

Foreword

This year, 1974, the Gailes Golf Club is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. To commemorate the event, the Committee is happy to be able to publish this booklet recording many of the developments that have occurred during the first 50 years of the club's history.

However, this would not have been a possibility without the unselfish work of one of our members, Vince Daly. Some years ago, Vince took upon himself the task of compiling the club's history.

The result of his efforts is this history you are now reading. It contains reports of many events and happenings at the club which, until now, have lived on only in the memories of the early members or in press cuttings available only to a limited few. Without a record such as this, they would, within a short time, have passed forever from the thoughts of current members.

The club is deeply indebted to Vince for the time and effort he so generously gave in compiling this work. It involved discussions with foundation and early members, searches of club records, private scrap books and library references, and in fact unearthed many interesting sidelights not recorded here for the sole reason that space would not permit.

On behalf of members I sincerely thank Vince for his history and I commend it to you as a valuable memento of your club.

Brian McCarthy President

September 1974

Goodna

Before the Beginning

The first European on what is now Gailes Golf Club was probably the explorer, John Oxley.

John Oxley was commissioned by Governor Brisbane in 1823 to investigate Moreton Bay as a possible site for a new settlement. He discovered the river with the help of three shipwrecked cedar cutters he had found living with the local aborigines.

Oxley explored the river (which he named the Brisbane River), and reached what he called Termination Hill at 2.30pm on the 3rd December, 1823. Termination Hill is now in the grounds of the Wolston Park Hospital, and at its foot the catchment pit of the club's new irrigation scheme has now been erected.

Oxley landed at Prior's Pocket on the northern bank, and leaving his men there to rest, crossed the river and, according to his diary, "ascended a low hill arising about twenty-five feet above the level of the river". From there he "walked two or three miles to the south-east". This would take him to the much more elevated Dingo Hill.

The main buildings of the hospital now stand on this "low hill", and when he walked down the slope, John Oxley went through the land on which, one hundred years later, a fine golf course would be well on the way to completion.

When free settlement came in 1842, an English Doctor of Medicine, Stephen Simpson, was sent to be the first Land Commissioner. From 1842 to 1846, he had under his control a body of men known as "The Border Police" and they were housed in barracks on the rise near Termination Hill.

Dr Simpson's Border Police were the first official occupants of the Gales Golf Course, the locality being known as "The Commissioner's Camp".

The district immediately attracted settlers, and Dr Simpson himself built up a vast private estate. Woogaroo developed as an important stop for Cobb and Co. coaches, and quickly grew into a thriving community.

In 1864, the Hospital for the Insane was established on the site of the former Commissioner's Camp.

The railway past the course opened in 1874. Goodna and Wolston (renamed Wacol in 1927) were original stations but Dingo Hill, now Gales, was not. Dingo Hill was established about 1920 as an unmanned siding near the railway gates.

The Founder

The founder of the Gales Golf Club was Dr H. Byam Ellerton, and Dr Ellerton alone.

Henry Byam Ellerton was born in London in 1871. On graduation in 1894, he went to Nottingham County Asylum, Radcliffe-on-Trent, England, for a short spell as a locum tenens but he remained eight years. He once confided to Dr C. R. Boyce that his pleasure in finding at Radcliffe ample opportunities for cricket was not without an influence on his choice of a career in psychiatry. In 1902 he became Senior Assistant Medical Officer at Leavesden Asylum, Hertfordshire, England, a large institution of 2,130 beds, and it was from this hospital that he came to Queensland.

In 1908, the Queensland Government called applications in England and Australia for an Inspector of Asylums, and Medical Superintendent, Hospital for the Insane, Goodna. Dr Ellerton was selected from 25 applicants. Then 37 years of age and a bachelor, he took up duty at Goodna on 21st January, 1909.

The references from his superiors which the Government sought prior to his appointment mention his keen pioneering interest in what was the infant science of Occupational Therapy. His confidence in this form of treatment was later to be of immense value to the Golf Club.

Florence Hunter Caldwell was born in 1880 at Portrush, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Her brother, one of Dr Ellerton's staff doctors, was seriously injured when his horse fell in Barram Street, Goodna. After months in hospital, Dr Ellerton took him into his own home privately arranging the extensive nursing still required. Dr Caldwell's sister, Florence, came to Queensland to assist, expecting to take her brother home in due course. Dr Caldwell lingered for almost two years but did not recover.

Henry Byam Ellerton and Florence Hunter Caldwell were married at Oxley on 27th May, 1916.

Dr Ellerton was slightly built and had a permanent spinal disability, a legacy from his University Rugby days. He wore glasses from his youth, and was a non-smoker and strictly teetotal.

Forthright and dominant, he exuded an aura of authoritativeness that brooked no contradiction. He did not tolerate opposition and any that arose was quickly annihilated. In this respect, no one was exempt, not even Premiers and Cabinet Ministers.

Practical designing, a field in which he displayed marked ability, interested him and this, together with his firm belief in the medical value of Occupational Therapy enabled him to transform his surroundings. He meticulously planned the many major projects he undertook at Goodna and took personal charge of each. He freely sought expert advice but was intolerant of any other. With the huge labour resources at his disposal, he could reach for the sky and did.

His fanatical interest in cricket and his approach to that sport demonstrated his character. Within a few years of his arrival at Goodna, he had converted a swampy depression to the left of what is now the seventh fairway into the then finest cricket oval in Queensland. He did this by drainage and the transportation of many thousands of yards of fill in drays and wheelbarrows. He then turfed it all and added pickets, sight screens and a handsome pavilion to complete a playing field that was the envy of every visiting cricketer.

Himself a batsman of moderate ability, Dr Ellerton built around himself a Goodna team which was the best in Queensland. He had his own method and it never failed. He offered suitable employment at the hospital to any outstanding cricketer who could be interested and his side included several interstate players and some internationals.

To prepare his wickets, he had interstate representative, Jack Farquhar. Afterwards, Jack went on to a long career as the Curator of the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

The Doctor was still playing cricket in 1917 when his age was forty-six years but it was about this time that he bowed to failing eyesight. He then turned to golf, joining the Brisbane Club. To play, he travelled by hospital cab to Goodna, train to Corinda, and then another train connection to Yeerongpilly, walking the final mile.

The travel was irksome and to a man of his temperament, an appalling waste of time. In addition, once a week play was far from his idea of sport. It was Mrs Ellerton who suggested that he should build his own course.

It took a little prodding but eventually he started. The only land available was the uninviting waste outside his garden fence. He walked until he knew every tree and hollow and by 1922, or perhaps early 1923, he had what he wanted. He would build a course. Naturally, it would be of championship standard and the best in Queensland.

The Beginning

Of his friends at Brisbane Golf Club, the Doctor asked advice of two only. These were Mr W.F.R. Boyce and Mr T.B. Hunter. Solicitors and partners, they were pillars of early Queensland golf.

The Doctor's opening gambit was to invite Frank Boyce and his son, Clive (who had won two Queensland Championships) to dinner. They arrived early and were taken on a prolonged tour of the wilderness. After the advisory session was over and after a pause to remove the burrs and grass seeds, the guests played shots to small cleared areas. For this demonstration, the Doctor mustered all of his staff that he could, hoping to interest them in the game still unknown at Goodna. This part of his plan did not succeed as no one was impressed, but the Doctor did not let his disappointment deter him.

Official permission was essential so, early in 1923, the Doctor went to the Premier and the Home Secretary and characteristically, the arguments he presented were compelling.

The basis of his plan was the medical value to selected patients of the Occupational Therapy. This form of treatment must, of course, be understood in the professional setting of 1923. He went on to point out that there would be no expense and no loss of useful land as the area he intended to use had been regarded as useless for sixty years. Further, no additional burden would fall on the staff as patients must be supervised wherever they may be, and similar clubs already operated at Goodna's two sister institutions, Sandy Gallop and Willowburn.

Cabinet was sympathetic and he got his approval immediately, including authority to use hospital equipment and the sawmill. Further, the Government assisted by donating some old buildings and promising seventy-five pounds for pipes to water every green.

The Doctor, now approaching fifty-two years of age, took up the challenge with enthusiasm. Every morning at 6am with legs and ankles bandaged against the undergrowth, he was out with his tape measure and axe and a bundle of pegs. The telephone at Boyce and Hunter's George Street law office rang repeatedly and there, courtesy always triumphed.

The first asset the Club ever owned was a donkey.

The Club

The Goodna Golf Club, later to achieve greater prominence as the Gailes Golf Club, was formed on Monday evening, February 4th, 1924. According to press reports "upwards of thirty" attended the meeting which was held in the hospital Recreation Hall. Unfortunately, the minutes have not been preserved.

The club was in immediate possession of a partly completed course and two donkeys. It did not have to consider where and how it would build its course. As one would expect of Dr Ellerton, a detailed draft Constitution was ready and it was adopted.

The meeting decided to affiliate with the Queensland Golf Association without delay and Dr Ellerton was appointed the club's first delegate.

The foundation Office Bearers were:

Patron: The Premier Of Queensland

The Honourable E.G. Theodore M.L.A.

President: The Home Secretary Of Queensland

The Honourable J. Stopford M.L.A.

Captain: Dr H. Byam Ellerton

Vice-Presidents: Mr W. McCormack, M.L.A.

Mr J. Huxham, M.L.A.

Mr A.C Elphinstone, M.L.A.

Mr J.G. Bayley, M.H.R.

Dr H.B. Ellerton

Dr J.M. Moray

Mrs F.H. Ellerton

Honorary Secretary: Dr H.C. Costello Shaw

Honorary Treasurer: Mr E.J.W. Payton

Honorary Auditor: Mr C. Smelt

Committee: Dr A. Eland Shaw

Mr J. Hogg

Mr G.H. Burrows

Mr J.H. Richardson

Mr J.C. Stevenson

Mr T.I. Parker

Nurse F.M. English

The appointment of an official President with the Captain acting as Chairman and Chief Executive conformed with the times and is still not unusual in the southern states. The whole of the active committee were members of the hospital staff.

The annual subscription for ordinary members was fixed at two pounds and two shillings, with one pound and one shilling for those who also belonged to another golf club. There was to be a special rate of ten shillings and sixpence per annum for members of the hospital staff and their wives and for local residents living within two miles of the course. It was resolved that no green fees be payable and initially no nomination fee.

There was to be no separate Associate's fee, nor was any provision made for this class of membership. Ladies were to be full members with unrestricted rights, free to play with the men in all competition. They were to be eligible for any office and in fact, one lady, Nurse English, was elected to the first committee and another, Miss Buxton, to the second in 1925.

