in a debt as of June 2019 of \$939,000. It is notable that during these years a number of fundraising tournaments were held which in total raised over \$160,000. Most of these were targeted at specific projects either for course improvements or for course equipment. Bryan Andrews was a key figure in organising these and in conducting auctions at the after match functions.

The new clubhouse

In his president's report for 2012 Ken Fergus wrote that the resolution of the clubhouse's status remained a frustration. Notes to the accounts reported that no final decisions had been made on the amounts of the insurance payments and whether or not the buildings would be repaired or demolished.

At the 2012 AGM there was a contest for the presidency and David Robinson was elected.

The insurance payout for the clubhouse was \$4.4 million. This was \$325,000 greater than the insurer's original offer thanks to the good work of Andrew Sloane the club's insurance broker and member.

The board then circulated a questionnaire to members asking their views on the requirements for a new clubhouse. From this they concluded that it should include facilities for outside functions. They prepared a specification and expressions of interest were received from eight architects followed by proposals from a short list of four. Following presentations to the board and opportunities for members' input Mason and Wales from Dunedin was selected.

The architect, Francis Whittaker, presented the plans at a club forum on 17 October. David Robinson, Club President, on behalf of the board made it clear at this meeting that after clearing the club's debt all the remaining insurance monies including those for irrigation and the flat would be used on building the new clubhouse.

The design statement was for a highly flexible and functional building that would be elegant, modern and stylish. Externally it was to feature two gable forms that were reminiscent of the old clubhouse. Internally there were to be three main areas plus a large bar and kitchen totalling nearly 500 square metres. Ladies and men's changing rooms were to be provided by extending the pro shop.

At the November 2013 AGM Bryan Andrews was elected to replace David Robinson as President. Following this

some senior members vigorously lobbied the board to have a new clubhouse built close in area to the old one and to set aside some of the insurance monies for work on the course, primarily to repair the irrigation system. They were unsuccessful.

The board's composition also changed as Charles Whitwham was not re-elected and immediately following the AGM, Keith Love (who had chaired the rebuild committee) and Steve Hicks resigned. With the election of Spencer Smith and David Barley this meant that only the club captains (Simon Fraser and Janet Christie-Anderson) and Bryan Andrews continued on from the old board. Ben Frampton and Bruce Matheson were appointed to fill the vacancies.

The costs for the rebuild of the clubhouse were more extensive than first envisaged and consequently there were insufficient funds to cover the internal fitout. It became necessary to cover this through fundraising. This proved to be a difficult challenge because members had expected the insurance payout to cover a total rebuild and fit out with something left over. Moreover there may have been upwards of one hundred other organisations in Christchurch raising funds for earthquake repairs. The campaign was closed in July 2015 having raised \$80,000.

The contract for the rebuild was let to Simon Construction. Their quote was \$3,422,000 including \$180,000 for contingencies, i.e. \$369,000 more than the quantity surveyor's estimate. Simon Construction immediately worked on maintaining the use of the Eisenhower room and its facilities which enabled close to full catering facilities to be provided until the new clubhouse was available through a contract with David Wallace.

The final cost of the building recorded in the accounts was \$4,630,000 and the fit out \$563,000 excluding the Charles Gallery.

Clubhouse Opening

The clubhouse was available for members' use at the end of January 2016. Setting a date for an official opening and finding someone to carry out this task was discussed at board meetings many times beginning in September 2015. It finally petered out in November 2017 when an attempt failed to involve the Duke of Sussex during his visit to Christchurch.

Nine Hole Loops

Peter Thomson made his last visit to Shirley on 9 February 2015. He met with the board at the end of the day and on his return to Melbourne sent his proposal for the realignment of O'Rorkes and a new par 3 with a green below Robinsons tee which would replace Crossways.

At its next meeting the board agreed to the clearance of the trees between O'Rorkes and Upshot but this was rescinded at its following meeting.

A course advisory committee had been set up and proposed in November 2015 that an alternate routing should be played for a year and the board agreed to this. This was advised to members at the AGM which followed where an undertaking was given that further discussion would be undertaken at the next AGM. Two different layouts were trialled and other suggestions were made.

Sir Bob Charles and Geoff Saunders met with the board in February 2016 where Geoff made it clear that if the board did not commit to the Thomson plan by 31 March then funds which could be made available from the Mahar Trust would be used for other purposes.

