

The History of Barnwell Park Golf Club – Preface



The first BPGC Trophy and logo—1965



Begun as a social golf club in 1964, incorporated in 1968 and constructing a Club House in 1974, the Club's first 44 years has been a triumph of co-operative effort and determination.

This is a story that needs to be told!

Produced with the support and assistance of the
Board of Directors of Barnwell Park Golf Club

Club Ph 9713 1162

Preface.

It was the May announcement of the retirement of Erik Royds, our Club Professional of 44 years, that started me thinking about writing a “history” of Barnwell Park Golf Club. This seemed appropriate, particularly while some of our original members were still around to tell the story of this remarkable little club and Erik’s involvement.

As we all know Erik is passionate about golf and his second love, after his family, became the Barnwell Park Golf Club.

Shortly after deciding to do something about the Club history, I discovered there was a great story to tell.

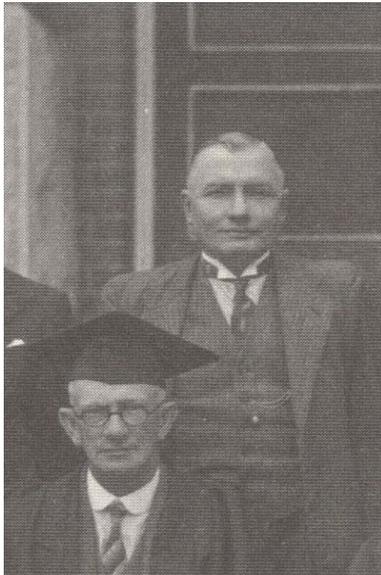
I discussed the idea with James Wright, who is a local that sometimes comes down to the Club and also a bit of a history buff. The idea was that James would do some research at Council and the libraries while I fossicked through the Club archives. Diana had already written a history of Erik’s involvement at BPGC for his 40th celebrations. So it began.

A little over a month later the first two chapters have been completed. It is hoped that from this small beginning other members will now come forward to contribute to additional chapters.

Happy reading.

Bruce Goldsmith, James Wright and Diana Royds.

Barnwell Park Golf Club – Chapter 1: From Out House to Club House



Ald W.T. Barnwell—1937



The Mayor and Staff, 1937.
Front row: N. Bennett (Typist), D. W. Allison (Engineer), C. E. Morgan (Town Clerk), J. Henley (Mayor), P. L. McKinnon (Deputy Town Clerk), E. Watson (Records Clerk). *Back row:* H. V. Stewart (Health Inspector), R. Quint (Cashier), W. T. Barnwell (Building Inspector), R. Feilberg (First Junior), R. King (Cadet Engineer), D. R. Whiteman (Second Junior), E. Sapsford (Overseer). *Inset:* B. Stening (Machine Operator). (Photo: Municipality of Drummoyne)

CHAPTER 1—From Out House to Club House

The history of Barnwell Park Golf Club (BPGC) is a story of the considerable achievement of a small group of willing and dedicated people from the Drummoyne, Five Dock and Concord areas.

It began in 1964 with the construction by Drummoyne Council of the first 9 holes and a small brick pro-shop and amenities block at the end of Lyons Road where William Street is now constructed – “The Out House”

However, before this, it is useful to trace the origins of the name “Barnwell Park” itself.