The Official Opening

On Saturday 9th August, 1924 the course was officially opened by the patron, the Premier of Queensland, the Honourable B.G. Theodore, M.L.A. Still in his plus fours following a morning round with Dr Ellerton, the Premier ceremoniously drove the first ball at 2.30pm. A member of the Brisbane Golf Club and a golfer of ability, Mr Theodore's drive was described as "a low screamer of 220 yards".

Introducing the Premier to a large gathering which included several Cabinet Ministers, politicians, and the presidents of the Queensland Golf Association and all Brisbane and Ipswich clubs, Dr Ellerton acknowledged the club's indebtedness to the Government. He thanked Mr Theodore for the piping which had enabled Goodna to be the only country club in Queensland with water reticulated to every green.

Mr Theodore congratulated Dr Ellerton on the quality of his course and his victory over the critics who said that the site was impossible. He forecast that the course would be an outstanding asset to the district, more particularly when it was extended to eighteen holes in the near future. Mr E.H. Macartney (later Sir Edward), the President of the Brisbane Club, replied on behalf of the visitors, "while the caddies were retrieving Mr Theodore's drive".

Four of Queensland's leading amateurs played an exhibition stroke round. They were Frank Boyce, Tom Hunter, and the Brown brothers, Jack and Charlie, each of whom were foundation members of Goodna. Frank Boyce's 41 was easily the best score, the others requiring 51, 47 and 48 respectively. The second was the eventful hole as Boyce's drive "was spectacular", whilst the others found the pond to run up 10, 9 and 7.

Mr Theodore was presented with the ball he drove, mounted on a nickel tripod set on a polished wooden base cut from a tree growing on the course. He was given a further memento, a set of miniature clubs, and Frank Boyce and Tom Hunter one such club each. These miniature clubs were made by committeeman, T.I. Parker, the metal heads being fashioned by another committeeman, George Burrows.

Mr J.A. Walsh, the President of the Queensland Golf Association, took the long drive with 254 yards 2 feet, whilst Miss Green's 190 yards was good enough in the Ladies. The men's approach went to the Honorary Secretary, Dr H.C.C. Shaw and the ladies' approach to Miss St. John.

Building The Clubhouse

The bough shed which was erected for the opening of the course continued to be the clubhouse and in it Mrs Higham served the only refreshments available. This was afternoon tea, and the first players to finish "put the billy on". The dressing room and conveniences were tents and they had their ups and downs. In one embarrassing Saturday afternoon storm, the "Ladies" finished in a tree.

Well before the course was opened, Dr Ellerton's clubhouse plans were completed and they were far from modest. Small beginnings were not for him. His principal adviser was his chief carpenter, Ernie Bowden, father of member, Kev (Nipper).

The site was obvious. In those days of few cars and no roads, the clubhouse must be near the Railway siding. One pressman of the day described it as being "within fifty yards of the rail stop with the ninth green only a mashie shot away".

Within a month of the opening, the foundations were under way and by the Annual Meeting in 1923, the framework was up. That meeting, wholly disregarding the meagre credit balance of "twenty-five pounds in cash and balls" really got the clubhouse moving. Up to eighty members, almost all members of the hospital staff, volunteered for work while two, F. Hazelmere and J. Bestman, both building contractors, agreed to share the honorary supervising.

Pilferers were active at night but a sturdy young member named Irwin Constance put a stop to this annoyance. He rigged himself a bunk and slept on the site. The clubhouse was completed by July 1925. Contracts were let for some concreting and the installation of a septic tank, but otherwise all of the work was voluntary.

The resulting two storied clubhouse was imposing with separate dressing rooms beneath, equipped with showers. Upstairs, a main room, fifty-four feet by forty-five feet, was fully fitted with venetians. There was a kitchenette and a committee room and between the locker rooms, quarters for a married secretary or steward.

Electricity was obtained from the hospital supply for an agreed annual fee and a telephone was installed. So well did the foundation members work that the clubhouse was opened, not only free of debt, but with money in hand.

The clubhouse, decked out in bunting, was officially opened on Saturday, 1st August, 1925, by the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency, Sir Matthew Nathan. This time it was Mr J. A. Walsh, the President of the Queensland Golf Association who performed the introductions to another distinguished audience. A formal afternoon tea followed brightened by music from a Diamond Disc gramophone kindly loaned by Palings Limited. The festivities concluded with a dance in the recreation hall.

Since 1925, the building has been enlarged and remodelled, but basically the present Gailes clubhouse is still the one that Dr Ellerton designed and the foundation members built.

The Original Nine

The Mid-Week Sports Referee, in its issue of 15th March, 1924, five months before the course was opened, published a map of the proposed Goodna course. The layout then depicted was, with one exception, the same as the 1974 first nine at Gailes. The single variation was the dog-legging of the fifth which came in 1932.

At the Opening in 1924 the card read:

Hole	Yards	Bogey	<i>1974 Distance in metres</i>
1	450	5	433

2	500	6	458
3	150	3	167
4	260	4	240
5	360	5	369
6	186	3	200
7	412	5	395
8	370	5	361
9	612	6	507
	-----	--	-----
	3300	42	3130

The 1974 distances in metres from the Championship Tees show how little Dr Ellerton's original layout changed in fifty years.

The first tee has not altered, but what was the green on the flat in 1974, was the site of a watercourse, in 1924, with Dingo Hill rising immediately beyond. The green was then on the small but relatively level area between the foot of the fairway hill and the gully. *Through the green* was in the creek. The old first was one hole where boldness did not pay.

The second was really rugged. The only tee was at least twenty yards beyond and to the right of the present championship tee. The tee shot required a water carry of more than 120 yards through an avenue of trees and only a long ball made the top of the hill.

The second gully, twenty feet wide and averaging ten feet deep, was located about 100 yards short of the green. Its banks were irregular and almost perpendicular as can still be seen in the small part which remains in its natural state between the second and third fairways. Only the brawny and the brave attempted to carry the gully for two. The hole finished in a "fine rolling green" set in a horse-shoe of trees at the top of the rise well forward of its present site.

The tee at the third has been altered and the back of the green was raised some three feet in 1974, but these have been the only changes to a hole described as "a nice jigger or mashie shot".

The fourth remains the same but originally there was a blind drive from the low tee.

Now a dogleg, the fifth was a straight hole from its present tee to a green on what is now the practice fairway. The drive was over a quarry which was then embellished by an embankment on the far side. Originally, Mt. Gravatt was clearly visible directly in the distance, but it has now been obscured by the trees that line the fairway.

At the sixth, "a cleek or a spoon", the tee was to the left and near what is now the angle of the fifth dogleg. The hole played between tall trees which still stand. Until the early 1970's, the ladies played along the old line.

The seventh has remained virtually unchanged except that Mt. Coot-tha, once clearly visible, has been hidden by trees.

The eighth, with a boundary fence hidden behind dense trees on the left, commenced well infield approximately level with the front of the seventh green. A "nice saucer green" was again on a downgrade and about twenty-five yards forward of the present site. The approach was blind.

The ninth, measuring 612 yards, was a monster and the only hole in Queensland to exceed 600 yards. It played across what is now the eighth green and continued along its present line with Peak Mountain exactly bisecting the fairway.

On Opening Day the course measured 3300 yards and was easily the longest nine holes in Queensland.

There was no practice fairway but practice shots could be played into a net rigged permanently near the first tee. On occasions, professionals gave lessons on a picturesque racecourse across the railway line, now the site of Rocla Pipes.

Permanent greens were tried out on 2nd November, 1924, for a match against the Brisbane Club and they were open for continuous play from Christmas Day, 1924. They were allowed time to mature as they were not turfs, but planted with individual blue couch shoots brought from that part of the Reserve which is now the Repatriation Hospital site.

With the exception of the third, every hole had a separate Ladies' tee but the concessions were far from generous. They averaged only 25 and 40 yards on most holes but were approximately 100 yards at both the second and the ninth. The Ladies were not exempted from the water carry at the second. Their tee was immediately behind the centre of it.

The nine for the Ladies measuring 2910 yards was by far the longest in Queensland.

The original greens were not raised or drained, and as they followed the natural contour, contained some accentuated slopes. The tees also were not elevated and some visibility difficulties resulted.

The defects were obvious but their elimination was secondary to the improvement of playing conditions, and the building of the clubhouse and the construction of a second nine. 1925 was the year of consolidation during which fairways were weeded, levelled and grassed, and the approaches to each green from twenty to fifty yards back, were turfed. In this year, the bunkering policy commenced but early efforts were primitive, consisting entirely of transverse mounds and traps.

A second nine was planned on part of the Hospital Reserve but plans were shelved when more suitable land became available.

This delay allowed time in 1926 for two major improvements. The seventh green was rebuilt with a small mound at the back to neutralise the slope. "Well titled up" was the expression used in the following Annual Report. In that year also, the ninth green was "reshaped, lifted four feet and terraced".

During 1927 and most of 1928, the accent was on the second nine but the horror gully in front of the second green was also eliminated. The original sand filling was washed away and large pipes were then tamped in, covered with feet of ashes and turfed. No present day player would know that this excellent fairway was once a broken gully.

Construction work on the second nine was completed early in 1929 and from then until 1930 there was a transformation of the first nine. A high tee at the fourth and a new raised green behind the old green overcame the visibility problem. The eighth green was moved back and built up many feet to counter the gradient but this still did not satisfy the Doctor who raised it several feet in 1930. This move necessitated the shortening of the ninth.

1929 was also the year in which the first green was remodelled, the suggestion coming from Dr Clive R. Boyce. A chain and a half was cut from Dingo Hill, pipes were laid in the gully, and an artificial flat, which is not the green, was built over them. Duck hooks from the second tee can still find the excavation from which soil was gathered and transported by wheelbarrow to form the flat.

For five years, Dr Ellerton adamantly refused all requests to reduce the water carry at the second. He finally relented in 1929 when the present members' and ladies' tees were built. To maintain the all important length, the green went back an equivalent distance.

It was Dr C. Boyce again who proposed the alteration to the fifth. He suggested that, if the fairway curved to the left, a better hole would result. Other benefits claimed were additional total length, a reduced walk to the sixth tee, and space for a small practice fairway. Unenthusiastic at first because of his dislike of doglegs, Dr Ellerton made the conversion in 1932.

By 1934, all of the original greens had been rebuilt and up until 1974 there was no further major construction work.