The board waited until their May meeting to decide that they supported the Thomson plan, but would not implement it until after the current routing had been trialled for a year. At the October 2017 meeting the board decided to adopt the change. This routing, current in 2022, was Wilsons, Briggs, Muggeridges, Lands End, Nor'west, Terra Nova, Crossways, Robinsons, Shirley, Pagoda, O'Rorkes, Farthest North, Thomsons, Old Nick, Mairehau, Upshot, Te Oranga, Dobbie.

Staffing

Struan Cain had been general manager since 1995 but this position was disestablished in 2014. Tom Music, who had been Struan's assistant since 2012, was appointed to the new position of director of operations and golf early in 2015, but resigned at the end of the year. Glen Keen was acting chief executive until Peter Randle was appointed chief executive in April 2016. His replacement at the end of 2019 was Michael Hadley who had yet another new title of club manager. Michael had been elected to the board in 2017 but resigned to take up this position.

Mike Hadley has led the club through some tough financial years including the challenges presented by the covid lockdowns. His leadership style, negotiation skills, and business expertise have helped the board to deliver a positive financial outcome for the club and its members. Mike has generated significant funding from donations and community grants, enabling the club to upgrade essential machinery and undertake and complete many projects around the course.

Number 1 Drain

The concrete banks on either side of the drain which crossed Shirley, Te Oranga and Briggs were severely damaged in the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. A meeting was held with Christchurch City Council staff in September 2015 when the club was asked to submit its ideas. A year later the council submitted a proposal for a large pond to be formed to allow water treatment before it was discharged into Horseshoe Lake. The board decided that an independent hydro-engineer should be engaged to provide an opinion.

Various meetings were held in early 2017 with the course

advisory group which included Sir Bob Charles and a draft contract was received from the council in April. The contract was eventually signed in October and required the council to pay for new irrigation on the four holes which were affected and the soil excavated in forming the lake soil to be used for mounding on the sides of several fairways. The club decided to install new irrigation on Charles and Dobbie at its expense. Work began in November.

In June the club was approached by the council to see if the club would manage the final stage of the project, namely shaping, soiling, and seeding of the relocated fill. Thanks largely to the involvement of Mark Lawson (course superintendent) who undertook the work, the number 1 drain, the moundings and the floating islands, there was a substantial cost saving to the club. The end result was generally agreed to be an outstanding addition to the character of the course

125 years of Ladies' Golf

There are now no challenges to the claim that the Christchurch Ladies' Golf Club was the first ladies club in NZ. To mark 125 years since it was established a series of events were held in September 2017. They included a morning tea for past senior ladies, a women's stroke



2017 Catherine Bell (left) & Amelia Garvey sign their cards at the end of the stroke round

tournament followed by drinks in the clubhouse, a mixed tournament for members past and present followed by a black tie dinner in the clubhouse. Over 300 members and guests participated in the celebrations.

Amelia Garvey won the stroke tournament with a gross 74. She won the silver salver presented by Royal Wellington at the time of the ladies' centenary. For this occasion Royal Wellington gave a set of wine glasses and Royal Auckland and Grange a beautiful crystal rose bowl.

A publication *125 Years of Ladies' Golf at the Christchurch Golf Club 1892-2017* was produced. Although the event was not intended to be a fundraiser, the excellent attendances resulted in a surplus of \$4,000 which was spent on a water fountain outside the changing rooms to commemorate this marvellous celebration.

Gender Parity and New Categories

Only minor changes had been made to the rules since the major revision in 1998 when the two clubs were amalgamated. There had been no alteration to the categories of memberships, many of which were gender specific.

During 2016 work was done on creating new categories of 7 day, 6 day and 5 day memberships which would be available to all members regardless of gender. A forum was held in May 2017 where a comprehensive

presentation was made and questions answered. A new set of rules was prepared and a SGM held in July where they were approved, 97% voting in favour. Parity had been achieved.

Sale of land

This subject came up in board discussions in 2019 as a way of introducing funds for capital works. Suburban Estates, the developer who had been involved in developing land to the west and north of the outside paddock, were approached to see if they would be interested in acquiring the plantation north of Old Nick. Suburban Estates were the only possible buyer because they owned the right of way. Each party obtained independent valuations.

