

The Brassie

The aim of AGHS is to encourage the collection, research, recording and preservation of information and objects connected with the history of golf in Australia, to inform golfers, golf clubs and the community in general.

Spring 2010

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Patrons

Dan Cullen
Kel Nagle

Management Committee

Bruce Nairn,
President & Chairperson
Tony Doggett, *Captain*
John Lock, *Secretary*
Malcolm McIntosh, *Treasurer*
Tom Moore, *Museum*
Jim Glenday, *Golf NSW Representative*
Nicky Bethwaite, *Golf NSW Representative*
Kyle Francis, *PGA Representative*

Editor of The Brassie
Gerry Bush

President's Message

Our 2010 AGM was held on 28 September and all current Office Bearers were returned to the Management Committee with the exception of our Convener of the Historians, Peter Read. Peter has resigned from the Committee and I thank him for his contribution and wish him well in his future endeavours. We would welcome enquiries from any member who has the time and interest to fill Peter's position on behalf of the Society. I am pleased to advise that Kel Nagle has accepted the position of Patron of the Society, along with Dan Cullen, and that Tom Moore has been rewarded with Life Membership of the Society.

The Society has experienced a successful year. During 2010 the Society employed a part time Curator, Emma Williams, for the Golf Museum at Granville. Emma has brought a professional touch to the Museum and we are very pleased with what she is putting in place. The Australian Hickory Championship conducted by the Society was won by Derrin Morgan (Qld) with Perry Somers runner-up. The 2010 Championship is to be held in November again at George's River Golf Club and we are expecting an increased field. Our major sponsors PGA of Australia, Museums NSW and Golf NSW continue to provide financial support and for this we are extremely grateful. This will allow the Society to continue to provide the resources necessary to foster the establishment and recording of histories and memorabilia by custodians for the benefit of future golfers. We are also very appreciative of the ongoing contribution from Dennis Brosnan and Golf Mart in providing the Society with premises for its Museum. Tom Moore and his band of volunteers continue to provide a wonderful contribution in assisting at the Museum during its opening hours each Sunday. Tom will again be providing a Museum exhibition at this year's NSW Open and Australian Open. The Society has now purchased its own tent which will assist greatly with this promotion.

Earlier this year the Society was given a considerable number of framed photographs by the then NSWGA. Some of these will be placed in the Museum while others have been passed on to the Golf Clubs featured in the photographs. They have been very warmly received by the Clubs sometimes being the only record they have of events that have been held.

The Society looks forward to your continued support as Members and, in conjunction with the associated organizations, will assist and encourage you to preserve and record the history of your Golf Clubs. On behalf of the Management Committee I would like to wish all Members a very Happy Christmas and New Year and enjoyable golfing in 2011.



Bruce Nairn

Captain's Report

Following completion of my initial year as Society Club Captain I would like to thank Tom Moore and Jim Glenday and those AGHS members who have assisted me with the events held at their respective golf clubs. The AGHS has a small playing base and, as a result, numbers are low at some events. Therefore we thank all Clubs for the goodwill shown towards us as we do not generate any financial benefit for them.

Our playing program was well received with our major event being the Australian Hickory Shaft Championship held at George's River Golf Club in November 2009. Congratulations to the winner, Derrin Morgan, PGA from Royal Queensland Golf Club with a par round of 70 – an excellent performance.

The Al Howard Trophy is the annual golf match against The Golf Society of Australia (Victoria). This year's event was played at Federal Golf Club, Canberra. The Autumn weather was very pleasant and the course was without doubt in its best condition. To even up the teams AGHS lent some players to Victoria and they subsequently won the Trophy. Following the match friendships were strengthened over the evening meal at the Clubhouse. We played the following day at Queanbeyan. The hospitality shown by both Clubs to our Members was excellent.

The History "Nine and Dine" event held at Muirfield Golf Club organised by Tom Moore and Peter Read was a great success. An entertaining talk was presented by Marea Parsons on her golf career.

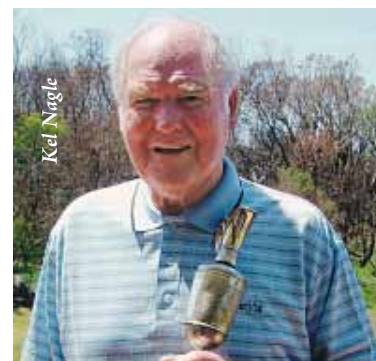
In 2010 the inaugural Craigieburn Hickory Cup was held organised by Pepper's Craigieburn Resort and Highlife (*the Southern Highlands magazine*) again with assistance from Tom Moore and Peter Read. Play was over 18 holes on their 100 year old golf course as it was originally laid out. Congratulations to the winner, Rex Mackay, with a score of 77 on a count back from Peter Read. Guest speaker was two times Australian Open winner, Frank Phillips. The talk was excellent with Frank's honest opinion given to any questions raised. We look forward to making this a successful annual event.

Next year's program is underway. Please watch for upcoming events in "The Brassie" or check the website for details.