The Second Nine

It was always intended that Goodna be a full course and the second nine was to follow immediately. The Premier made this clear on Opening Day, and confirmation can be found in the Mid-Week Sports Referee of 3rd April, 1924, four months before the opening.

One Paragraph from a long description of the proposed course read:

-

"It is the intention of Doctors Ellerton and Shaw to enlarge the course to one of eighteen holes. This happy intention may not be carried out this season but this time next year should see it an accomplished fact".

At that stage, no delay was anticipated as the second nine was to be on the rather hilly part of the reserve which is now Wolston Park Course. Designing went ahead with Alf Twemlow often on the other end of the Doctor's tape and it had reached an advanced stage when Portion 158 adjoining the road beside the eighth came on the market.

This land was more or less level and the advantages were obvious. There was a change of plan but it took a long time to get the new nine off the ground. The land was owned by Cornishman, Richard Douglas Lamb,

who intensely disliked golf, golfers and Dr Ellerton. He quoted a prohibitive price and refused all requests to reconsider. Fortunately, no other buyer intervened and finally committeeman "A.J." Christie, a First World War Colonel in the Second Battalion of the Black Watch and at that time, Deputy Director of Postal and Telegraphs for Queensland, broke the stalemate.

The Colonel sent an agent to "Old Dick" and an offer was made with some talk of a poultry farm. Mr Lamb was interested and a sale was arranged for seven hundred pounds. The transfer to "Robert James Moore" was signed on 4th January, 1928. Planning commenced immediately and the second nine was soon under way.

Both sides of Wuriga Street were sub-divided into building allotments. Five allotments on the course side extending from the thirteenth green to the hospital fence, and nine more on the city side, (the present sixteenth hole), were purchased for a total of two hundred pounds together with a strip of land 9.1 links in width to connect the sixteenth green to the seventeenth tee.

All the new land, including the pathway was unconditionally surrendered to the government for inclusion in the Reserve. The surrender was accepted on 12th March, 1928. The authorities co-operated by permanently closing the road beside the eighth and at the hospital end of Wuriga Street. This land also was incorporated in the Reserve. The new boundaries were gazetted on 11th May, 1929.

What is now the sixteenth fairway was heavily timbered and clearing within a reasonable time was beyond the equipment available. Dr Ellerton somehow obtained knowledge of a Government owned "Forest Devil" lying idle and in disrepair at Townsville. He went to the Premier and after lengthy negotiations, the Government agreed to rail it to Goodna provided the Doctor could arrange repairs. He could and did, and the trees came out. They went through the hospital sawmill and the timber was used for clubhouse improvements including a stately pergola along the whole of the entrance side.

Since designing the first nine, Dr Ellerton had vastly improved his knowledge of golf architecture. He read extensively and took every opportunity to closely question the southern professionals and top class amateurs who played the course. He and his unprecedented achievements had become well known throughout Australian Golf and his enthusiasm was so magnetic that he was readily accorded any advice he sought. The mistakes of the first nine were not repeated and the resulting second nine at Gables has never been altered.

Originally, the thirteenth tee was near the machinery shed and the fifteenth near what is now the dam, so that both holes would play straight. With the Doctor's belated acceptance of the dogleg, both tees went to the right. There was a swamp in front of the fourteenth tee but that has been drained.

Dick Lamb's residence was on what was to be the twelfth green so it was sold for removal. His bunya pines still ring the green. For six months in 1928, Dr Clive R. Boyce was on the hospital staff and Dr Ellerton paid him a rare compliment by allowing him freedom to design and build the twelfth green. He did it in the style introduced to Queensland some ten years earlier by John Irving, the then professional at Yeerongpilly. The similarity between the twelfth green at Gables and the sixth and eleventh at Brisbane is striking. For years the Goodna twelfth was known as "Penzance", which was "Old Dick's" birthplace in Cornwall.

The second nine measured 3303 yards, making 6603 for the eighteen. When the fifth was extended in 1932, the total went to 6643 yards. In 1974 it was 6231 metres.

The details in 1929 were :

Hole	Yards	1974 Distance in metres
------	-------	-------------------------

10	400	384
11	360	329
12	110	124
13	375	351
14	360	352
15	430	418
16	416	378
17	320	278
18	532	487
	-----	----
	3303	3101

The 1974 distances are from the championship tees.

The second nine was officially opened by Mr T. Nimmo, the M.L.A. for Oxley on 2nd November, 1929. To properly mark the occasion, the club commenced the long history of the Ellerton Cup, then a 36 hole open stroke event for professionals and low handicap amateurs.

Mr W.F.R. Boyce, who had done so much for Goodna and Queensland golf was accorded the honour of playing the first official round. Earlier, the full course had been given a trial run for a professional purse on the 4th October, 1929, but earlier still, the Ladies had broken the ice with their Harding Frew Open Foursomes.

Goodna's Impact On Golf

Goodna was the fifth club to be formed in Brisbane. The Brisbane Golf Club had been Brisbane's sole club for well over twenty years., followed by Royal Queensland, Sandgate and Wynnum, and in the Ipswich area, Ipswich and Sandy Gallop.

One very substantial break with tradition was the full membership allowed to Ladies. This was rank heresy and press men did not know whether to applaud or condemn. One writer wondered what would happen if a Goodna lady, a full member of a properly affiliated club, should present herself for the British Amateur.

Goodna was the first Queensland club to abolish the bar against professionals. Formerly, they could not play in competitions with amateurs - not even the Queensland Championship until 1925 - and they were denied the use of the clubhouse. From 1928, Goodna opened its Anzac Cup to professionals and drew them with amateurs.

The Goodna Ladies pioneered Open events for Associates. The Goodna Open Cup on Wednesday, 19th May, 1926 was the first Ladies Open event held by a club in Queensland.

The "Business Girl" category of membership, previously unknown in Queensland, also evolved at Goodna.

The power behind these reforms was, of course, Dr Ellerton. Whilst it would be correct to say that the approach to golf at Goodna was democratic the same could not be said of the club. Dr Ellerton's authority was absolute and he could never be deposed. That was in the Constitution.

Immediately he was appointed Goodna delegate to the Queensland Golf Association, Dr Ellerton commenced to challenge the establishment. In May, 1924, three months before the Goodna course was opened, he was pressing in the Association for standardisation of handicapping for the bogey and local rules of each club to be controlled by the Association. Later he was urging that all Australian courses with championship pretensions should be graded by the National Association. He was correctly interpreting the trend as all these reforms have long since become firmly entrenched in Australian golf.

Goodna always made its course available for Association events and was active in encouraging and promoting them. The first Men's and also the first Ladies Brisbane District Championship was held at Goodna and a local player was successful in each. Dr Clive Boyce took out the men's in 1930 and Mrs Burrows won in the ladies in 1932.

The first Queensland Close Championship ever staged was held at Goodna in 1934. It went to Ozzie Walker who downed Norman von Rida in a playoff.

Goodna Club

Twenty-four members joined on the night of the first meeting. The number exceeded 100 by Opening Day and grew to 229 by the first Annual Meeting in March, 1925. On 31st December, 1925, the membership was closed at 300 with 40 on the waiting list. The limit of 300 was apportioned 180 men and 120 ladies.

The ladies became associated in 1927, allowing the men's maximum number to increase. There were 211 men members at the 1929 Annual Meeting but when the second nine was opened late in that year, the maximum of 300 was quickly attained.

The meeting of "Lady Members" which commenced the Associates section was held at the hospital on 19th January, 1925. Mrs Ellerton was elected Captain and Mrs Burrows, Secretary.

The 1925 fixture list featured interclub games, monthly medals and several mixed foursomes but did not include any Sunday games. This programme shows the Doctor's confidence in his own and his members' ability to complete undertakings on schedule. It fixed 1st August, 1925, as the date for the opening of the clubhouse which had yet to be built. It was opened on the date arranged.

In the early years, committeemen acting in rotation sent off the fields as "manager for the day". Members nominated in advance and each week's draw was published in the newspapers. Larger fields were sent off the first, third and seventh tees simultaneously.

Some of the old Goodna members were still active players in 1974 and amongst them, were Bill Stanley, Alf Leslie, Norm Whitworth, Harry Horstmann, Lester Briggs and Dr Boyce, and of the ladies, Mrs Burrows and Phyl Staunton. Lew Lansbury, Bill Hynd and Charlie 1e Brocq have passed on, and John Sandow was in his forty-fourth year of membership when he died in 1968, after playing his usual round the previous Saturday. Mrs Burrows was the only foundation member still playing in 1974, but Alf Twemlow was sometimes at the club.

Mrs Smith, who lived beside the pathway to the seventeenth tee was a foundation member and so was her husband, Owen. Their son, Morgan, became a junior member in 1930 at the age of seven and continued his membership in various categories.

Some of the early members, hickory shafts and all, could hit. Jim Farrell, who was manager of the Redbank Meatworks once drove the eighth green, and test footballer, Jimmy Craig, is credited with driving from the second tee into the second gully.

Before Goodna was formed, there were Pennants between the few clubs then existing. These lapsed in 1925. In 1928, there was a revival. Goodna won in both grades. In 1931, Goodna member, Eric Tristram, donated a shield for competition between the clubs of the Outer Metropolitan Association. Goodna took it out, and it is still on the clubhouse wall.

Annual professional purses began in 1925 and the first, in June of that year went to Tom Howard of Concord, Sydney, with a 36 hole score of 169. Arch McArthur, then of Grafton, was in the field and it was during this event that he made his deep impression on Dr Ellerton.

Caddies were encouraged and properly trained by caddy master, Alf Twemlow, and the professionals. There was an annual Caddies Day, and on these occasions, Mrs Ellerton herself did the catering. Dick and Jack Coogan, Bill and Olly Stanley, and "Doggie" Wolfe were Goodna caddies and the prowess they developed at the game later brought honour to the club.

Each year, Goodna sent its contingent to the Courier Mail Caddies Cup but "Doggie" Wolfe was the only one to bring it home. In the 1932 Caddies' event, Jim Dowsett holed in one at the twelfth, and according to the press report, one diminutive youngster finished well down the list with 117-34-82. His name was Dick Coogan, and it would appear that his arithmetic has improved as well as his golf.

Two other important caddies were Frank Draper who always looked after Dr Ellerton, and Arthur Sargeant who did the honours for Mrs Ellerton. They were well known identities in the club.

The magnificence of the present Gales fairways is a direct consequence of the care they received after the second nine was completed. The first nine was closed for months in 1931 so that 950 loads of manure went into them.

