Cornelius Waugh was a legend in his native Leith as a highly popular Edinburgh councillor and stalwart of the LRGs and the Leith cricket and rugby clubs. Cornie’s name resounded throughout Scotland and beyond in 1986 in the immediate wake of the troubled 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh. That was when Waugh had the audacity to do what few in the world ever did – stand up to the “bully boy tactics” of publishing magnate Robert Maxwell.

Realising that not everyone had his ability to talk straight and identify with the man in the street, he went into politics in 1969 as a candidate for the Progressives in South Leith ward, the start of a successful political career – and the start of his dog-walking "surgeries" on his beloved Links. As leader of the Conservatives on Edinburgh District Council, Cornie Waugh had been named vice-chairman of the Games’ organising committee three years before the Games began. Waugh gave up most of his other work to help ensure the Games made Edinburgh proud.

Waugh spent the latter part of his life taking care of his family, his community and his beloved sports clubs. He was a relentless, driving force behind Leith Cricket Club, whose members say the club might have faded into oblivion without him. He was its president but he was also its cleaner, harman and general dogshobby whenever needed.

Waugh was also a familiar face among Scottish rugby fans. He was a long-time member of the Leith Academicals – now Leith Rugby Club – and became their match secretary and president.

As a founding member of the Leith Rules Golf Society, Cornie also chaired the Friends of Leith Links consultative group regarding the City of Edinburgh’s Master Plan for the refurbishment of the Links as one of the city’s Premier Parks. He challenged the City’s LDDF plan for the poorly conceived seaward extension, which adversely affected the Links. He supported the much more imaginative northwards extension across Seafield Place.

Upon Waugh’s death, our society described him as "in many ways, Mr Leith Links – one of the great Leithers of his generation”. Cornelius Waugh, is survived by his sisters, Rose and Charlotte.

Adapted from Phil Davidson’s Obituary to CW 1937 – 2009 -- 2009

Upcoming Events:

March 7th
June 30th/July 1st
July 2nd
July 3rd
Pending

Anniversary of Signing the Rules Celebration
Hickory Challenge Matches at Leith Links
Foulis Medal
Hickory Open
Hill of Tarvit and Challenge matches with Musselburgh Old and Bruntsfield Short Hole


On Wednesday 8th July 2009 we again played host to our great friends from Musselburgh Old Course Golf Club, welcoming them back to the Links for the 4th challenge match using hickory clubs.

In the previous three years each team had one victory under their belt, with one tied match, but nobody could have predicted just how close the result would turn out.

The four matches were played as four-ball, best ball, with three finishing all square - Alastair Chalmers and Eugene Bradley against Eddie and Colin Whoriskey; Jim Maguire and Lionel Freedman against Robin Rae and Jimmy Duffield and finally Martin Fletcher and Brian Graham against Billy Finnigan and Scott McFarlane.

So it all came down to the other match, Douglas Foulis and Robin Morris for the hosts pitted against Jim Green and Colin Blyth for the visitors. Douglas and Robin had been 2-up and favourites to triumph, but their opponents showed great spirit to come back to take the match down the last all-square. Douglas’s putt to halve the hole, their game and the match overall finished an agonising three inches short, so victory went to Musselburgh who now lead 2½ - 1½ in the series. Alastair Chalmers
President’s Message

This is Issue Five of the Gowffer's Tattle, and fully of interest! Please think about Issue Six. Have you an historic or present day reminiscence you think would be of interest to us all? If so, please get to work for Issue Six, to be published in September.

We are exceedingly sorry to have the sad news of the deaths of Cornie Waugh and Dan Orr.

In Cornie we have lost a pillar of the club and a very dear and loyal friend. In Dan Orr, cheerful, committed and ever-young we have lost our oldest member, who was to be 102 on 7 March 2010.

I wish you all reduced handicaps and a successful, happy golfing year. Douglas Foulis, President

2009 Secretary’s Report

As always with LRGS we have had a busy year and I would like to start my report by thanking the committee who have worked hard this year in putting together various events.

Looking back over the year we had our usual mix of golf related events.

The 7th of March was marked by a lunch held at Musselburgh Old Course Clubhouse where the speaker was Mr Iain Macintyre who is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons and spoke on the career of John Rattray away from the golf course. It was incredible to look at the level of detail held by the Royal College of Surgeons on doctors who had qualified so long ago. The talk was well received by all who attended. Thanks to our friends at Musselburgh Old for setting up the lunch for us.

Speaking of Musselburgh Old Golf Club on the 7th of April we played our annual match over the Old Course. They were obviously upset by the loss in 2008 and set out to make sure that it was not repeated. The score was 4 to 1 in favour of Musselburgh Old. Modesty forbids me to say who got our point!!! An excellent day as always well organised and played in the right spirit as befits the gentlemen involved.