Another possibility followed a meeting with Ngau Tahu which would have involved acquiring land around Horseshoe Lake, building new holes and selling the outside paddock. This was pursued but in the end was not possible.

Other notable events and occasions

Jordan Bakermans won the Bledisloe Cup for the leading amateur at the 2014 NZ open.

During the year an approach was made by the Russley Golf Club to discuss amalgamation. Several meetings were held and it was entitled Project Century. A report was prepared but never released.

2020 - 2023

	President	Men's Club Captain	Women's Club Captain	Membership
2020	B.J. Andrews	S. Cain	J. Lawrence	464
2021	Ms J. Lowe	S. Cain	J. Lawrence	478
2022	Ms J. Lowe	S. Cain	H. Kroeger	526
2023	Ms J. Lowe	S. Cain	H. Kroeger	564

Jacqui Lowe took office as the first woman to be president following the AGM in September 2021. This was a historic moment for the club being the first time since the amalgamation of the Christchurch Golf Club and the Christchurch Ladies' Golf Club in 1996 that a woman had been elected as club president.

Membership

The slide in membership was reversed. The promotion of intermediate membership and its extension to 34 year olds with favourable subscription rates was a key factor. By June 2022 there were 74 members in this category. There was little change in the number of women members.

Financial

The annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021 disclosed a better than expected result. A major contributor was the impact of the restrictions imposed by the covid emergency. Immediately after the first lockdown in March 2020 staff numbers were reduced and full advantage was taken of the government wage subsidy. There was a reduction in course costs compared with the previous year with a barely noticeable reduction in quality. The number of rounds played increased to 33,680 from 24,808 as the borders were closed, which produced an increase in green fees and usage of the clubhouse.

In 2022 there were donations of \$445,976 for the Thomson holes, the new toilet block near Shirley green and protection for the practice fairway.

By balance date the deposit of \$250,000 for the purchase of land had been received which meant that there was a credit of \$617,169 at the bank offset by the long-term debt of \$500,000. A highly satisfactory situation.

Course

The board's meeting in April 2021 was attended by Geoff Saunders and David Page. Following discussion the board decided to proceed with the alignment of O'Rorkes and Robinsons and to retain Crossways. This was not what had been proposed by Peter Thomson, but since the course architect was now Brett Thomson (no relation) it continued to be referred to as the Thomson proposal. The removal of the trees between Upshot and O'Rorkes was approved at an SGM on 23 June. However, the board gave an assurance that further work would not proceed until it had fundraised at least \$300,000.

A contractor was engaged to carry out the removal with an agreement that it would include removal of stumps and all clearing up at no cost to the club. He then suggested that he would continue to remove trees on the course which were diseased or represented a Health & Safety risk or were at an age that meant that they would need to be felled in the next five years. This was to be at no cost to the club.

The board met on 9 July and gave the go ahead. Most members agreed that this vastly improved the look of the course, restoring it to the links look it had in the earlier half of the twentieth century.

It was estimated conservatively that the removal of the trees would have saved the club \$800,000 had it been delayed.

Fundraising undertaken by Andrew Sloane having raised more than \$300,000, the board gave the go ahead for the alterations to O'Rorkes and Robinsons. This was carried out in the latter part of 2022 and the holes were open for play in January 2023.

Covid

The first case of Covid in New Zealand was reported on 28 February 2020. After further cases the whole country was put in self isolation on 25 March which was called level 4. Initially this prevented greenkeeping staff working but appeals to the government were successful and mowing and other maintenance was allowed.

By 27 April the country was moved to level 3 which allowed play with persons in your "bubble". At that time it was thought that the virus could be transferred from surfaces and therefore flagsticks and bunker rakes were removed, drinking fountains and ball washers were covered and scorecards were not to be exchanged. Clubhouses were closed and no coaching was allowed.

By 8 June no new active cases were reported and the country moved to level 1. There were then several months where the levels were adjusted as outbreaks occurred. There was a move to level 4 on 17 August 2021 caused by an outbreak in Auckland but the rest of the country moved to level 2 on 7 September which still required flagsticks and bunker rakes not to be used. This requirement was lifted in October.