Yours in Golf,
Tony Doggett

Kel Nagle – AGHS Patron

The Society was informed at the 2010 AGM that Kel Nagle, one of Australia's greatest golfers, had accepted the role of Patron of the Society. Kel is a living legend of Australian golf and upholds all of the values and history which the Society endeavours to preserve and record. Kel's golfing record reads as a prolific winner on the Australian and international circuits. He is principally remembered as the winner, from Arnold Palmer, of the 1960 Centenary British Open held at St Andrews. This was no small feat as Palmer won seven events in 1960



Kel Nagle



Kel Nagle

and The Masters. Kel's winning score of 278 was the equal lowest winning score (with Peter Thomson in 1958) since the introduction of the four round format in 1892. The 1965 US Open was a near miss for Kel losing in a play off to Gary Player,

but he was victorious in the World Seniors Championship in 1971. He is now enjoying genteel retirement but 2010 represents a very significant year for Kel being the 50th anniversary of his Major victory and his 90th birthday in December. Congratulations Kel and welcome aboard. Kel continues a long relationship in joining another great Australian golfer in Dan Cullen as Patron of the Society. Dan has form in, amongst other achievements, beating South African Bobby Locke in 1938. Significantly both Kel and Dan served their country in WWII, Kel in the Army and Dan in the RAAF, where he won the DFC. The Society is truly honoured to have these gentlemen as our Patrons.

The Golf Museum - Sale of Surplus Items

The Golf museum has identified a significant number of surplus items of golfing equipment, books and old golfing magazines etc. These items are now offered for sale at realistic prices and no genuine offer will be refused. Members who are interested in inspecting and purchasing books etc. are invited to the Museum premises, above "Golf Mart" Parramatta Road Granville during opening hours – Sunday morning from 10.00 am.

Emma Williams

SALE !!



Museum Report

I have much pleasure in reporting on Museum activities for 2009/10.

We welcome Emma Williams, appointed during the year as Collection Manager. Emma is a fully qualified Museum Operator and is already pulling the Museum into shape. Andrew King has finished his contract to enter an photograph collection items and Emma's expertise will be shown in completing the documentation of the collection and commencing preventative maintenance. With the approach of the PGA (Australia) Centenary in 2011 Emma is spearheading a display at the Museum of "One Hundred Years of PGA History". This is planned to run for three months from 1st March 2011 with an Opening Ceremony on 31st March. We have many items connected with the formation of the PGA. Dan Soutar's Toolbox is one and we are making arrangements to have Carnegie Clark's original golf set on loan. It is planned to give this display maximum advertising exposure with a view to attracting more visitors to the Museum.

Donations of items continue to flow in to the Museum. The highlight this year was the donation of Edgar Oakman's lifetime collection of clubs, balls, books and prints all presented in a bronze and glass display case originally from The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba. This is certainly the most valuable collection donated to the Museum to date, conservatively valued at many thousands of dollars.

Our benefactor, Dennis Brosnan, has been elected to Life Membership of the AGHS. Our congratulations to Dennis for an honour well deserved. A suitable Plaque has been prepared for presentation to Dennis.



Dennis Brosnan

Two "Living History" dinners were held during the year at Muirfield Golf Club and Craigieburn Resort. These were combined with guest speakers Marea Parsons and Frank Phillips respectively. Both were very enjoyable with the hickory events adding to the atmosphere of the dinners.

Tournament displays were held at The NSW Open at The Vintage in the Hunter, The Australian Open at NSW Golf Club and the NSW Ladies Open at Oatlands. These displays were visited by approximately 2,500 patrons and are an excellent way to promote the activities of our Golf Museum. We have now purchased our own tent for future displays.

All Members of the Board attended the Museum as volunteer guides during the year which gives them good insight into the administration of the Museum. Two working bees were held during the year. These are vital in moving heavy display items around. Many thanks to those who assisted. Finally many thanks to Mavis, Bruno, Ron and Norm, the band of loyal volunteers who attend the Museum on Sundays. They share the task of keeping the Museum open throughout the year. Peter Read has announced that he will not be standing for a Board position at the AGM this year. Peter has been a tower of strength and will be sadly missed. Many thanks Peter.

Tom Moore

Coming Events in 2011 (for your diary)

Thursday 17 March, 2 pm - 10 holes

Long Reef Golf Club - Anzac Avenue, Collaroy
"Dan Cullen" Trophy 2 Ball Ambrose.



Long Reef Golf Club

Thursday 28 April, 9 am - 18 holes

Windsor Golf Club - McQuade Avenue, Windsor
AGHS vs Windsor Vets .



Windsor Golf Club

Thursday 11 August, 2 pm - 9 holes stroke

Rosnay Golf Club -
5 Weymouth Avenue, Auburn
"Show and Tell Day".



Sunday 25 September, 3 pm - 9 holes stroke

Liverpool Golf Club - Hollywood Drive, Lansvale



Liverpool Golf Club

Tuesday 8 November

Australian Hickory Shaft Golf Championship
Venue to be advised.

