

For the attention of:
The News Editor

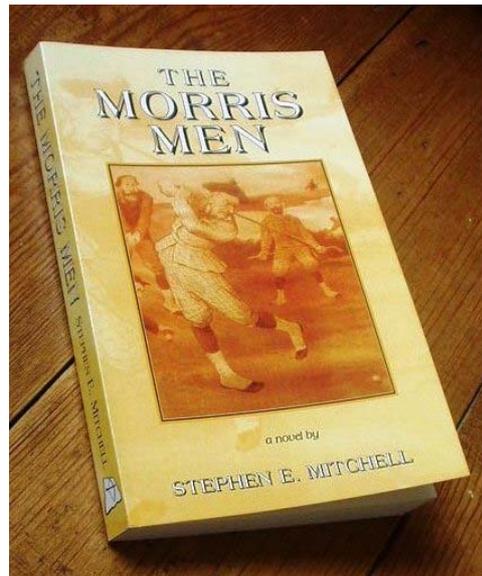
From:
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Topic:

**Golf enthusiast publishes his first novel:
'The Morris Men' by Stephen E Mitchell**

"For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose the last hole?" anon 1908



The recent publication of 'The Morris Men', a new mystery novel based in Stratford upon Avon, is attracting international interest within the golfing world.

Background

- o 'The Morris Men' is Stephen's first novel and is based in Stratford upon Avon
- o Golf themed mystery story for golfers and non-golfers alike
- o Inoffensive and mildly comical tale with a storyline time-span ranging from 1874 through 1931, and into the present. Its theme is distinctive, centred on events of the past having unexpected contractual ramifications in the present
- o Published in September by Antony Rowe Publishing Ltd
- o Paperback 310 pages RRP £8.99
- o Available via Amazon.co.uk or by ordering through other on-line bookstores. US trade customers being sought for direct sales in US. Signed copies obtainable direct from the author via website www.themorrismen.com
- o Further novels planned with a similar format (not necessarily golfing), centred on Stratford legal practice Bainbridge & Bainbridge

Unlike other golf related novels, 'The Morris Men' has been written in a style that will appeal to a broad readership, and one not intended for the golfing fraternity alone. It does not indulge itself with golfing tales, but does call into question the old adage that perhaps *'a golfer is a gentleman'*. Any reader who enjoys a good old fashioned inoffensive yarn, one with a legal angle and twists galore, will undoubtedly relish this nostalgic tale.

'The Morris Men', despite its launch having only recently been announced, is already starting to attract international attention, especially from within the golfing community:

- o Several golfing websites are intrigued and have requested copies to review, mainly in the UK & USA, but as far a field as Brazil.
- o Enquiries coming in from major golf equipment stockists in USA regarding US availability & distribution
- o Stephen was interviewed live on air by a Chicago radio station on 8th October. The radio station is supporting and promoting the book by running a competition and giving away copies as prizes.
- o An American journalist has offered a write-up for the vastly popular Chicago Golf Show in February 2006
- o Golf Monthly magazine have requested a copy to review

Principal characters are two Stratford solicitors; Bainbridge & Bainbridge – Edward Bainbridge (grandfather) who practiced in the 1920's & 1930's and Maurice Bainbridge practicing now in the present (grandson). The former was instrumental in the creation of an unusual contractual agreement and the latter finds himself charged with the responsibility of resolving the consequences. Edward Bainbridge, quite fortunately, was a meticulous man and kept copious records of each and every appointment back in the 20's & 30's. These accounts, 'The Bainbridge Diaries' as they become known, provide Maurice Bainbridge with an invaluable insight into the mindset of 'The Morris Men'

Outline plot for 'The Morris Men': Sir Randolph Erskine & Sir Giles Pinkney (The Morris Men), both incredibly wealthy and with a long history of animosity towards each other, enter into a 'winner takes all' challenge in a fit of peak in the 1920's. The contest becomes annual and takes place on the golf course (Royal Stratford GC) each August, until either concedes in the predetermined way. A formal contract has been drawn up, called 'The Morris Men Agreement', in which terms for the conclusion of the agreement are specified, including the presentation of a duly authenticated trophy – a 19th century Tom Morris putter (*hence the title*), and the transfer of all possessions from the loser to the victor.

Unfortunately, both protagonists die before the 'Morris Men Agreement' can be concluded and fulfilled. Three generations on, with the chance discovery of a cryptic reference to the agreement on the reverse of an old picture hanging on a wall, a meeting takes place at the offices of Bainbridge & Bainbridge. The belated disclosure of the 'Morris Men Agreement' is about to dramatically change the lives and fortunes of two unsuspecting neighbours. Between them, 'The Morris Men' have bequeathed their privileged great grandchildren an alarming and potentially ruinous legacy. The retrieval of the authentic Tom Morris putter quickly becomes paramount for both parties and a chase unfolds to discover its current whereabouts, to present the 'trophy' to Maurice Bainbridge, and thus claim the substantial spoils. However, deception, both past and present, results in an unexpected outcome.

The Author – Stephen E Mitchell: a brief biography.

Stephen, and his wife Anne, moved to the Stratford area from Scotland, in 2000. before settling in Ilmington shortly afterwards, drawn to its charm and character. After several years renting property, they have, this year, been able to buy their first home together in the village. Village life is suiting them both, and has provided the inspirational impetus to start writing novels with Stratford as a backdrop. As a keen collector and restorer of old golf clubs and a professional interest in contract law, Stephen has been able to combine these facets to weave a potent blend of nostalgia, contractual ramifications and intrigue into his first novel. 'The Morris Men' was a thrill to write, so further novels, under the collective banner of 'The Bainbridge Dairies', are already being planned.

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