There was some difficulty caused when vaccination became available with discussion on whether persons who had not been vaccinated should be allowed to play and/or enter the clubhouse. At the end of 2021 all restrictions were lifted even though significant numbers of cases and deaths continued.

Sale of land

Negotiations had continued with Suburban Estates involving Jacqui Lowe and Michael Hadley in the latter part of 2021 and early 2022 and an offer of \$2 million was negotiated from a starting point of \$740,000. A meeting was held on 30 March 2022 to approve this sale and the motion was carried by a large majority, far in excess of the 75% required. The meeting thanked Jacqui by acclamation for the many hours of work in negotiating such a favourable contract.

The meeting then continued on to discuss priorities for capital expenditure. The board's view was that irrigation was number one and needed to be done progressively. The second priority was for a makeover of the implement sheds which was estimated to cost \$500,000. (The first mention of an upgrade for the sheds was in 1970.) Many members expressed the view that the first priority should be the repayment of the debt. Spencer Smith assured the meeting that the board was not going to spend all the money at once and that most of the debt would be gone within the next few years.

The meeting concluded with an update from Andrew Sloane advising on the progress of fundraising for the Thomson project where all up costs totalled \$452,000. This figure included the costs for new irrigation.

Other notable events and occasions

Pollock Cup

The ladies have won the Pollock Cup for inter-club competition for the last two years (2021 and 2022), repeating the double successes of 1989 and 1990, 1992 and 1993.



2021 Pollock Cup Team (back row l-r) Catherine Bell, Monica Tulisi, Margaret-Mary Coughlan, Mel Brew, Mel Newburn.
(in front) Ina Lee-Hall, Nicola Webb, Olive Tapu.

Membership of Royal & Ancient Golf Club

Members were delighted when Simon Fraser became a member in 2022. Other members who have been elected are Andrew Robinson, Michael Hawarden and Roger Gowans.



Simon Fraser

Inaugural Hickory Tournament

Under the enthusiastic promotion of Glenn Bongartz with assistance from Sir Bob Charles and Stu Upton, a tournament with hickory shafted clubs was played 13 March 2022. Seventy players participated. The best gross score was 38 by James Devlin on the 2700 yard (2500 metres) course set by Sir Bob. It is hoped this will become an annual event and a second event is proposed prior to the 150th celebration weekend.



From left to right: Peter van Eekelen, Stu Upton, Sir Bob Charles, Glenn Bongartz

Visit of the Captain of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club

Mr Clive Brown visited the club on Monday 21 November 2022. He was the first person holding this office to visit the club. After playing a round he attended a dinner where he presented a plaque on behalf of the R & A in recognition of our 150th anniversary.



Left to right: Struan Cain (Men's Captain), Jacqui Lowe (President) & Clive Brown (Captain R&A)

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Caterers

The provision of food and drink after a round of golf is a key requirement for every club.

There have been many changes to the catering model over the years, including both inhouse and contractor models. Each model has had its own challenges. The longest serving caterers were Mrs Lawson who served from 1940 - 1947 and 1952 - 1955, succeeded by Mr and Mrs Jack Tucker for 10 years until 1966.

Post earthquakes the clubhouse now has facilities for members and functions, including a wedding lawn. The offerings have changed from the 1900s expectation of a three-course lunch to the present choice of food of many styles depending on the occasion. It is an interesting statistic that there were 66 different caterers between 1910 to 2000.

At periods, committees seem to have spent more time discussing catering problems than any other matters.

Shirley Opens

The first of these tournaments was played in 1991 over 36 holes to provide funds for junior golf. It developed from there so that by 1994 it was played over 72 holes with participation from the NZ Eisenhower squad and the Titleist golf squad. Thanks to generous sponsorship it became a significant contributor to club income.

By 1997 under the continued chairmanship of Jim Keegan and tournament director Alan Bailey it was lifted to another level with a thousand spectators on the course on Sunday. To the delight of members Karl Kitchingham won for the second time in three years.

Bruce Cooper then took over running the tournament in 1998. Four-man teams from Queensland and New South Wales entered and the winner was Brendan Jones from NSW. A team from Victoria entered in 1999 with their man Marcus Fraser winning in a playoff.