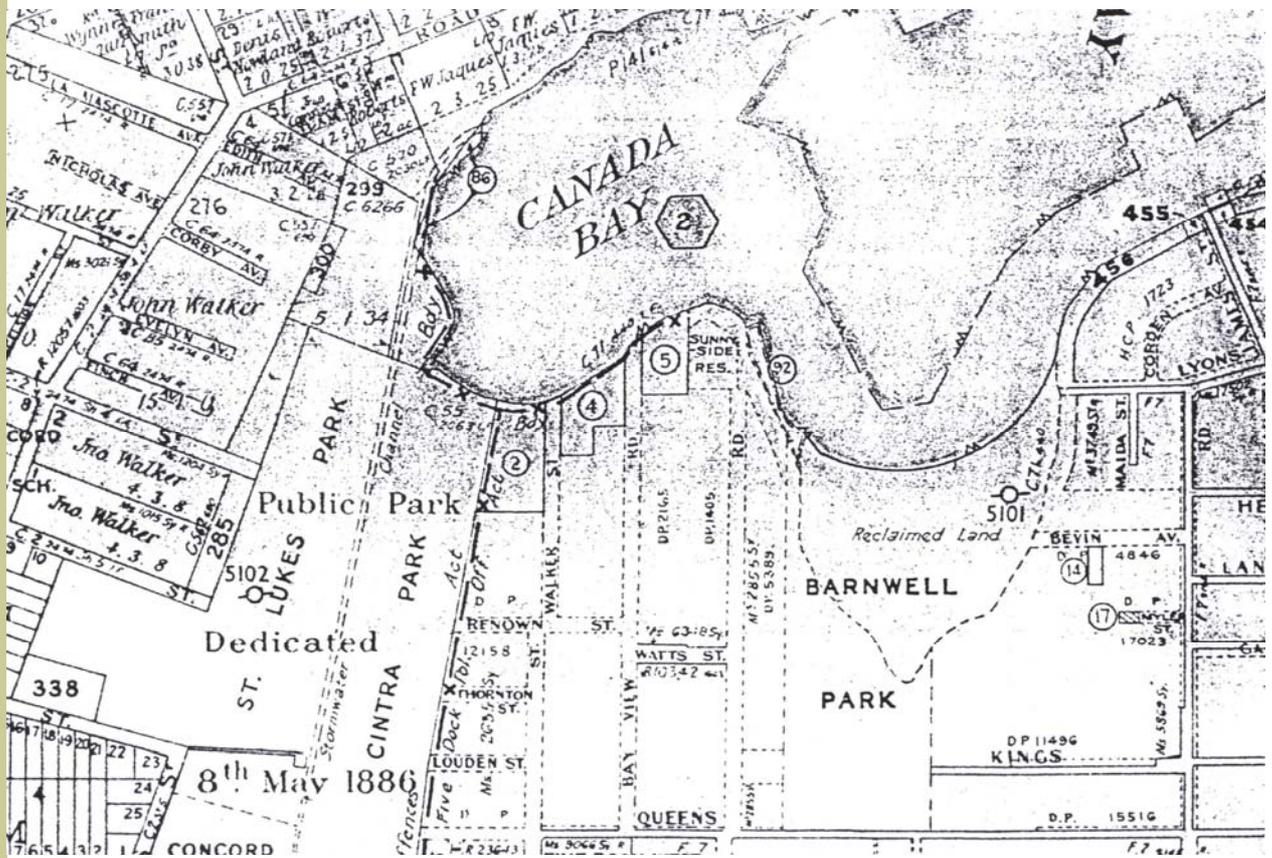
In the 1930’s, the present course land was swamp and mangrove. It was gradually being filled by the Council and used as a “tip”. There was a park located off Queens Road known as Queens Road Reserve and a Sunnyside Reserve which is near our present back 9.

In 1942 these two areas were renamed “Barnwell Park” in recognition of the late father of Alderman W.T. Barnwell (formerly the Council’s Building Inspector), who made a donation to the Council of a portion of the area for “the purpose of a park for the enjoyment of local residents”. It is understood this land is where the present Leisure Centre is located near Queens Road.



Barnwell Park being filled

Barnwell Park Golf Club – From Out House to Club House



Plan Circa 1942

Aerial photo May 1951



Barnwell Park Golf Club – From Out House to Club House



Aerial photo 1961

Aerial photo July 1970



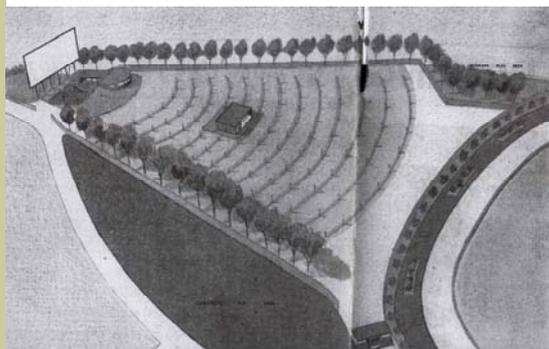
Barnwell Park Golf Club – From Out House to Club House



Aerial photo July 1970



Current Title Plan



An early idea put forward was for Barnwell Park to be a drive-in theatre

Barnwell Park was used for baseball, cricket and soccer from the 1940's, however, ground conditions were often poor, always subject to being levelled, filled and reclaimed. In 1952, Council first considered the potential of the site as a golf course, but it was not until 1963 that work commenced on the construction of a 9-hole golf course, which was completed in November 1964. The construction of a second nine holes was completed in 1974 and again, much of this was on reclaimed land.