The club's two donkeys, Annabella and Carabella, were not only useful acquisitions but also endless sources of humour. They had all the independence of their kind and Dr Ellerton's authority impressed them not at all. Bill Gorrie had a rapport with them so it was his job to take them out every day with their carts of sand and turf for divot holes. They had their own paddock with a shed in it near the fourth green. Another well known worker was Gypsy, the old gray mare, who pulled the fairway mower.

Dr Ellerton had an obsession about clover and Frank Draper, his caddy, always carried a few stakes in the raincoat he wore in all weathers. Every member knew the cry "Clover, Draper, Clover" and the ritual which

followed. Draper would ceremoniously hammer in a stake and the donkey cart would be around the next day.

The club colours, now green and gold, began as green and orange. Mrs Ellerton chose them and rumour had it that her Irish ancestry prompted the choice of the two contrasting Irish colours.

Part II

Gailes

The New Name

Before 1924, trains rarely stopped at Dingo Hill so the new Secretary approached the Railway Department which agreed that certain trains would stop there from 1st May, 1924.

On 10th September, 1925 the department changed the name of its siding from Dingo Hill to Gailes. Its records do not show the reason. Research has discovered no connection with Glasgow or Western Gailes in the family background of either Doctor or Mrs Ellerton, nor does it reveal any prior link between the club and Western Gailes. It seems unlikely therefore that the club was in any way involved in the selection of the name of the new siding. There certainly was then no desire to change the club's name. That did not come for another ten years.

Mr Davidson was then Queensland's Commissioner for Railways and his son, Dr Davidson, once told Arch McArthur that the Commissioner, in search of an alternative name for Dingo, Hill, consulted his wife. She said "There is a golf course there and your brother plays at Western Gailes. Why not call it Gailes?"

Railway booklet issued about 1940 shows the derivation of all station names. The meaning shown opposite Gailes is "a famous English golf club".

With the advent of the new railway siding, the Goodna golf course was not at Goodna. It was at Gailes. This resulted in confusion to visitors travelling by rail. In those days, almost all of them did, and many an unwary golfer was left stranded at Goodna, which was one station further from the city. The embarrassment and the disruption of the starter's programme was endured for ten years until the Annual Meeting of March, 1935, when the name of the club was changed to Gailes.

The old name with its sentimental attachments was abandoned with regret, and the only recorded reason for the alteration is this concession to convenience.

Western Gailes

Immediately the name was changed, Gailes took up with its famous old namesake in Glasgow. The Scottish club responded generously.

Western Gailes, on the Ayrshire Coast, is on true links land right by the sea. Formed in 1897 as The Western Golf Club, Gailes, it changed its name in 1921 to Western Gailes. While there was a reversion to the old name in 1939, the club is still affectionately known as Western Gailes. It is a fine golf course and one of the great clubs in Scotland.

The two clubs exchanged trophies for perpetual competition. Gailes, Queensland, commissioned well-known sculptress, Miss Daphne Mayo, to design a kangaroo trophy. The final creation was a handsome reproduction in solid silver of a doe with a joey peeping from its pouch. It stands fifteen inches high and weighs 140 ounces. An inscribed silver plate on a plinth of polished Queensland wood reads "Presented by the Gailes Golf Club, Australia, to Western Gailes, Scotland, 1936".

Club member, Archie Tait, took the kangaroo to Western Gales and on his return brought back the Western Gales Trophy. It is a shield surmounted by two cairngorms embossed with thistles and bluebells. The centre piece shows in low relief a view over the course to the Isle of Arran.

For its Golden Jubilee in 1947, Western Gales produced an attractive booklet and honoured Gales by including no fewer than three reproductions of the Kangaroo Trophy. After narrating the link between the clubs, this publication continues:

•

"As a footnote to this pleasant tale of golfing civilities, it should be recorded that one Saturday in November, 1937, a lady arrived at the clubhouse and asked to be allowed to play. Nothing of the like had ever happened before in this men's holy of golfing holies. But she had her game and was warmly welcomed for she carried the passport of membership of Gales, Queensland, and not only did she have her game but she was asked to attend the club's first dinner dance the following week and she did."

The lady was Mrs Tressider and at the dinner dance, she was accorded a toast all to herself.

In 1960, Tony McNamara, Jack Marr and Peter Boland were royally entertained at Western Gales and presented with an autographed bottle of Scotch to be broached when the next visitor from Western Gales was at Gales. It was brought safely to Queensland, and more miraculously still, it survived at the club for eleven years, but it served its allotted purpose in July, 1971, when Gales was privileged to entertain Western Gales visitor, Eric Brown.

The Emblem tee markers which the club now proudly produces on very special occasions have been adapted from the crest of Western Gales. In 1963, one was presented to Mr Scott Barclay who was captain of Western Gales in 1941. He was on a visit to Australia and the club was honoured to welcome him at Gales.

Gales Club

In 1938, sweeping amendments to the Constitution discontinued the courtesy President and abolished the office of Vice-President. Since that year, the President, who is chosen by the members, is the Chief Executive and he may now hold office for a maximum of three consecutive years. There was no Vice-President until 1958 when provision was made for one, again elected from the members, and also for a Vice-Captain. The Immediate Past President has had a seat on the committee since 1952, and in each year from 1938 to 1974, the Minister for Health for the time being, was the Patron.

Originally the club year ran with the calendar with the Annual Meeting in March. In 1935, the year was altered to end on 31st October with the meeting in November. Consequently, there were two annual meetings in 1935. The year now terminates on 30th September.

The increased interest in the game following the Second World War enabled the club, by use of the all day time sheet, to double its capacity for members. In 1969, the club again introduced the category of provisional membership, which existed formerly but had been in abeyance for thirty years. By 1974, the total of all membership classes was approximately one thousand, almost all of whom were active players, with up to 250 players handled on a Saturday.

A type of membership peculiar to Gales was the Concessional Membership. Introduced at the first meeting for very sound reasons, it was originally available not only to hospital employees and their wives, but also to residents living within two miles of the course. In 1939 the privilege was withdrawn from local residents without prejudice to existing members.

Gales was established as an unincorporated association. The club has grown into a complex business with a 1974 annual turnover in the vicinity of \$150,000.00.

War Years

During the war, Gables, like all other clubs, had its difficulties.

Machinery failures caused the closure of the second nine for months and clubhouse supplies were so scarce that the club introduced its own ration tickets.

The men's membership fell to the all time low of 119 in 1944 and of these, thirty-nine were at the War.

The ball position was acute but one member relieved the position when he heard of a Brisbane warehouse with a large stock of condemned golf balls. The club bought the lot.

The course was far from congested but there was activity around the clubhouse. The American Army established its officer training unit "Camp Columbia" at Wacol and there was a camp of evacuated Dutch from Indonesia along Wilruna Street towards the city. Later an Australian Army contingent was based on the Goodna racecourse. The club invited all of these to make such use as they wished of the clubhouse and all of them accepted the invitation. Occasionally up to 300 men were there writing letters and following such other recreations as they could in the dim light of the blacked out clubhouse.

Roy Unwin, who still played regularly in 1974, came on the committee in 1941 and was President in 1943 and 1944. Roy inherited the burden, for that was what it then was, from Doctor Stafford and was the first of Dr Ellerton's "outsiders" to succeed to the club's major honour. He was back as Honorary Secretary in 1948 and was Captain in 1954 and 1955 after which he served a distinguished term as President of the Queensland Golf Council. He is one of only three from Gables to achieve this distinction.

Gables Clubhouse

In 1927, a kitchen replaced the kitchenette, a detached professional's shop was built off the rear corner and a white picket fence appeared in front with an elaborate arch over the main gate. The wide pergola, well over sixty feet in length, came in 1930 and when its flowering vines developed, it made an imposing entrance. It disappeared in the re-organisation of 1962.

Fifteen foot wide verandahs were added to each side in 1932, increasing the overall dimensions above and below to 84 feet by 45 feet. It was then that the weatherboard exterior walls gave way to roughcast concrete.

In 1950, major renovations were planned but a full building permit could not be obtained so the new work was limited to remodelling the front staircase and the kitchen.

In 1949, the Associates remodelled their dressing room bearing all the expense themselves and in 1952 they painted it themselves with their own voluntary labour.

The allocation of the 1955 Australian Open to Gables set off a wave of enthusiasm in the club that paralleled that of the founders. Scores of members and associates stayed with the job for months and both locker rooms were lined and ceiled and the whole of the clubhouse, including the pergola, was painted. The approaches to the clubhouse were concreted and gangs of members under Norm Whitworth manicured the course. The new ablutions block was built by contract and that was the only improvement about the clubhouse prior to the Open which was not the voluntary work of members and associates.

In 1962, the front and upstairs interior were extensively modernised at a cost of twenty thousand pounds. One large room replaced the former separate lounge for members and associates and the Professional was installed in modern premises in the entrance foyer.

For many years there was an ornate lock-up starters box near the first tee, but with the advent of the amplifier, it became redundant. It is now a gatekeeper's shelter at the hospital.

Gailes Course

Straddling the western perimeter of the city of Brisbane, the Gailes Golf Course is beside the main western railway line, thirteen and a half miles from the centre of Brisbane. It is nineteen miles from the Coast and at the clubhouse is ninety feet above sea level.

In 1974 both fairways and greens were of blue couch, no suitable type of bent grass having yet been developed to suit the Brisbane climate. Before the Second World War, the Queensland Golf Council set up a Queensland Board of Greenkeeping Research to supervise experiments with bent grass by metropolitan clubs, but regrettably no success was recorded.

There are few natural hazards at Gailes, the only permanent water on the course being in front of the second tee. At the Annual Meeting of 1935, a move was made to have this watercourse drained and filled but this attempt was defeated.

The only bridges span a narrow drain near the fourteenth tee and, notwithstanding the proximity of the river, the course is not subject to flooding. The 1974 flood submerged the Goodna Railway Station but the Gailes railway buildings are 40 feet higher and the only part of the course to be covered by flood waters was the first green.

The course recovers quickly after rain, and wet weather rarely prevents play. Gailes has more than once been requisitioned at short notice for major events when other courses are unplayable or unsuitable.

Out of bounds fences come into play at the left of the first and near the fourth green. Others on the left are relevant at the seventh, fifteenth and seventeenth. A fence runs the full length of the tenth on the right and there is another at the thirteenth to catch the stray long drive or bad second shot. The sixteenth has a fence on each side and another immediately behind the green. The one on the left is a danger for the drive while the one on the right penalises cut second shots.