2001 saw Eddie Lee, another of our members, winning and the surplus earned exceeding \$30,000. Sponsorship from Air NZ in 2004 supported the entry of teams from all the eastern Australian states. It was won by Andrew Tampion in most unpleasant conditions with a score of 11 over. A less strong field competed in the next two years but an Australian again won in 2006, this time Tom Prowse from the Yarra Yarra club. Tom returned the following year to defend his title but was defeated by Craig Hasthorpe from the Commonwealth Club in a sudden death playoff.

The Shirley open changed its format in 2008 to be a pro-am event as part of the Charles tour promoted by

NZ Golf. Sir Bob Charles played, carrying his clubs for the four rounds. He declined the many offers to be his caddie. A team from Victoria participated.

Anthony Doyle was the winner in 2009 and 2010 with a particular highlight being his 62 in the final round of 2009. In spite of the earthquake the 2011 tournament was held, but in a review following it the board decided to discontinue the event because of the need to focus on the clubhouse rebuild.



Anthony Doyle

Shirley Links Company Limited

The formation of a limited liability company called the Shirley Links Company Limited (Ltd) was reported at a general meeting held on 23 June 1902. The first directors of the company were A.E.G. Rhodes, H.H. Loughnan, George Harris, Edmund Wilder, L.B. Wood and R.E. McDougall. The company proceeded to raise capital by issuing shares at ten shillings each and purchased the land that the club had been leasing. A list of shareholders on 28 February 1906 was given in the 1905 report.

Over the years the company continued to be the vehicle for capital developments, either by issuing new shares or raising mortgages with the land as security. In 1909 it held an extraordinary meeting which decided to issue 5000 new shares thus increasing the capital by £2,500. Before the year was out 24 acres of land had been bought from the Brown family estate for £1770, but they regarded the £2000 on Brice's farmlet of 11¼ acres to be too expensive. This was eventually acquired in 1920 for that amount by another capital raising. A further 14,000 shares were issued in the late 1920s to assist with the building of the clubhouse and the purchase of Foley's farm, now the location of Farthest North, Thomsons and Old Nick. At its peak in 1931 there were 25,366 shares on issue.

Over the years members donated their shares to the club and the club itself acquired shares from time to time as funds allowed. Mr R.E. McDougall was the most generous, gifting 1,000 shares. He was also a generous benefactor to Christchurch, most notably the Art Gallery named after him in the Botanic Gardens.

In 1950 the club held 7,640 shares and implemented a policy of acquiring the remaining number. It had always

been the intention that the club would become the owner but the process of acquisition of shares took many years. In September 1986 the club therefore decided to acquire all the remaining shares. This was accomplished in 1989 with the club becoming the legal owner of all the land and buildings and the company was wound up.

Road crossing

A frequent occurrence around the 1970s, particularly on frosty mornings, was cars failing to take the corner to the side of Land's End green and finishing up in the bunker which preceded the present tussocks. Numerous attempts have been made beginning in 1971 to the present day to persuade the Traffic Department to put up warning signs and speed limitations.

After the two nine hole loops were brought into play it became necessary for players to cross the road four times. The Traffic Department eventually agreed to erect pedestrian warning signs in August 2015.

In 2022 investigations commenced regarding the possibility of a tunnel, but these have now been abandoned.

The Pagoda

A landmark which has been a feature of Shirley was built in 1910 on the hill between the Upshot and Pagoda greens. It has always been called a pagoda even though it bears little resemblance to those in the orient. At the time it was built it hid water tanks and was paid for by Mr R.E. McDougall.

At the time of amalgamation the ladies had been assured that they would be able to decide the use of the surplus funds they had held. The board received a letter in June 1996 suggesting that these monies could be used for re-building the pagoda. With many other things on its plate the board did not decide until April 1999 to get quotations. The issue then arose as to whether what was required was an upgrade of the existing building or a new build. Another discussion point was the suggestion from Peter Thomson that the hill should be lowered a metre to give a large teeing area that could be used for playing Muggeridges, O'Rorkes, Shirley and Te Oranga in alternative ways.



Richard Blunt produced a design for an elegant round structure. After many meetings with the Ladies' Pagoda committee it was eventually resolved that the hill would not be lowered, that Richard Blunt's design would not be used and that a new building would be built similar to the old one. It was officially opened on 10 March 2002.

Christmas and Easter tournaments

The first Easter tournament was played in 1907 for the Canterbury championship, becoming the de facto amateur championship of the province.