Dates to be advised:

"Al Howard Trophy"

AGHS (NSW) vs Golf Society of Australia (Vic)

"Bobby Locke Trophy"

Qualifying round at Port Kembla.

"Craigieburn Hickory Cup"

Peppers Resort Golf Course, Craigieburn, Bowral.

Tom Moore Gets Life! -

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Golf Heritage Society Tom Moore was elected to Life Membership.

Tom's journey in golf began as a caddy at the Killara Golf Club at the age of 12. Tom completed the Intermediate Certificate at North Sydney Technical High School and, after finishing a business course, commenced working as an accountant at Australian Glass Manufacturers at Waterloo, Sydney. He played golf at every opportunity and joined Asquith Golf Club as a junior member. Eventually the indoor life of the office proved too much and, aged 19, Tom joined Ron Spring and Don Spence as an assistant at their National Golf School in Pitt Street, Sydney. Two years was the required time to spend with a Golf Professional before applying to join the PGA and, after passing the exams, he became a Member in 1953. Shortly afterwards Tom moved and became the teaching Pro at Bert Oldfield's Sports Store in Hunter Street, Sydney. Tom married Natalie in April 1954 and, in June 1954, was once again on the move commencing his long and enjoyable association with what was to become Muirfield Golf Club. Muirfield emerged from a new course developed by a Dr Wearn at North Rocks in North West Sydney. Dr Wearn built the course on his property, "Barclay Farm", at the behest of his wife Polly, who was a keen golfer. Subsequently The North Rocks Golf and Country Club was formed and was under the control of Dr Wearn. Shortly afterwards a group of mainly ex pat Scots presented a proposal to Dr Wearn to take over the operations of the Club. Dr Wearn agreed and the Muirfield Golf Club came into being on 31st December 1953. Tom subsequently commenced as the Professional at Muirfield on 27 June 1954 and was to spend 23 years there and he was indeed fortunate to watch the Club grow from the very beginning.

Tom's interest in preserving the history of golf began when he and Natalie made a pilgrimage to the shrine of golf at St Andrews in 1973. One had only to be in Britain for one day to realise that they never threw anything out whereas, up until that time, Tom and his fellow Professionals were cutting up hickory shafts to make plugs for the ends of steel shafts. Finally the penny dropped and Tom began quietly collecting all he could and carefully stored the collection in his Pro Shop. As it became known that Tom was saving old items many golfers made donations of clubs, bags, balls etc. At the end of 1977, Tom left Muirfield and after 18 months took the position of Professional/Manager of the Auburn Municipal Golf Course, where he was to stay for 20 years. In 1990 as part of celebrations to mark 100 years of Local Government, Tom got the idea of staging a Hickory Shaft Championship at Auburn. The first event was won by Ian Alexander,



Tom Moore

Professional at Pennant Hills Golf Club, and he took the title of "The Australian Hickory Shaft Champion". This event was played every year and in 1995, after the Championship was completed, a meeting was held in the Rosnay

Clubhouse at Auburn and "The Golf Collectors Society of Australia" was founded with Tom as its first President, a position he held for 10 years. Dinner functions were held regularly with guest speakers on all aspects of golf history, club making, golf course design and famous players. These speeches were videotaped for archives. It was also decided to collect about 50 small sets of hickory shaft clubs so that the Society would be able to promote hickory golf days where all players could experience the feel of actually hitting a ball with a wooden shafted club in much the same manner as players did 100 years ago. Many of these days have been successfully held at Clubs to coincide with Anniversaries or Charity days.

It was always Tom's ambition to open a Museum or at least some place where all this history could be displayed. In 1999 Dennis Brosnan, of Brosnan Golf Australia, offered the Society rent free accommodation above his Golf Mart store in Granville, Sydney to set up a Museum. This offer was gratefully accepted and the Australian Historic Golf Trust Hall of Fame and Museum was born. The Museum was officially opened by Dennis Brosnan on 22nd February 2001, with the first inductees into the Hall of Fame being Peter Thomson, Norman von Nida, Jan Stephenson and golf course architect Al Howard. A great many items are now on display with the objective of showing the History of Golf in Australia since its beginning in the 1850's.

Tom is now a Life Member of the Australian PGA and is Patron of the Muirfield Golf Club, the first golf Professional in Australia to be honoured by the Club where he served as Professional. In 2008 Tom was awarded "The Golden Tee Award" by the NSW PGA. This award is not given every year and is generally given to a person from outside the profession who has done outstanding service for Professional Golf. Tom is the first Professional to be so honoured.

Tom's election to Life Membership of the Australian Golf Heritage Society is truly well deserved and the Society extends sincere thanks and congratulations to him and wishes him and his wife Natalie continued good health and involvement in what he can proudly call "his life's work".

The Golf Museum at Granville is proudly sponsored by Golf Mart
and supported by Golf NSW, PGA of Australia,
and Museums & Galleries New South Wales.