Darryl Welch, playing in the 1973 Queensland Open Championship, in which he was runner-up commented on this hole, "There is not a golfer alive who, having a good score could stand on the sixteenth tee and not be aware of the possibility of hooking his tee shot out of bounds".

The only hills on the course are on the first and second holes. The downhill coast at the easy par five first is compensated for at the second which requires a long steep climb, known as Cardiac Hill, to the driving area. After these holes there are only gentle undulations.

The rough is timbered, but not excessively so. Most players strike more trouble with ornamental trees which line the fairways. Planting of these commenced in 1929 with 350 trees obtained from the Botanical Gardens and the policy has been continued regularly with intensified programmes in 1950, 1962 and 1966 to replace trees lost through drought.

The course was surveyed by Surveyor member, Merv Jenkinson, prior to the Australian Amateur Championship in 1972. From the Championship tees, the present length is 6231 metres and 5255 metres for the ladies. Gailes is no longer the longest course in Brisbane as Royal Queensland plays at 6313 metres and Long Pocket (now Indooroopilly) at 6328 metres.

Over the years, many journalists of repute have described the course and, if one disregards the comment concerning the couch grass greens so strange to southern writers, there has been little criticism. The layout invariably attracts praise with the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth holes and sometimes the fifth being singled out. The sixth does not rate highly. As early as 1925 it was said to be flat and uninteresting and this opinion has been reiterated several times.

When standard scratch was introduced, Goodna was rated at 74 but in 1954, the sixteenth became a five and the scratch 75. Before the 1955 Australian Open, both the fifteenth and sixteenth holes became fours and the par is now settled at 73. The Australian course rating system, introduced in 1973, gives Gailes a national rating of 72 from the championship tees.

Members at the 1925 Annual Meeting decided to bunker the course, and there was one at the sixth the following weekend. Many more bunkers followed, all being filled with sand from Bullock Head Creek. The early bunkers were shallow traps and unscientific by modern standards, but they have since been reshaped and the great majority of present Gales bunkers date from this period.

By 1932, there were eighty-three bunkers and the following year 113 with no less than fifteen at the fifth, including a cluster of five on and around the mound at the angle of the dogleg, earning it the name "Mt. Misery". The hillock is still there but it now has a solitary custodian.

Many bunkers surviving from this era were close to the tees and of doubtful value. From 1953, the shorter ones and some other fairway traps were eliminated. Maybe the remark of the genial Ossie Pickworth to Frank Foley at the 1952 Queensland Open went home. Ossie's cryptic comment was "Who have you blokes got a down on?"

The numbers were reduced but that did not lessen the severity as new greenside bunkers appeared in inconvenient places. For the 1955 Australian Open Championship, there were eighty-nine bunkers covering 9,487 square yards or about two acres. In 1974 there were eighty-seven traps and no member will be surprised to know that, big as the greens are, the total bunker area is bigger. For the record, in 1955, there were 1.5 acres of greens, half an acre of tees, 34.1 acres of mown fairway and twenty acres of short rough.

Right from the commencement, water was reticulated throughout, the immediate supply being an effluent tank behind the sixth green. When the second nine was completed, all greens were connected but some fairways were not.

In 1929, a dam was built behind the seventh green. This was deepened and extended in 1934 and deepened again in 1969. The dam stored a sufficient reserve for the greens but there was little to spare for the fairways in dry times.

George Burrows, the hospital engineer, designed, installed and supervised all the watering facilities for the first twenty years. George was a foundation member and many times a committeeman. His outstanding service to the club earned him a life membership. He died in 1946.

The dam was improved from time to time but the supply did not markedly increase. The available water was quite unable to cope with the severe 1965 drought. The greens were maintained together with tiny areas of fairway but over almost all of the course, the couch disappeared completely and for eighteen months, players compulsorily teed up in the dust.

A committee of six engineers, all club members, was set up under the chairmanship of Wally Peak with Jackson Voller as Liaison Officer, to "study the present problem and to make long term recommendations".

A comprehensive scheme was outlined to the 1965 Annual General Meeting which adjourned for three months to allow detailed estimates to be prepared. On 19th February, 1966, the resumed meeting endorsed all the plans.

Underground water was tapped for immediate use and the 1966 Annual General Meeting was told that 3500 feet of new three inch internal reticulation main had been laid and that plans were completed for a 15,000 gallon catchment pit at the hospital sewage outlet at Termination Hill and for the laying of 3,000 feet of pipe from there to the course.

This scheme was completed by Christmas 1968.

The more flexible rain train and rainmaker sprinklers were preferred to the "pop up" type. Their efficiency needs no other commendation than the lush couch which now covers Gales. Supply is now abundant and extends to all parts of the course.

Now, thanks to the honorary work of the engineers and many others, members feel comfortably independent of the weather.

The whole cost of the watering scheme was kept down to \$21,456.00.

1941 Layout Variations

At the 1939 Annual Meeting, Dr Clive Boyce, then a relieving Medical Officer at the hospital, presented a plan for alterations to the layout affecting five holes. His suggestions were adopted and the new course was ready for the 1941 Opening day.

The first hole became a par four from a high tee beside the eighteenth green, and the sixth also a four from a tee well behind the fifth green. These two alterations were minor and independent of the main scheme. The club did not persevere with them and they were abandoned after about two years.

Fundamental departures were at the ninth, tenth and eighteenth. The ninth began back along the eighth fairway and was a 565 yard dogleg which for its first 200 yards was roughly parallel with the second log of the fifth. After rounding a large tree, the hole continued to its present green.

The tenth, of 540 yards, commenced in front of the present eighteenth green, and played up the eighteenth with the third shot across open ground to the present green. The pine trees have since been planted.

The eighteenth, measuring 404 yards, was the tenth in reverse, the tee being near the fence to the left of the seventeenth and the green in front of the present tenth tee. The remains of its outline can still be seen.

The altered layout eliminated the similarity between the ninth and eighteenth, obviated the walk in front of the eleventh tee when proceeding to the eighteenth and allowed a much larger practice area. In addition, it provided a tougher finish and brought the tenth tee as well as the first into the starter's view.

The alterations were controversial and at four of the six Annual Meetings which occurred during their existence, they were unsuccessfully challenged. They were finally discarded at a Special Meeting held on 8th March, 1947. The motion which was passed by the substantial majority reads "that the layout of the course on Nos. 9, 10 and 18 as designed by Dr Ellerton, be reverted to".

The variations were not a war time expediency. They were intended to be permanent.

Scoring At Gailes

Writing of Gailes in the August, 1955 issue of "Golf in Australia", Bob Gunton said "The course is strictly orthodox. There is not the faintest suggestion of trickery or artificiality in the design". This is true, and although the course is not long by modern standards, Gailes consistently resists low scoring.

In 1932, Yeerongpilly's professional, Mick Stafford, set a course record of 70 at which all comers shot for twenty years. It was equalled but no one bettered it until 1952.

Prior to the 1934 Queensland Close Championship, Goodna committeeman George Watson, donated a silver cup to be presented to the first player, amateur or professional, to break 70 under Open conditions. It stayed on the shelf for eighteen years until Eric Cremin took it in 1952 with a 69. Eric kindly redonated this historic trophy to the club prior to his death.

It is true that in those years, there were no major Championships, and there were years of war. But two Close Titles were contested on the course and the annual Anzac Cup and the 36 hole Ellerton Cup were played under Open conditions. Both events attracted professionals.

Arch McArthur twice gave the cup a shake. In the 1936 Anzac Cup, he missed shortish putts on the last two holes to finish with a 70 and in the 1938 Close, his 70 included an out of bounds at the fourth. New South Wales professional, Bill Holder, had it shot to pieces in 1937 but he faded and drifted to a 70.

From 1952 to 1974, Gales has staged five Queensland Open Championships, one Australian Open Championship, one Australian Amateur Championship and one Queensland Amateur Championship. These attracted many of the best players in Australia and a sprinkling from overseas. In all, only twenty-one players have broken 70 and there are only twenty-two rounds under 70. Eric Cremin has a double and his rounds were two years apart.

In 1952, Eric had a 69, Jimmy Adams a 68, and in the playoff, Ossie Pickworth a 67. In 1954, both Eric and Reg Want went round in 68 and Kel Nagle in 69. In the 1955 Australian Open, Bobby Locke and Peter Toogood, each with a 69, were the only players under 70 and each round included an eagle at the fourth. Peter was the first amateur to break 70 at Gales in open competition.

In the 1962 Queensland Open, Alec Mercer shot a 66, Ted Ball and Jack Coogan each a 67 and Sid Gowling a 69. The highlights of the 1967 event were Sommie Mackay's 67 and John Hay's 69. In the Queensland Amateur later that year, no one was under 70.

In 1972, the Amateur Championship of Australia was staged at Gales and attracted the cream of Australian amateur golfers. Only one round under 70 was recorded in the 143 qualifying rounds played. This was by Ron Hertrick whose second round 69 put him into the fourth qualifying position.

The 1973 Queensland Open Championship produced a further seven sub 70 scores. These were from Peter Croker, Bill Dunk and David Galloway, each with a 67, Errol Hartvigsen a 68, and Morris Tapper, Lindsay Sharp and Tom Berndt (a junior amateur) each with rounds of 69.

Up until 1974, Ted Ball's 282 in 1962 was the best 72 holes score at Gales. The next was 286 by Len Woodward for runner-up in the same event and by Billy Dunk in winning the 1973 Open. The 66 by Alex Mercer was the lowest round at Gales in open competition but Jack Coogan carded a 64 in a qualifying round of the club Championship on 21st June 1959. His historic card, enlarged, now hangs over the bar.

Struggle For Recognition

The long campaign for Championship recognition began almost as soon as the second nine was opened and continued for twenty-two years.

Dr Ellerton fought strenuously for a Queensland Open Championship, through the Associations, in letters to the press, and in every other way possible. All he obtained was the 1934 and 1939 Close Championships. Yeerongpilly, being the only course, staged all the early Queensland Championships. With the advent of Royal Queensland in 1921, the event alternated between the two clubs. The first Open allocated to another club was the 1951 event which went to Indooroopilly.

The Doctor based his argument for a Queensland Open Championship on the course, its immaculate grooming, the then modern clubhouse and, from 1934, the "Under 70" Cup still in its cupboard. His opponents claimed that the course was too far from Brisbane but the Doctor firmly believed that their objection was to the hospital. This pleased him not at all and he even wrote a press article stressing that playing fields and nine and one half acres of garden separated the course from the hospital. He was also quick to use the powerful ammunition he obtained from the published opinion of famous American professional, Gene Sarazen, to that time, the greatest golfer to visit Australia.