In 1962, the "Drummoyne Social Golf Club" approached the Council to build a golf course at Barnwell Park. Some of the land was owned by the Maritime Services Board, over which Council had little control. This was however quickly resolved and work commenced in 1963 on the course.

Combined with the construction of a small pro-shop, Council decided to seek the services of a 'golf professional'. The name Ivan Dummett first appears in the Council records. However, Council decided to advertise the position with the PGA and eighteen (18) applicants came forward.

Of these, a young 22 year old called Erik Royds was successful. Erik had turned professional at the very young age of 17 years, the youngest to ever achieve this with the PGA and a record he still holds today.

Barnwell Park Golf Club – From Out House to Club House

Erik was handed the keys to “his” brand new shop in December 1964 and the course was officially opened on 13th March 1965. About 100 people played golf that day, but the first group to have that honour was 70 players from the Western Suburbs Sports and Community Club, now the Canada Bay Club.

The Council records also show that on 23rd December 1964 a “Barnwell Park Golf Club Committee” was formed by Council and it was in the back room of the “old pro-shop”, which is now Erik’s buggy room and store, that the Barnwell Park Social Golf Club later met to conduct its business.

Life member, Pat Bradwell, was among those original members and he recalls how instrumental Erik was in forming the club, charging each person £1 to be a member and creating its first competitions.

Other members at that time included George & Betty Noakes, Val Lancett, Bill Reynolds, Jim Burkett and Eve Cashman. Pat Bradwell also distinctly recalls the very important role that Ray Aspen played. Ray was a member of another social golf club at his place of work and was a friend of Erik’s. Ray would venture over to “Barney” to play and help Erik with the organisation of events.

From 1965 till 1968, the Club membership flourished and outgrew its humble club house facilities. Enterprising members banded together to see if they could purchase some land for a new club house. They had their eyes on a piece of land surrounding the then “machinery and mower shed” that might just become available (although no road connected it from Lyons Road West).

The BPSGC members moved on with purpose and prospect, eventually becoming incorporated as a Club on 11th September 1968. This gave them the mechanism to raise funds for the land purchase and eventual club house construction.

The land around the machinery shed was reclaimed land and was owned by the Maritime Services Board. The records show a “special lease” being in place in 1970. Although a little sketchy on the detail, Pat recalls the opportunity coming up to obtain control of the land and eventually purchasing it. The Council also had an interest in the land. With this in mind, the Club moved quickly and made an application to purchase the land on 3rd April 1974.

It was no doubt due to the foresight, skill and guile of the Board of the new Barnwell Park Golf Club Ltd that the Land Board Office of NSW wrote to the Club only a few months later offering conversion of Special Lease (70/31) into a conditional purchase (74/31). The offer was accepted by the Club on 24th July 1974, but it was not until 30th October 1974 that the Minister approved the purchase. Approval was finally granted by the Department of Lands on 7th November 1974.

The purchase price was \$68,370.00 and this was to be paid in yearly instalments at 6% interest. The final payment was made by the Club in 1994.

There can be little doubt that the founding father of the Barnwell Park Golf Club is Erik Royds, but the Club’s enduring legacy of freehold title to a spectacular piece of land is due to the efforts of our earliest committees.

It was in 1972, while under “special lease”, the Club decided to construct a new club house building on the land. The Board issued a levy and a debenture for \$2,000.00 at 7% interest in order to raise about \$40,000.00. This was achieved and all who contributed were eventually repaid with 7% interest.

Club house construction commenced in 1973 and was completed on 29th June 1974. The same time that the back 9 holes were opened and Lyons Road was constructed in front of the newly completed Club House.

The first (1968) Board of Directors was:

Jack Marshall	Senior Buyer
James Burkett	Company Rep
John Thurley	Health & Building Inspect.
Horace Scheak	Brickworks Burner
Robert Walker	Boilermaker
John Samuel	Chemist
Kenneth Beal	Patrol Officer
Colin Eley	Transport Driver
William Vernon	Sheet Metal Worker
Jon Fields	Bank Officer
John Anderson	Chemist
James Anderson	Purchasing
Joseph Bradwell	Factory Manager
David Cotts	Company Director

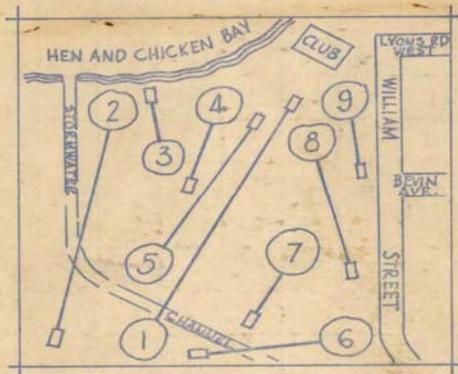
Barnwell Park Golf Club – From Out House to Club House

