

Recollections of June Cookson

The Alexandra Golf Club,

My first impression when joining the club in the late 1950's - 1960's era was -how on earth could two non-complimentary sports- horse-racing and golf- possibly function on the same area. However, over the years and in spite of some discontent on both sides the two clubs continued to co-exist.

We managed to share the small clubhouse until it was burnt down destroying wonderful golf mementoes. There was still the slight cry of dismay whenever a ball hit a running rail and had to be replayed as well as the need to drop out of hoof marks, plus the time when the first green had been used as a ring to exercise a race-horse. Then occasionally if a ball overshot the first green it ran on into empty horse stalls. However co-operatively, the two committees managed the watering and care of the land.

The club developed over the years with the expertise and foresight of many wonderful past members. The endeavours of former members to transport and relocate a building from afar for a new clubhouse was a feat in itself, the setting up of it in an excellent position, the development of surrounds, furnishing, decorating and making it a convenient and comfortable club-house was a wonderful co-operative effort of men and women members. Working bees and fund raising continued for some years to complete the very functional club-house and its facilities that exists today.

The greenkeepers, in spite of difficulties with tractors and mowers and other equipment, maintained an excellent course for players. Expertise of members helped improve the design of greens and fairways and the tournament or pennant visiting players were loud in their praise.

Innovative ideas by committees over the decades have seen different events introduced plus the assistance of coaches that has continued to attract new members and develop younger players. It has always been a team effort by members to improve the club, the course, the social side of golf and the on-going desire to enhance the clubhouse and its surroundings.

Personal Jottings.

Most admired players - Men.. Ferg Murray { My coach and mentor}, Ladies - Marge Peterson.

Longest drives I've seen- Phil Sartori and Dick Edwards.

Memorable putters - Anne Cairns, Marion Dick, Frank McNair, and Brian Webb.

Approach to the green- Chas Cornell, Roy Lewton, Joyce Stace, and Myra Aldous.

Least sticks used - Katie Rollason.

Mixed Foursomes - Winning with Barry Armstrong.

Persistent Effort - Dolly Richter

Dedicated pennant, Tournament & Social Members - remembered for their joy and personalities - Flo Courtney, Kath O'Brien, Joyce Stillman, Norma Price, Myra McDonald, Norma Swanton and many other lovely golfers who brought laughter and pleasure to my golfing days.