In 1934, Sarazen toured Australia with Australian, Joe Kirkwood, master of the trick shot. Joe had been professional at Yeerongpilly in 1916, later moving south and then to America. The revolutionary club the visitors were promoting was Sarazen's own invention, the sand iron. He said that he got the idea from watching an aeroplane taking off and noticing that the rudder was lowered. So, according to his article, he simply incorporated this take-off principle into the niblick he designed.

On 22nd October, 1934, the Americans played an exhibition match at Goodna against Arch McArthur and Ozzie Walker, winning three and two. Sarazen, fresh from a 64 at Royal Queensland the previous day did not reproduce the same touch and took 71.

Writing in the Courier Mail of the next day, Sarazen compared the Brisbane courses and rated Goodna Queensland's best. He later repeated that opinion in a radio broadcast from Sydney. He strongly recommended that an Australian Open should be held in Queensland and that the first one should go to Goodna.

One part of Sarazen's article reads:

"That Goodna layout is first rate. I was tickled to death to be able to play there. If it had Royal Queensland's greens, it would compare with any Championship courses we have. Dr Ellerton is an enthusiast and you want to encourage a man like that. I admire a man who is fearless in trapping a course. I'll bet that course develops some players because they have to play golf there. There is little to criticise. I think some bunkers are misplaced because they penalise ordinary players more than the cracks. The trap on the left of the tenth fairway belongs fifty yards down to the left to catch a hook or a mis-hit shot. The one on the eighth near the second shot ought to be taken out and another put in guarding the green which should be visible over the traps. If you hit your tee shots at Goodna, your seconds are simple but if you are wild you can score plenty high. The designer has been a little free with his tee shots. The two par five holes, the ninth and the eighteenth, should be trapped more severely from the tee. This would offer the long hitter a long carry to get closer to the green or safe play."

Armed with Sarazen's comments Dr Ellerton, with the approval of the Queensland Association, made a bid for an Australian Open, and in 1936 managed to have the course inspected by a committee from the Australian Golf Union. It included the Honourable Ivo Whitton and Mr M.J. Ryan, both prominent administrators and former Australian Amateur Champions. Again the Doctor was disappointed. Queensland did not get a National Open until Royal Queensland's first in 1946.

Recognition came with the Queensland Open of 1952, followed by another two years later. In 1954, Indooroopilly's Bill Duncan, then President of the Queensland Golf Council and always a good friend of Gales, arranged another Australian inspection. This time Ossie Porter and Jack McQueen, both of Sydney, were on the committee with Bill. Later that year, Gales received the ultimate in Golf, Australian rating.

The Ladies Golf Union was much easier to convince. It allotted the 1933 Queensland Ladies Championship to Goodna and, in doing so, recognised the course nineteen years before the men.

There was another storm in 1937 when the Ladies event which Gales expected was allocated elsewhere. This Championship did not return until the very wet year of 1950 when it was transferred to the course at short notice.

Players The Course Produced

Gene Sarazen said "I'll bet that course develops some players because they have to play golf there." His forecast was correct.

Gales has not yet produced a National Champion but Jack Coogan was almost there. He was runner-up to Peter Heard in the Australian Amateur at La Perouse in 1953 and he lost by the odd hole to the up and coming Bruce Devlin in the 1959 final at Royal Sydney when Bruce's curling downhill fifteen footer at the thirty-fifth thumped the back of the hole and fell. 1959 was the first year in which the Australian Amateur was held separately from the Open, and the title Australian Medallist was introduced for the leader of the qualifying round. Jack's name is the first on the illustrious list of winners.

Between 1952 and 1959, Jack represented Australia four times overseas and once in Australia. When touring New Zealand with the 1952 National team, he was third in the New Zealand Open and was beaten by Peter Heard in the Amateur final on the same Wanganui course. His Australian honours include representation in the Eisenhower Cup and Commonwealth Cup teams which toured England, America and South Africa on separate tours.

Jack was leading amateur in the 1953 Open at Gables and he and his brother, Dick, won the Australian Foursomes at Lake Karrinyup, Perth, in 1952. It was in this event that Dick hit one so far at the eighteenth that the club erected a plaque to mark the distance.

Dick Coogan is equally well known throughout Australia from his many interstate tours with the Queensland team over twenty-four years. He was Captain and Manager in 1969. Acknowledging the prestige the two Coogans brought to Gables and Queensland, the club made both Life Members in 1956.

In 1961, Jack relinquished his amateur status to succeed Arch McArthur as professional at Gables. It must indeed be rare for a Life Member of a club to become its professional.

Keith Drage, another Australian representative, toured Papua New Guinea with the 1971 national team. The first of his many representative tours with the Queensland team was in 1948 and he has several times been Captain. On a private overseas jaunt in 1969, he won the Phillipines Amateur at the Valley Golf Club, Manila, by taking the final, four and two, from defending champion, Joe Santos. He went on to Portugal and annexed the Portuguese Amateur at Estoril Club near Lisbon, accounting for Manuel do Brito, three and two in the final. Keith matched Jack Coogan's performance in winning the medal for the leading qualifier in the Australian Amateur Championship when he shared the honour in the 1972 series played at Gables.

Mrs Fred Anderson, Biddy to her many friends, was the most successful Gables Associate up until 1974. She has not only played for Australia but in 1967, she was selected as reserve for the National team which went to Canada. She represented Queensland continuously from 1960 to 1973 and was Captain in 1969. With Mrs Home of Wynnum, she won the Australian Foursomes at Royal Queensland in 1968. In 1966, she became the first Gables Associate to take the Queensland Title which she won again in 1970. She has qualified six times in the Australian Ladies Championship and has reached the quarter final. In 1969, Biddy reduced to scratch to be the lowest handicapped Associate in Queensland at the time.

Two or three Gables members are usually in the Queensland team and in 1948, there were four. In the Australian Amateur, many of them have survived into the late rounds. In the early seventies, these included Ron Hertrick, Doug Hertrick and Dick Coogan.

State representation began with George Twemlow in 1936 and Bill Stanley and J.P.A. Miller, then of Gables, followed in 1938. Up until 1974, the two Coogans, the two Westons, Noel and Mick, the two Hertricks, Ron and Doug, Keith Drage, Ian Carrick, and John Ebenston, all played for Queensland, most of them many times. Keith Cashman is another State representative, but he was then a member of Brisbane, and Glen Coghill who joined Gables in 1973 was also selected in the State side.

Queensland has won the Interstate series only once before 1974, and that was in Sydney in 1946. Dick and Jack were in the team, both on their first tour. In 1966, at Brisbane, when Queensland shared the honours with Victoria, Dick Coogan, Ron Hertrick and Keith Drage were in the side, Ron being the only player from any state to complete the series undefeated.

Mrs L. A. Thomas in 1948 was the first Associate from Gables to play for Queensland, and Georgina Brown did so in 1957 and 1958. Heather Blanch made the grade in 1966 and 1967 and in 1969, Mrs Cumming, a weekend Associate, was a reserve. Biddy Anderson, of course, was for many years a permanent.

Neil Humphreys, Dave Marshall, Gary Weston, Greg Tanner and Dave Wilkinson have made the Queensland Junior team, Dave Marshall being Captain in 1967. Among the girls, Heather Blanch and Kay Ingram played for the Queensland Juniors in 1965 and in 1969, Robyn Carbine represented the State in the British Salver at Royal Hobart.

1969 was a vintage year for Gables. The men, the Juniors and the Ladies "A" brought home their Pennants and Dick Coogan and Biddy Anderson each Captained the Queensland Teams. Keith Drage followed his overseas successes with the Queensland Amateur at Oxley and in that event all four semi-finalists were from Gables. One of them, Mick Weston, led the qualifiers.

In 1952, Noel Weston, now of Keperra, began the long list of Gables names on the Queensland Championship Cup. From 1952 to 1961, players the course produced won nine of the ten events. Jack Coogan won in 1953,

1956, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961 and Keith Drage got up to win in 1954 and 1957. After 1961, there was a drought but Keith Drage came back in 1969 and again in 1970. Keith Cashman, then of Brisbane, is another winner.

Dr Clive Boyce won the Queensland Championship in 1920 and again in 1921 and Charlie Brown in 1923. They were, of course, not then members as the club did not exist. Olly Stanley learned his golf as a caddy at Goodna and he later won many professional tournaments.

Pennant successes began with the Golf Association series in 1928 and when the conduct of these series was taken over by the Outer Metropolitan Association, Goodna won in 1931 and 1932. From then until there was a recess during the War, the club won its share but did not dominate.

Pennants were resumed in 1946 after the War, Gailes winning the first four. Pennant fixtures came under the sponsorship of the newly formed Brisbane District Golf Association in 1950 and up until 1974, Gailes has won sixteen out of the twenty-five pennants contested, the greatest run being between the years 1956 and 1964 inclusive, when nine straight wins were registered.

The 1955 Australian Open

As Thursday, the 26th May, 1955 approached, the incessant rain was causing deep concern. Many members took the week off work and the staff members together with the green staff kindly lent by other clubs overcame all the preliminary difficulties. All the clubs assisted but Oxley was outstanding. That club's offer, which was gratefully accepted, was "take all the men, just leave us one on Friday to cut the greens."

The Open commenced in clear weather but the respite was temporary. The rain came back and by early afternoon it was torrential. Water cascaded down the roadway past the eleventh tee, overflowing the mounds behind the seventeenth to inundate that green. Players, officials and spectators stood by helplessly as the first day's play was seriously in jeopardy.

It was that fine golfer from Cairns, Ray Howarth, who came up with the idea that saved the day. He said "why don't we build a wall?" There was a quick meeting of the Match Committee and the decision was to give it a go. Officials, spectators and players set to immediately and with double handfuls of sand from the big bunker added several inches to the height of the mound.

The impromptu levee worked. The stream was diverted and the green drained. A "GUR" peg for the bunker and the Open was on again in the rain. The first day's play was saved.

Throughout the crisis, the ever optimistic Frank Foley was forecasting to all and sundry that this was the clearing shower. No one was then impressed but he was right. The rain cleared and the sun came out about 2pm and after that the westerlies blew.

Despite the weather, Kel Nagle turned in a 70 on the first day, followed by Indooroopilly's Peter Davies on 71. Victorian Doug Bachli, then the reigning British Amateur Champion, was next on 72.