LOCAL RULES

(To be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf)

1. **Out of Bounds** — All boundary fences, the foreshore of Hen and Chicken Bay, the stormwater channel adjacent to the 2nd fairway and the environs of the amenities building as indicated by white pegs.
2. **Obstructions** — Staked trees, fence posts, tee boxes, tap covers, wire netting guards, seats and notice boards—lift out not nearer the hole and play without penalty.
3. The stormwater channel crossing the 1st, 2nd and 6th fairways to be treated as a lateral hazard.
4. Each player must have a set of clubs—no match shall consist of more than four players.

PLEASE observe the etiquette of golf by eliminating slow play—call following players on whenever possible. Replace all divots and smooth bunkers — no high-heeled shoes allowed.



EPWORTH PRESS, 31 BOTANY STREET, REDFERN.

DRUMMOYNE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



BARNWELL PARK GOLF COURSE

WILLIAM STREET

FIVE DOCK

83-9019



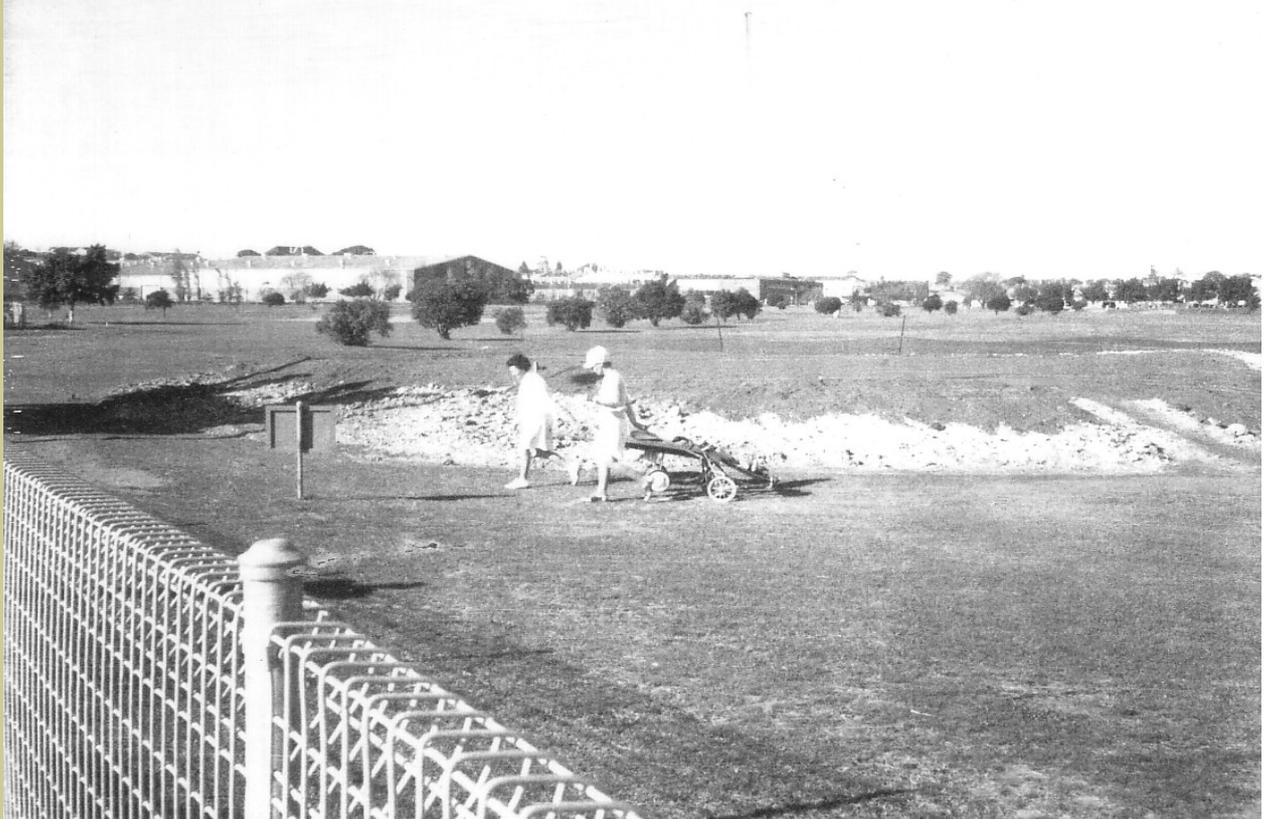
GREEN FEES

WEEK-DAYS: 9 Holes	.....	4/-
18 Holes	.....	7/-
Schoolchildren	.....	2/-

WEEK-ENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 9 Holes	.....	5/-
18 Holes	.....	8/-

