

About the author:



DAVID STIRK has been a collector of golf clubs and a student of golf history for forty years. As a player he was runner-up in the British Senior's Championship and twice won the Devon Open Championship. His previous publications (in collaboration with Ian Henderson) include *Golf in The Making*, *Royal Blackheath*, and *The Complete Golfer*.

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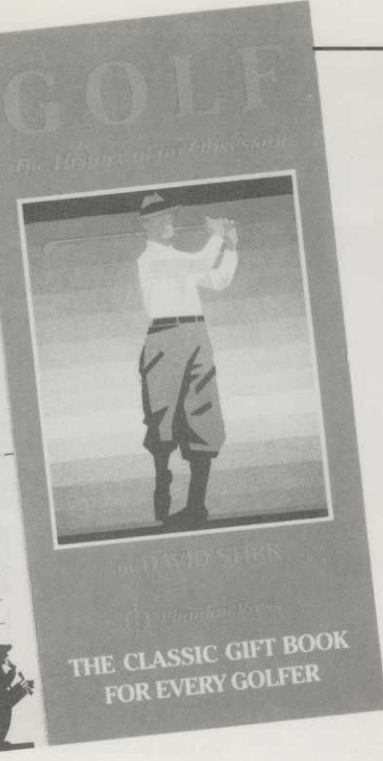
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Among my most treasured possessions is a book entitled 'Golf in the Making' by David Stirk and Ian Henderson, published in a limited edition in 1979 and printed by Lund Humphries in Bradford.

At the time I was working in the printing industry and over several months saw this 332 page book put together. It is a complete history of the game of golf from its earliest beginnings to around the start of the first World War, with pages and pages of the most detailed research, into not only the game itself, but the development of the clubs and balls and the personalities of the earliest exponents of the game.

Now, nineteen years later, David Stirk, one of the leading historians of golf, is the author of a magnificent new book entitled 'Golf - The History of an Obsession'.

This time, David Stirk has reviewed the game from its commencement in Scotland or maybe Holland, perhaps China, though it is doubtful whether one country of origin had any influence on the other. This beautifully illustrated reference book takes golf through to the present day touching on clubs and balls, fashion changes for both men and women golfers, the growth of tournament golf embracing Tom Morris, father and son and of course the great Triumvirate, Vardon, Braid and J. H. Taylor. Finally the author discusses the Modern Game, the continuous year long, world-wide round of activity, with its megastars earning millions, supported by the hard working 'bit players', never likely to make a fortune but able to earn a comfortable living by graft, dedication and living out of a suitcase.

The book concludes with a chapter on the modern courses

with superb double page colour illustrations of Turnberry, Cypress Point, Pebble Beach, Augusta and one of St. Andrews from the air, showing the course completely surrounded on three sides by the sea fringed by the most inviting stretch of golden sand any Thompson Holiday Guide would be proud of.

David Stirk, FRCS is a West Country Surgeon and a member at Westward Ho! He has twice won the Devon Open Championship and was runner up in the British Seniors Championship. As a student of golf history and a collector of golf memorabilia, no one has better qualifications to produce such a fascinating study of the game.

A quote from the opening chapter perfectly sums up the author's reasons for writing the book and the reader's justification for buying it.

"I have always been fascinated, not only by the game itself, but by the history of the sport. Given man's propensity for throwing, rolling and kicking balls, and hitting them with several bats, rackets, clubs and cues, the development of the notion of hitting a small stationary ball across turf, with a stick, for fun, was inevitable".

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