The first Christmas tournament was played in 1922 with it becoming an official event of the club in 1925. A cup called the Christchurch challenge was presented by the then president, R.E. McDougall.

These were popular events attracting large entries and making satisfactory contributions to club funds. The tournaments continued to be played during the war although the championships were not contested in 1943 and 1944.

The last Christmas tournament was held in 1975.

The Easter tournament ceased to be run by the club in the same year and was taken over by the Canterbury Golf Association. For many years it continued to be played at Shirley but eventually was rotated around other courses and not played at Easter.

Toilets

The first mention of the possibility of building a toilet for ladies on the course is in the minutes of a committee meeting in June 1975. There were numerous discussions from then until 1985 regarding possible locations including by the Terra Nova green, in the plantation that used to exist by the Upshot tee and in behind the Robinsons green. A toilet available to both sexes was eventually built in 1985 near the Crossways green.

Owing to the change to two nine hole loops, another toilet facility more accessible than the clubhouse was required and in 2021 a new block was situated to the right of Shirley green. The construction costs were generously funded by Richard and Sue Robson (daughter of Ann Gibson, past Ladies' President) and the whiteware by a donation from Kate Johnstone.

Mixed matches

Mixed matches were an early feature of golf at Shirley, evidenced by the dates trophies were presented for competition: the Wardrop Cleek (1906), the Islington Cup (1910), the A.E.G. Rhodes Bowl (1913) and the G.E. Rhodes Cup (1913). The Sir Cyril Ward memorial was presented by members of both clubs in 1940 in his memory and the Hill Skinner Cup in 1949 for husband and wives. These were popular events, generally played on Sundays and followed by supper. One of the reasons for the demand for membership by ladies in the 1960s was so that they could play with their husbands in them.



2021 Winners Page Trophy Grant & Patricia Borrie receiving their tankards from Olivia & David Page

They are all still played for.

Three trophies given to commemorate the ladies' club centennial were first played for in the 1990's: the Centennial Ice Bucket which was given by the men's club to the ladies' club, the Centennial Jug and the Wellington Salver. Since 2005 the Page family, who have had three generations of club members, have funded the trophies for a mixed match play competition which has proved very popular. Their doyen was M.L. ('Curly') Page who was one of seven men who represented NZ at both cricket and rugby and who was a member from 1949 to 1985.

Mixed matches languished after the earthquake. They were revived by the setting up of a joint committee of men and women in 2017 and since then have had their own section in the annual reports.

CHANGES IN THE COURSE LAYOUT

1901

18 holes were opened for play on 22 June. No plan has been found for this layout but it is almost certain that the tee for the first hole was close to the present Shirley green and that the name Rubicon relates to crossing Number 1 drain, an allusion to Julius Caesar crossing that river on his way to invading Rome.

Spion Kop was a hilltop in South Africa where a significant battle took place during the Boer War. It was a victory for the Boers so somewhat strange that it should have been commemorated at Shirley.

1921

This is as close as can be interpreted from newspaper accounts at the time.

1926

This is the layout after Ham's work and before the clubhouse was opened.

1928

The layout after the clubhouse was opened.

1972

The result of Morpeths arrangement with his name recorded at the 6th hole and with Farthest South and the original Old Nick removed.

1980

One of the alternate routings, This was always used for the Shirley Open.

1990

The layout used for the Eisenhower tournament which allowed for grandstands round the Shirley green.

2022

The current layout was introduced in 2020 to provide two starting places. Thomsons has replaced Morpeths, Robinsons Pines and Dobbie Home. The latter two changes were in recognition of generous donations.

2023

The name of the first hole was changed to Charles.