Score Card

Unknown players in 1967 leaving the 4th green



Barnwell Park Golf Club – From Out House to Club House



The finished course - aerial photo 1982



**BARNWELL PARK
GOLF COURSE**

**WILLIAM STREET
FIVE DOCK
713 - 9019**

T. DESMOND DOVER
TOWN CLERK

LOCAL RULES

(To be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf)

1. **OUT OF BOUNDS** - All boundary fences, the foreshore of Hen and Chicken Bay, stormwater channels and the environs of the Amenities buildings and clubhouse as indicated by fences.
2. **OBSTRUCTIONS** - Staked trees, tee boxes, tap covers, wire netting guards, seats and notice boards - lift and drop not nearer the hole without penalty.
3. The stormwater channels to be treated as lateral hazards.
4. Each player must have a set of clubs - no match shall consist of more than four players.
5. **PLEASE REPAIR DIVOTS.**
6. **PLEASE REPAIR BUNKERS.**
7. **PLEASE REPAIR LOB MARKS ON GREENS.**

PLEASE observe the etiquette of golf by eliminating slow play - call following players on whenever possible - no high-heeled shoes allowed.

Barnwell Park Golf Club – From Out House to Club House



Photo: Members of the Board of Directors who were present at the Official Opening of the new Club House on the 29th of June 1974.

Front row: J.P Bradwell, J. Marshall (Capt), J.W Anderson (Pres), P.W Hardgrove (V.Pres), L.R Locks.
Back row: J.H Robinson, J.A Egan, J.E Lennon, J.S Sinclair.

Footnote:

In interviewing Pat Bradwell, as part of this research, Pat made special note of the role the women played in forming and making the Club. He remarked on the tremendous effort made to raise funds and to assist in any way they could and with some fondness the many social events they conducted, like the annual Christmas Party held in a tent pitched outside the pro-shop overlooking the bay, the three legged races and the joy on the faces of the children who attended and who today would be in their early fifties. Thanks Pat from all of us!

Barnwell Park Golf Club – From Out House to Club House

The original first 50 badge number members were as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. James Anderson | 2. Jack Marshall |
| 3. Ron Hardgrove | 4. Joseph "Pat" Bradwell |
| 5. Sidney Valantine | 6. Not allocated |
| 7. Lola Wright | 8. Glenn Neumann |
| 9. John Dwyer | 10. Leo Carroll |
| 11. Gwen Carroll | 12. Keith Neumann |
| 13. Francis Hill | 14. John Maley |
| 15. Leslie Mason | 16. Leslie Dobson |
| 17. Fred Franklyn | 18. Violet Dodson |
| 19. Jack McLean | 20. Ray Britten |
| 21. Sammy Singh | 22. James O'Brien |
| 23. John Pride | 24. Fred Wailes |
| 25. Murray Evans | 26. Fred Bebbington |
| 27. Alan Watson | 28. Robert Ball |
| 29. Neville Palmer | 30. Gilbert Rassack |
| 31. Terrance O'Toole | 32. Kenneth Devereaux |
| 33. Rosa Devereaux | 34. Ralph Calver |
| 35. Lennard Jordan | 36. Allan Payten |
| 37. Leonard McMahan | 38. Irene Simaitis |
| 39. Joyce Scannell | 40. Dale Salter |
| 41. Ethel Liston | 42. Eileen Lucy |
| 43. Robert Lee | 44. Ronald Hickey |
| 45. Thomas Taylor | 46. Robert Wilson |
| 47. James Black | 48. Robert Menzies |
| 49. William Sundstrom | 50. Noel Price |

Longest Serving Current Members

Ron Aitkenhead	10/10/68	Dot McGuire	24/09/73
Jack Andrewartha	16/10/68	Irene Simaitis	28/03/74
Pat Bradwell	16/10/68	Fay Tumeth	28/03/74
Rose Andrewartha	6/1/69	Arthur Collins	3/06/74
Sam Singh	18/7/72	Sidney Valantine	27/07/74
Margaret Harmer	22/12/72		