On the second day, South African, Bobby Locke, put a 70 with his first round 75 and Lee Wilson scored a 72. On the morning of the third day, Tasmanian, Peter Toogood, then the Amateur Champion of Australia and the leading Amateur in the 1954 British Open hit a 69.

In the final round on the third afternoon, Bobby Locke needed his 69 and his total of 290 to win by one stroke from New South Wales professionals Kel Nagle and Norman von Nida, both of whom had scored consistently. Jack Coogan was fourth with 296. This score led the amateurs.

Other Major Events At Gailes 1924 - 1974

Results of Championship events have been :

		Winner	Runner Up
1933	Queensland Associates	Miss Hood	Miss Dixon
1934	Queensland Close	Ossie Walker	Norman van Nida
		(after play-off)	
	Queensland Country	Dr C.R. Boyce	
1938	Queensland Close	Ossie Walker	
1950	Queensland Associates	Miss J. Reedman	Mrs Hauritz
1952	Queensland Open	Ossie Pickworth	Jimmy Adams
	Queensland Amateur	Noel Weston	Jack Coogan
1954	Queensland Associates	Miss J. Percy	Miss J. Fletcher
	Queensland Open	Reg Want	
	Queensland Amateur	Keith Drage	Frank Lyndsay
1958	Queensland Associates	Gloria Small	Georgina Brown

1962	Queensland Open	Ted Ball	Len Woodward
	Queensland Amateur	Sommie Mackay	Randall Vines
1964	Queensland Associates	Miss J. Fletcher	Mrs N. Langford
1967	Queensland Open	Sommie Mackay	Errol Hartvigsen
	Queensland Amateur	John Hay	Barney Porter
1969	Queensland Associates	Gail Corry	Mrs E. Hauritz
1971	Queensland Amateur	Vern Scott	Sommie Mackay
1972	Australian Amateur	Col Kaye	Peter Headland
1973	Queensland Open	Billy Dunk	Darryl Welch

Results Of Junior Events

Won By

1964	Australian Interstate Carnival	South Australia
1970	Australian Interstate Carnival	Victoria

1973 Gary Player International Classic Greg Norman

1974 Gary Player International Classic Greg Norman

The Members' Honour Board

The Championship

The first Goodna Champion was Jack Brown in 1926. Johnny Neil followed in 1927 but Jack was back in 1928. From 1928 to 1934 Johnny was clearly supreme as he won all six. George Twemlow got up in 1935 but Johnny came back in 1936.

Johnny Neil was a foundation member and he began his Golf with the club. In 1925 his handicap was eighteen with a bogey of 84 but he was quickly down to scratch where he stayed for years. The club lost a fine player in November, 1936, when Johnny, then aged thirty-nine years, died of typhoid. His record of eight championships stood until Jack Coogan equalled it in 1959. Dick Coogan has since eclipsed both of them winning his ninth in 1969. The 1948 calendar included a J. M. Neil Memorial Trophy which was fittingly won by Johnny Neil's nephew, Len Jones.

Bill Stanley won the title in 1937, J.P.A. Miller in 1938 and "Doggie" Wolfe in 1939. Upon resumption of the event in 1946, the Coogans dominated for many years, Dick winning nine titles, and Jack eight.

Interspersed are three titles to Keith Drage, and two each to Ron and Doug Hertrick. Mick Weston put his name up for 1970 and Ken Ploets is there for 1971. Ron Hertrick has now completed a hat trick taking the event in 1972, 1973 and 1974, giving him a total of five titles.

The Gailes Cup

The Goodna Cup, later renamed the Gailes Cup, is the original honour board event and the club's first Open Championship. It is an 18 hole stroke and its history commenced in 1925, Irwin Constance being the first winner.

When the number of Open events was restricted to accord with Association policy, the Gailes Cup continued as a club competition.

Anzac Cup

Ex-Servicemen's competition in Queensland began with the A.I.F. Cup at Royal Queensland on 2nd May, 1925. Mrs Anderson was the sponsor. She was the wife of Dr Anderson and both were foundation members of Goodna. Her trophy for the event was a reproduction in solid silver of an eighteen pound shell, the original of which was taken from the Turks at Gallipoli.

Goodna's Frank Gilson won it, and in doing so, he became the first Goodna member to win an Open event. George Turmayne, also of Goodna, was equal second. After this event, the newspapers of the day said that Goodna had "arrived". Royal Queensland's example was quickly followed by other clubs and Goodna sought and obtained permission from the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth to name its event "The Anzac

Cup". The club provided the first Cup and the conditions of play were that it was to be won outright by the surviving player with the greatest number of wins over fifteen years. The Cup was to be held by the winner's club, and the winner received a replica.

Foundation member, Lew Price, won the first Anzac Cup event in 1926. He did not contest the next ten years, but won again in 1938. In 1941, Lew, being the only player with two wins was declared the outright winner.

The presentation was delayed as Lew was overseas again, this time with the Second A.I.F. This was his third service trip as in 1935 he was in London with the Ex-Servicemen's contingent which Australia sent to do the Coronation of King George VI.

The Anzac Cup continued with a fresh Cup. It is an eighteen hole stroke event held on Anzac Day each year. The proceeds of the day go to Goodna's R.S.L. Welfare Fund.

Doctor Ellerton Memorial

Founded in 1929 as "The Ellerton Cup", this event served a dual purpose. It marked the opening of the second nine and permanently acknowledged Dr Ellerton. Several members combined to donate the Cup.

Originally a 36 hole Open stroke with a handicap limit of twelve, the event was open to professionals for whom there was a purse attached. Local professional Charlie Brown won the first Cup, and of course the purse, with a score of 148 from scratch.

In 1949, the purse was abolished and in 1950, the event was altered to an 18 hole Open Stroke with a handicap limit of eighteen. Since the Doctor's death, it has been known as "The Dr Ellerton Memorial".

Western Gailes Trophy

This historic trophy, presented by the Western Gailes Golf Club in Scotland, is perhaps the most coveted at Gailes, after the Championship. It began in 1939 and is an 18 hole stroke event from which eight club members qualify for match play.

"Doggie" Wolfe Memorial

"Doggie" was a Goodna caddy who developed into an outstanding player. A big lad, and later a big man, he was a powerful hitter and some of his prodigious clouts are still remembered. One of his feats was to drive across the road at the ninth. He won a Courier Mail Caddies Cup and was the 1939 Champion.

Joining the A.I.F., he went to Malaya with a Pioneer Unit of the Eighth Division and was taken prisoner at Java and transferred to Singapore. Dr Clive Boyce met up with him again when they were both at Changi. "Doggie" did not return, dying at Ranau, Borneo, on 2nd July, 1945. He was 26 years of age.

In 1955, at the suggestion of Dr Clive Boyce, the club instituted the annual "Doggie" Wolfe Memorial. It is an Open Four Ball Best Ball Stableford and the first event was won by one of his follow caddies, Jack Coogan, playing with Len Jones.

Proceeds of this day also go to the Goodna Sub-Branch Welfare Fund.

Clive Boyce Cup

Dr C. R. Boyce O.B.E., together with his father, Mr W.F.R. Boyce, who died in 1965 aged ninety-five years, began working for Gailes before the club existed. Of championship stature as a golfer, Dr Boyce has continuously maintained his interest in Gailes, and his knowledge and experience have found expression in many parts of the course.

He was a Medical Officer at the Hospital for six months in 1928, and for the two years preceding his enlistment. From 1942 to 1945 he was a prisoner of war and on his return in 1946, he went to Toowoomba as Superintendent of the Willowburn Hospital. In 1950, he succeeded Dr Stafford as Medical Superintendent at Goodna.

He retired on 30th June, 1965, and in that year Her Majesty honoured him for his services to Queensland by awarding him the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. A life member, Dr Boyce was still a regular visitor to the club in 1974.

In 1963, "The Clive Boyce Cup" began and was immediately accorded honour board status. It is an Open Four Ball Best Ball Stableford played as a pipe opener on the Saturday preceding Opening Day.

Frank Foley Trophy

Although not of honour board status, one other event recently introduced is well established on the Brisbane District Golf Association calendar.

When the Queensland Golf Union began the Angus Buchanan Trophy in 1964 for the most consistent amateur, Gales did not have a suitable open event for low markers. One was introduced and fittingly named the Frank Foley Trophy.

Frank came on the Gales Committee in 1949 and was there continuously until 1960. He was Captain in 1952 and 1953 and President for the three years from 1954. He then continued as Immediate Past President and later as a committeeman. It was during this period that he was President of the Brisbane District Golf Association. He came back as Captain of Gales in 1967 and 1968, resigning when he was elected as President of the Queensland Golf Union.

The pinnacle of his golf administration career came in 1972 when he became President of the Australian Golf Union and was able to be host to the Australian Amateur Championship played on his own course - GAILES.

He was the club's foremost post-war administrator and has been the chief architect of many improvements at Gales. He brought to his representative responsibilities, not only his legal knowledge but also a wide experience of golf. He was the acknowledged Queensland authority on the rules of the game and his forceful debating in the Queensland and Australian Unions was always for the good of golf, not forgetting Queensland and Gales.

Despite the demands on his time, he frequently played his Saturday fourball and his eminence in golf did not prevent him taking a shovel at working bees at Gales. He was the sort of golfer who rakes a bunker while he has a spell.

The Frank Foley Trophy is an Open 18 Hole Stroke with a handicap limit of nine.

The Ladies' Honour Board

The Championship

The first Ladies Championship in 1926 went to Mrs B. C. Leslie. The Ladies title has circulated more than the men's and no lady established a monopoly until Mrs Biddy Anderson commenced her run in 1960. Biddy has won every championship since except 1968 which went to Robyn Carbine and 1972 to Beryl Home. Her thirteen championships is a club record beating Dick Coogan's nine.

Mrs L. A. Thomas won six from 1946 to 1951, and Mrs Burrows four between 1932 and 1936. Mrs Turner held three titles from 1928 to 1930 and Georgina Brown also has three between 1956 and 1959. No other lady has won more than two.

Gailes Cup

This is the Associates' original honour board event and Queensland's first club Open Competition for Ladies. It began in 1926 and the first winner was Miss Jean Douglas from Yeerongpilly. It is still an 18 hole open stroke held during the week. Originally, it was named the Goodna Cup but its name changed with the club's name.