NAMES OF THE HOLES

	1901	1921	1926	1928	1972	1980	1990	2022	2023
1	Rubicon	F'thest Sth	F'thest Sth	Wilsons	Wilsons	Pagoda	Wilsons	Wilsons	Charles
2	Cox's	Pagoda	Pagoda	Briggs	Briggs	O'Rorkes	Briggs	Briggs	Briggs
3	Nest		Te Oranga	Murr'ges	Murr'ges	Crossways	Murr'ges	Murr'ges	Murr'ges
4	Double	Narrows	Home	Land's End	Land's End	F'thest Nth	Land's End	Land's End	Land's End
5	Burnside	Wilsons	Wilsons	F'thest Nth	F'thest Nth	Morpeths	Nor'west	Nor'west	Nor'west
6	Braes	Murr'ges	Briggs	Mairehau	Morpeths	Old Nick	Terra Nova	Terra Nova	Terra Nova
7	Wilson's	Land's End	Murr'ges	Nor'west	Old Nick	Mairehau	Pines	Crossways	Crossways
8	Corner		Land's End	Terra Nova	Mairehau	Upshot	Te Oranga	Robinsons	Robinsons
9	Briggs		F'thest Nth	Crossways	Nor'west	Shirley	Home	Shirley	Shirley
10	Upshot		Mairehau	Upshot	Terra Nova	Wilsons	Pagoda	Pagoda	Pagoda
11	Lupins	Nor'west	Nor'west	O'Rorkes	Crossways	Briggs	O'Rorkes	O'Rorkes	O'Rorkes
12	Lake	Terra Nova	Terra Nova	Pines	Upshot	Murr'ges	Crossways	F'thest Nth	F'thest Nth
13	Land's End	Crossways	Crossways	Old Nick	O'Rorkes	Land's End	F'thest Nth	Thomsons	Thomsons
14	O'Rorkes	Upshot	Upshot	Shirley	Pines	Nor'west	Morpeths	Old Nick	Old Nick
15	Spion Kop	O'Rorkes	O'Rorkes	F'thest Sth	Shirley	Terra Nova	Old Nick	Mairehau	Mairehau
16	Chasm	Pines	Pines	Pagoda	Pagoda	Pines	Mairehau	Upshot	Upshot
17	Old Nick	Old Nick	Old Nick	Te Oranga	Te Oranga	Te Oranga	Upshot	Te Oranga	Te Oranga
18	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Shirley	Dobbie	Dobbie
Yards	3977		6123	6123			7002		

LIFE MEMBERS

1905 J.O. Jameson	1929 J.F. Miles	1964 O.A.Y. Johnston
1905 R.L. Orbell	1930 C.K. Sams	1964 F.S. Taylor
1905 Dr G. Campbell	1934 W.T.deR. Harman	1965 N.A. Boon
1905 W.T. Charlewood	1939 B.B. Wood	1967 W.E. Coates
1905 R.L.M. Kitto	1939 E.M. Macfarlane	1970 C.J. Ward
1905 H.H. Loughnan	1942 T.W. Woodroffe	1979 G.R. Hunter
1906 J.F. Miles	1947 M.H. Godby	1982 M.J.C. Robinson
1912 L.B. Wood	1950 G.T. Weston	1989 J.D. Bull
1914 B.H. Burns	1951 Charles Wood	2003 D.P. Page
1915 T.D. Condell	1951 Denys Hoare	2016 G.C. Beadel
1916 A.D. Paterson	1951 L.A. Dougall	2016 I.D. Dobson
1926 R.E. McDougall	1955 R.W. Morgan	2016 Mrs A. Gibson
1920 W.E. Best	1958 J. Ramsden	2016 Mrs B. Reese
1923 P. Agar	1958 Dr M.G. Louisson	2017 B.T. Quirke
1923 C.K. Whale	1962 Viscount Cobham	2018 Mrs J. Carthy
1928 Norman Macfarlane	1963 R.J. Charles	

Notes:

