

## Golf Historical Society

### **Norman Macbeth Biography**

2009 SCGA Hall of Fame program - John B Jones



Norman Macbeth at address

One could argue that Norman Macbeth was destined to be an influence on the golf course and in the golf industry. He was born and bred on the links of Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lancashire, England, and as a teenager he won the Terry Silver Jug championship trophy three years in a row, defeating golf legends John Ball and Harold Hilton in what would be the first of many amateur victories. He went on to qualify for the British Amateur at Liverpool in 1898 and at Sandwich in 1900, where he placed 10th in the Royal St. George's Vase.

Trained as a mechanical engineer, Macbeth soon left England to work for his father's company in Bombay, India. There he won the qualifying medal for the Championship of India in both 1901 and 1902. In 1903, Macbeth moved to the United States, settling first in Indianapolis and then in Pittsburgh where he joined H.C. Fownes at Oakmont Country Club. He played in the U.S. Amateur at Euclid Club in Cleveland and was runner-up in the Pennsylvania State Amateur.

In late 1909, Macbeth moved to Los Angeles to work in the cement business. He soon joined Ed Tufts at The Los Angeles Country Club where he was selected to the Green Committee, spearheading construction of the new course at Beverly. Macbeth won four club championships and two Southern California Amateur crowns at The Los Angeles Country Club, and later added the Northern California Amateur and countless other statewide tournament wins to his resume. He was also a founding member of Brentwood Country Club, where he served on the golf course advisory committee.

Although Macbeth will be remembered as a champion golfer with a long and powerful swing, the creation of Wilshire Country Club will always be his enduring monument. Like George Crump at New Jersey's Pine Valley Golf Club and Fownes at Oakmont, Macbeth personally designed and built the Wilshire course, a four-time Los Angeles Open and five-time SCGA Amateur Championship host that still remains one of the best layouts in America.

His involvement with golf continued into amateur administration. Macbeth was elected President of the Southern California Golf Association in 1929, and served 17 years on the United States Golf Association's Green Section and International Relations committees. He was also chairman of the SCGA's Rules committee and President of both the California and Senior Golf Associations. Outside of golf, Macbeth was Vice President of the Riverside Portland Cement Company and a director of both the California Agricultural Exchange and the Los Angeles Traffic Commission.

### **Major Titles**

Royal Lytham & St Annes Club Champion: 1896, 1897, 1898

SCGA Amateur Champion: 1911, 1915

Founder and Architect of Wilshire Country Club: 1919

Northern California Amateur Champion: 1921

SCGA President: 1929

California Golf Association President: 1938



The Terry Silver Claret Jug (replica) and Norman Macbeth

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