Harding Frew Cup

Mr and Mrs Harding Frew of Ipswich were foundation members and this cup was donated by Mrs Harding Frew who was the Ladies' President in 1929. It began as a mid-week Open Foursome but became an 18 hole Stroke from 1940 and a club Foursomes from 1949. It is now played on a Saturday so that both the mid-week ladies and the business girls may compete. Its history commenced in 1929 when it was won by Miss M. McDonald and Mrs J.F. Cook both of Royal Queensland.

May Stafford Salver

Mrs Stafford became interested in Gailes when her husband, Dr B.F.R. Stafford, succeeded Dr Ellerton as Medical Superintendent of the Hospital. She presided over the ladies for twelve years from 1937 to 1941 and from 1946 to 1952 inclusive. She took an active interest in the affairs of the Ladies Golf Union and is a Life member of Gailes.

The associates began the May Stafford Salver in 1964 and it is a Four Ball Best Ball Standard Scratch event held during the week. The first winners were Mrs H. Freeman and Mrs C. Le Brocq.

Chloris Johnstone Memorial Bowl

Mrs Johnstone was co-opted to the Associates Committee in 1956 and was President from 1959 to 1961. She held office in the Ladies Golf Union and was the club's delegate from 1957 until her death in August, 1967. She was a player of quality and won the Associates' Championship in 1957.

Ellerton Cup

Donated by Mrs Ellerton, this mid-week trophy dates from Goodna's nine hole days. It was then a 36 hole Open Foursomes but it became a club Fourball for a few years from 1940. After the War, it became a club Foursomes with eight pairs to qualify for match play. The handicap limit is 25 and the first winners in 1928 were Miss Joan Douglas and Mrs S. E. Travill of Brisbane.

Phil Staunton Trophy

Phyl Staunton began playing at the club before 1930. She is the originator of the type of membership known as Weekend Associates both at Gailes and in Queensland. She managed the business girls at the club from before 1930 until 1963 and that is easily the record for service. She was not strictly on the committee with the exception of the War years when she was Secretary of the Ladies.

Phyl moved to Taringa and the committee honoured her by commencing this trophy in 1972. It is for weekend girls only and is their only honour board event.

The Permanent Staff

In 1949, Bill Fallon became the club's first full time Secretary and he carried on for four years. He resigned on 5th September, 1953 and was replaced by Bob Conroy. Bob remained until 31st March, 1954. Jim Coogan succeeded him.

Jim was there until 21st April, 1955 when Merv Barnes was appointed. Merv left on 21st February, 1957 to take up a similar appointment with The Lakes Club in Sydney and he handed over to Ted Goodwin who held office until 18th March, 1960.

Kev Dowling then resigned from the Committee to become Secretary Manager in 1960, and remained until his untimely death at the end of 1962. Ken Barnett replaced him but within ten months he was the victim of a road accident and the club had lost two Secretary Managers by death within a year.

The popular Jim Philben followed, taking up duty on 8th December, 1963. Jim came to the job well equipped as his fifteen years service on the Committee at Gales had given him an extensive knowledge of golf and the club.

Jim dedicated his life to sport and the organisation of sportsmen. He was first employed in the Post Master General's Department but transferred to the Railway Institute in 1942. There he was sports and social secretary for 21 years until he came to Gales.

For the first fourteen months, Goodna did not have a resident professional but Peter Porter, a Mr Purkiss and a Mr Murphy visited as required. On 17th October, 1925, foundation member, Charlie Brown, then aged 30 years, resigned from the Railway Department to become Goodna's first professional.

Charlie learned his golf in England and it was good enough to win him the 1923 Queensland Championship. As Goodna's professional, he laid the foundations of an imposing tournament record which included the Queensland Professional Championships of 1931 and 1932.

Very early in Charlie's career, the press described him as a deadly putter and dubbed him "One Putt Charlie", a name which never left him. Charlie served Goodna with distinction for eight years resigning in November, 1933 to go to the Enoggera Club, now Keperra, and later to Oxley. He died in retirement on 5th December, 1970.

When the club called for applications for a successor, thirty-four were received, and Arch McArthur, then in the Bundaberg District, was appointed on 25th January 1934, taking up duty on 24th February. Olly Stanley, a former Goodna caddy and Charlie's assistant, carried on until Arch arrived. Olly is probably the best player the early course produced as he was many times selected in the Queensland Professional's Vicars Shield team. He was in the team that went to Adelaide in 1938 at the same time as his brother Bill was there with the Queensland Amateurs.

As usual, Dr Ellerton chose wisely and Arch remained the club's loyal and efficient professional for twenty-seven years until his retirement in 1961. His only absence was on Naval Service during the War. Acknowledging his long and faithful service, the club elected Arch an honorary member in 1956.

On 1st October, 1961, members were delighted to accept Jack Coogan as the club's professional.

The first head green-keeper was George Copley and he was followed by Jack Phillips who retired in 1967 after twenty years service. Ron Moore succeeded him and in 1974 he was still head green-keeper.

The Honorary Workers

For almost twenty years, the club operated practically entirely on a voluntary basis. Many of the early members showed outstanding worth and among these, to mention a few, were Dr Ellerton, George Sims, Henry Maddick, Luke Woods, Paddy Meany, George Burrows, Jim Farrell, E.J.W. Payton, B.C. Percy, and the Doctors Eland Shaw, Costello Shaw and H.R. "Snow" Barrett.

Alf Grimes was Assistant Secretary and Press Correspondent until 1928. He wrote voluminously and his meticulously filed press cuttings are now the only records of the first four years.

Ten men and four ladies have remained on Committee for ten years or more. There is also Phyl Staunton who was on the Ladies Committee for a few years only but who managed the week-end girls for something over thirty-four years.

For long service, Jim Philben leads the men with fifteen years and this does not include his term as Secretary Manager. Jim came on the Committee in 1947, and excluding 1952, was there until the end of 1963. He had been President and Captain and was the last Honorary Secretary. He has held every office in the club apart from that of Treasurer.

Dr Ellerton, Captain from 1924 to 1937, and Luke Woods who was Honorary Secretary for twelve years, each have fourteen years on the Committee and Paddy Meany and Frank Foley follow with thirteen.

Jackson Voller was in office for twelve years including full terms as President and Captain and George Sims was on the Committee for eleven years. Dave Tanner also has held the two top positions and he has ten years and so also has Wally Jagerndorff whose sphere was the realm of finance. Brian McCarthy, in his second year as President in 1974, was then serving his tenth year on Committee.

Mrs Ellerton was Captain and President of the Ladies for thirteen years and she is followed by Mrs Stafford who was President for twelve. The Ladies now rotate their offices and the only recent lady to serve for ten years is Mrs Kay McIntyre.

Many others have worked extensively for the club but do not accept or continue in office. There are delegates and auditors, the professional men whose advice is always available and those who seldom miss a working bee. Other dedicated members toil on the social committees, in the Wednesday Club and with the Juniors, and there are those who caddy for the pennant players. During the game, they try their darndest to keep their players on the straight and narrow and afterwards, strive equally hard to get them off it.

One sterling supporter was ex-test umpire, Les Townsend. He did not often play but was always there for a job of work and, with his wife, Beryl, was at every pennant game pulling a buggy or pulling for his mates.

Gailes has given three Presidents to the Queensland Golf Union in Dr A.D. Buchanan, Roy Unwin and Frank Foley, and two to the District Association in Dave Tanner and Frank Foley. Twice there has been a dual Presidency. In 1958, Roy was President of the Union, and Frank the Association, and again in 1968, Frank headed the Union and Dave the Association.

A fountain at the tenth tee commemorates Mrs Nahrung who was a foundation member and Ladies Secretary in 1940 and 1941 and again in 1950. She was a cousin of Kev Bowden. Another water fountain at the first is in memory of the two Secretary Managers, Kev Dowling and Ken Barnett, who died in office. Mrs Maddick, a foundation member and a tower of strength of Gailes and the Queensland Ladies Golf Union for over thirty years is remembered by a plaque on a seat near the ladies tee at the first.

The Hospital

The course is on the Wolston Park Hospital Reserve and the freehold land which was purchased and surrendered in 1928 is still part of that Reserve. In 1965, the club was granted a special lease over a small area about the clubhouse and this is the only land to which the club has title. Merv Jenkinson kindly attended to the surveying.

In 1941, following representations by the Honourable William McCormack, then a Committee man and a former Premier of Queensland, the Government agreed by letter dated 1st October, 1941, that, should the club ever vacate the Reserve, it could remove its assets.

Harmony has always existed between the hospital and the club and each of the three Medical Superintendents to follow Dr Ellerton have been golfers and each has been President of Gailes.

At the hospital, Dr Stafford succeeded Dr Ellerton and he handed over to Dr Boyce in 1950. In 1965, Dr Ormonde Orford took over from Dr Boyce and became President of the club from 1970 to 1972.

The course was built and for many years maintained by the labour of patients as an exercise in Occupational Therapy. Dr Ellerton firmly believed in this form of treatment and his beliefs were developed to build a cricket ground and a golf course. He had demonstrated his confidence long before he came to Queensland.

Everything he did on the course was with the full approval of the Queensland Health authorities. Among the patients, only volunteers worked and generally, they were allowed to choose the type of work they wished to do and the foreman under whom they wished to be. The over-riding principle was that they would take an interest. If they had idiosyncrasies, they were allowed them. One example is the patient employed in the building of the flat for the first green who insisted on wheeling his barrow upside down. He was allowed to do so for weeks.

At times, the Doctor's methods drew criticism but whenever he was challenged, he had an incontrovertible answer. He simply quoted his discharge rate and asked that it be compared with others. Once he was officially accused of going beyond his original agreement in building such a golf course but his reply was that he had promised cheap golf to staff and patients. That they were getting, and if it was on the best course in Brisbane then so much the better.

Dr Ellerton retired on 30th June, 1937. He then went to live at Balgowlah, Sydney, playing on for years with the Manly Golf Club. He died in July, 1951, aged eighty years. Mrs Ellerton continued to reside in Sydney and the grand old lady, then aged eighty-nine years, was struck by a car at Manly on 3rd November, 1969, dying on the same day.

It is impossible for present members to visualise the desolation which the dogged perseverance of one man turned into the first nine. The quarry at the fifth and the deep gouge to the left of the second show at least the type of natural soil.

It may be legitimate to wonder whether any other golf designer, at his only attempt, has produced a Championship layout which has stood the test of fifty years with one alteration only, and that made by the designer himself over forty years ago.

This is Dr Ellerton's achievement, and what he has left behind is the Gables Golf Club and the Gables Golf Course.

The course will always be Queensland's monument to Dr Henry Byam Ellerton.