Not until the 1928 AGM was a resolution required to approve the conferring of Life Membership. The notice of motion has been used from then on to identify the year and names. The membership lists up till then have been used to identify those with life memberships. However, it does appear that there was a provision for paying for life membership and that Messrs Agar, Jameson, Whales and Miles may well have done this and therefore were not honorary life members.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Years	Name	Title
1905	J.O. Jameson	Secretary
1906	J.F. Poulton	Secretary/Treasurer
1907-1913	T.D. Connell	Secretary/Treasurer
1914-1916	L.V. Comerford	Hon Secretary
1917-1918	W.H. Francis	Secretary/Treasurer
1919-1922	Denys Hoare	Secretary/Treasurer
1923-1925	G. Kingscote	Acting Secretary/ Treasurer
1926-1927	Denys Hoare	Secretary/Treasurer
1928-1937	J.E. Donald	Secretary
1938	Miss M. Beadel	Acting Secretary
1939	W.G. Morrison	Secretary
1940	B.G. Donovan	Secretary/Treasurer
1941-1944	D.E. Millar	Secretary/Treasurer
1945	B.G. Donovan	Secretary/Treasurer
1946-1949	D.E. Millar	Secretary/Treasurer
1950	G.W.A. Green	Secretary/Treasurer
1951-1953	E.C. Borradaile	Manager/Secretary
1954-1966	W.E. Coates	Manager/Secretary
1967-1971	J.E.S. Morton	Manager/Secretary
1972-1981	P.F. Nelson	Manager/Secretary
1982	B.I. Ferguson	Manager/Secretary
1983	P.F. Nelson	Manager/Secretary
1984-1990	Gordon D. Reid	Manager/Secretary
1991-1995	J.A. Wood	Manager/Secretary
1996-2014	Struan Cain	General Manager
2015	Tom Music	Director of Operations and Golf
2016-2018	Peter Randle	Chief Executive
2019-present	Mike Hadley	General Manager

PROFESSIONALS

1905-1909	J.M. Heard
1910-1912	J. Clements
1913-1920	William Iles (absent on war service in 1919)
1921-1925	R.C. Butters
1925-1948	Harry Blair
1948-1951	Bob Glading
1952-1966	Norman Fuller
1967-1982	Colin Caldwell
1983-1986	Mark Guy
1987-1991	The club ran the shop. Colin Caldwell resumed coaching.
1991-2006	Shane Scott
2007- present	Anthony Doyle

HEAD GREENKEEPERS / COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

1913	G. Smith
1915	W. Iles (It is not clear who was in charge during his time serving overseas)
1921	R.C. Butters
1924	F. Cormack
1932	T. Easterbrook
1944	L.E. Miller
1960	C.W. Hewitt
1963	Murray Stanley
1985	Murray Palmer
1998 - present	Mark Lawson

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The men's club printed a booklet in 1983 to mark their centennial.

The ladies produced a comprehensive history of their club to mark their centennial in 1992. This was re-printed and expanded in 2017 to cover the next 25 years and thus 125 years of ladies' golf in Christchurch.

Norton Francis produced a précis of committee meeting minutes from 1873 until 1934 and the authors have continued on to the present day. Unfortunately and somewhat mysteriously those from 1998 to 2014 could not be found. In addition the bound book containing minutes of AGMs and SGMs also disappeared.

Alastair Burry had the title of club archivist in the first years of this century. The work he did was never published but has provided a lot of very useful background.

The PapersPast files have also been an invaluable resource, particularly those of the Christchurch Press.

In the development of this history considerable assistance has been given by Jacqui Lowe, Jeanette Lawrence and Hellen Kroeger.

John Cookson (Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Canterbury) provided support and mentoring.

All photographs have been sourced from the Club's archives with the exception of the photograph of the visit of Arnold Palmer which has kindly been supplied by Simon Robinson.

AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES



David's recollection of his first visit to Shirley was being taken by his parents in 1950 to see Peter Thomson win the NZ Open. He joined as a junior active member in 1958, joined the men's committee in 1990, became club captain in 1996, president 1997-2000 and was elected a life member in 2003.

He was chairman of Canterbury Golf 2007-2011 and a president and life member of the Canterbury Golf Referees Association. He was a national referee officiating at 7 men's opens and 5 ladies.

After graduating with honours in mathematics he made his career in IT. He was a founding employee of Datacom Group and at the time of his retirement Group General Manager.

Amongst other activities he was president of the Christchurch Club, chairman of the boards of the Court Theatre and of Fendalton Open Air School.



Jennifer Pryor first joined the Christchurch Golf Club in the early 1980s, but work took her to the UK for over 20 years before returning to Christchurch and the Christchurch Golf Club three weeks before the seismic activity began.

Jennifer was the women's captain (2017 – 2018) and as women's captain and vice-captain was on the board for four years. She was involved in the initiation of parity achieved in 2017 and the celebration of 125 years of ladies' golf at the Christchurch Golf Club also 2017.

She has a doctorate in cardiorespiratory physiotherapy and is the author and editor of several physiotherapy textbooks which have been translated into over four different languages.

NOTES



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