On the 30th May we tried something different with a visit to Hill of Tarvit in Fife. We had fourteen players who enjoyed two rounds of 9 holes. The weather was excellent as was the hospitality provided by David and Michelle. We played using different golf balls for each of the 9 holes. The first 9 using a 1980 golf ball and the second 9 using a 1924 golf ball. Apparently the 1924 ball should have gone further but this was not always the case. A most enjoyable day was had by all.

The start of July means we are in a position to repay our friends from Musselburgh with a return match held on Leith Links. See Page 1 for results! Overall, A good evening with plenty of laughter both on and off the course.

On the 9th July we had our match with Bruntsfield Short Hole over the Links. The result was a win for LRGS. The evening included a buffet in the clubhouse and the usual tales of missed puts and misguided shots.

These evenings for me are what golf is all about. Competition played in the right spirit by everyone.

The Fouilis Medal was played on the 10th July with 11 teams from a variety of Leith organisations and businesses. This is the best entry for this competition to date and we are hopeful of continuing to grow the entries for next year (see Page 3).

Our main event of the year is the Hickory Open played over 10 holes on Leith Links (see Page 3). The weather was kind all week and held out until the Saturday. All in all, A great day’s golf well organised by Alastair Chalmers.

Our final golfing event was our match against Bruntsfield Short Hole at the Meadows. Once again we were treated to a demonstration of golfing skills by BSH. The result being a win for BSH by 3 to 1 to be fair to Robin Morris he did have to play on his own and put up an excellent display.

As well as our normal activities we were also asked at last year’s AGM to progress with the development of a suitable model for a statue which could be placed on Leith links as a permanent reminder of Leith’s part in golf’s history. I am delighted to say that this work has progressed. A model of the proposed statue will be unveiled at the AGM. We hope everyone will be happy with the result. A great deal of effort was put in by the committee and in particular Pat Denzler, Douglas Fouilis and Bill Cairns to move this forward. We are also indebted to Philip Knowles for his input and willingness to meet with the sculptor David Annand to deal with the issues of recreating a lifelike golfer from 1744. Work has also been done with City of Edinburgh Council on the possible sites and the many issues associated with Leith Links.

I hope that everyone will gather from this report that a lot is happening and with your help we would hope to do even more next year. Brian Graham, Secretary

Hickory Open 2009

For the third year running the winners of the Hickory Open were Bruntsfield Short Hole, though Steven Doyle and Paul Middleton were taken right to the wire by their opponents Merchants of Edinburgh.

An innovation this year was the introduction of a handicap event alongside the main competition, for a club presented to the Society by Philip Knowles, one of our members and a respected golf archivist and historians. The scores at the top of the qualifying rounds were as usual very close, our finalists getting through on a count-back of the last 5 holes. Based on national handicaps, Bruntsfield were favourites to win the scratch award, but as is often the case our “greens” proved to be a great leveller; Merchants quickly established a two-hole advantage and although the match ebbed and flowed, on the penultimate green they had a short putt for victory. Unfortunately for them, it was missed, Bruntsfield won the last to take it to sudden-death, finally triumphing at the second extra hole. As the final progressed it was clear that both teams were getting distinctly uneasy on the greens, one spectator’s comment of “there but for the grace of God....nicely summing up the feelings of many as they watched good players struggle!” The handicap final was more clear-cut. The Foot of Leith Walk Golfing Society, one of the main supporters of the event over the years, were conceding too many shots to The Odd Couple, though they were the first to say that their opponents thoroughly deserved their victory, with Robin Morris guiding his higher handicap partner, Yves Fouilis, extremely well to a 2 & 1 victory. Alastair Chalmers

Fouilis Medal 2009

The Fouilis Medal was presented to the Society by our President, Douglas Fouilis, in 2007 and is competed for by Leith-based organisations.

This year 11 teams took part, by far and away the highest number of entries we have had for the event. The weather was kind to us and the competition was keenly fought.

In presenting the medal to the winners, Douglas commented that it was a delight to again be able to play golf on this historic and unique stretch of land.

The winners were South Leith Church, represented by Andy Ferrier and Alastair Chalmers (pictured with President Douglas Fouilis) who narrowly pipped Leith Lynx by one stroke. In conversation at the 19th hole (or to more accurate the 11th hole!), it transpired that Leith Lynx had taken a 7 at their last hole whilst the winners had holed a good long putt on their last green. South Leith duly expressed their sympathy to the Lynx team at their misfortune and we are sure they were totally sincere about it! Alastair Chalmers