

# The Braggié

~ Encourage the collection, recording and preservation of information that is connected to the history of golf in Australia,  
 ~ Verify the authenticity of physical items associated with the history of golf in Australia and provide a means of storing, restoring and displaying these physical items,  
 ~ Inform golfers, golf clubs, and the wider community of this information and display these items in a manner which tells their story, and  
 ~ Promote hickory events as a celebration of the origins of the game.

March 2019

## From the President

- John Buckley



As we begin 2019 it is opportune to wish all our members a happy, prosperous and healthy new year and thank you for your ongoing interest in the activities of the society.

In August last year the museum ended its long association with Golf Mart at

Granville. Our thanks go to Denis Brosnan for his generous provision of the Golf Mart premises which the Society has occupied since 2000. Efforts are underway by the board to secure new premises and an announcement is imminent.

The museum collection has been moved into storage pending a new location. This move didn't happen without a lot of help from many people but I particularly thank our curator Vicki Stanton and our secretary/treasurer Steve Doorey for their tireless efforts.

This year the AGHS suffered a great loss with the passing of Tony Doggett. Tony was a regular at the museum and he had a great love for golf and its history. He will be very much missed.



### Regional NSW Golf Museum

The Australian Golf Heritage Society will be collaborating with the newly announced redevelopment of the Forster Tuncurry Golf Club to provide the only golf museum in regional NSW.

The Club has secured a \$3 million State government grant to construct a new pro shop and amenities building which will house the museum.

Golf NSW also confirmed that three major tournaments will be played at Forster Tuncurry during the next two years.

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## Dates for the Hickory Diary (NSW)

- Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>** Alex Lowe Trophy  
Wollongong Golf Club  
18 holes Stroke—scratch & net
- Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>** Kiama Hickory Challenge  
Kiama Golf Club  
18 holes Stableford
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May** J. J. Paine Trophy  
Windsor Country Golf Club  
9 hole Stableford-scratch & net

Enquiries to the Captain Ross Howard 0402 148946 or ross@howrd.com or

[www.australiangolfheritage.org.au/hickorynews.html](http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au/hickorynews.html)

## At the Museum

It will be an exciting year for the Museum with new premises soon to be announced.

Vacating Golf Mart was a sudden departure and the ever shortening time frame had its difficulties. As always in such times, people step up and the museum has a small group of very committed people within its ranks.

Fortunately, our major project to completely catalogue the AGHS book and magazine library was already underway. Duplicates were either donated or sold with funds going towards the maintenance of the Museum collection. We cannot thank Mary Quisumbing enough for her dedication, organisational and records management skills in ploughing through and sorting the library collection.

Other volunteers who gave freely of their time were Richard Doyle, Gerry Bush and Bruno Pase who assisted with packing, transporting and organising the collection move and, above all, Steve Doorey without whom the Museum (and the AGHS) would have failed to operate.



The old Museum premises as we left them.

A bonus of the move was that the Museum was able to focus on updating its inventory. Every item was checked and catalogued and some identified for additional research. Even while the collection is in storage, documentation is still ongoing.

## Curator's Choice

A growing number of museum objects are featured on the AGHS website in the [Curator's Choice](#) section. One of these items is the **Gassiat Putter**.

The original wooden-headed putters in this style were known as Chantilly putters for the home town of their inventor, the Marquis de Chasseloup-Loubat. They were -according to later reports-first used in 1911, but came into prominence after being used by Jean Gassiat to win the 1911 French Open. They were thereafter universally known as Gassiat putters.



Gassiat putter detail, showing R. J. Gibson stamping.

The museum's example has 'R. J. Gibson' stamped above the sight line. R. J. Gibson was the son of club manufacturer Charles Gibson of Royal North Devon Golf Club (Westward Ho!), and served as the pro at Royal Calcutta for many years.

There were several other Gibson sons who served as professionals around the empire and, according to the *Compendium of British Club Makers* (Peter Georgiady, Airlie Hall Press, 2004), the clubs they sold were all manufactured by their father's shop.

Another of Georgiady's volumes, *Wood Shafted Golf Club Value Guide* (Airlie Hall Press, 2009), supports the notion that this may be a club of Gibson Senior's manufacture by listing an entry under Charles Gibson for "Putter – Gassiat-type – large wood head".

## At the Museum (cont.)



Gassiat putter detail, showing lined face.

The club at the Museum appears to have been re-shafted at some during its life. We have been unable to locate any other record of a steel-shafted R. J. Gibson 'Gassiat' style putter, and there is evidence underneath the hosel whipping of odd – but very neat – sawed wood joints and subsequent finishing.

We were tempted to remove the sole plate in search of evidence of the earlier fitting of a bore through shaft, but we were not confident that the patient would survive such radical surgery.



Gassiat putter detail, showing sawn wood joints.

## A-Z of Golfers

In 2018, the museum's Facebook page featured an A-Z of golf clubs which was a great success reaching thousands of people.

This year, we will be focussing on an A-Z of Golfers. The A-Z may be on the golfer's first name or last. We will feature men and women, amateurs and professionals. Most will be Australian.

We started off with Queensland professional golfer Fred Anderson who fought in World War Two at the Battle of Milne Bay with the 61<sup>st</sup> Battallion and then later interned.

### WINNER OF GOLF CUP



Fred Anderson, who won the Spalding Purse and Kro Flite Cup yesterday.

Fred Anderson—the first of our A-Z of Golfers on Facebook  
(*The Courier-Mail*, 3 July 1940, p. 10).

Pop over to Facebook for a look: <https://www.facebook.com/ausgolfmuseum/>. Remember to like the page and the post, or even share it, to get the word out there about the Society, the museum and golf history. Please join the conversation – add comments, images and more information.

# Vale Tony Doggett



**Anthony Phillip Doggett — 5 December 1938 - 29 June 2018.**

On 29th June 2018, Australian Golf Heritage Society and Museum stalwart Tony Doggett passed away after battling a rare form of cancer.

Tony was Museum Manager and could be relied upon to do anything required. He was particularly good at painting. He was inordinately strong, so much so that we nicknamed him Clark Kent, and we joked he could move display cabinets with just his pinkie finger. Tony was also a regular at golf events, manning the AGHS displays.

Tony's love of golf started as a youngster growing up in the Liverpool of the 1940s and 50s. He would collect lost golf balls to earn money at the old Liverpool golf course, which was across the road from the family home.

He became a golf caddy at eight, giving his earnings to his mother to help make ends meet. Golf ball collecting and caddying were the start of Tony's lifelong love of golf.

With great enthusiasm, he soon started playing the game. Even without a full complement of clubs, a young Tony would head off by train to compete in various junior tournaments.

Tony joined Liverpool Golf Club in 1951, and continued his ascent through the junior ranks—including a short stint as an apprentice professional under Reg Marchant while the club was still on its original 'Collingwood' site—and as part of the Liverpool School side which won the 1953 Intermediate School Boy's Teams Championship at Sydney's Bankstown club. They must have been a fair side—their winning margin was 47 strokes!

## LIVERPOOL GOLF CLUB

On Saturday again quite a good field competed for the Rex Caesar Trophy, which was won by junior Tony Doggett, with a very fine round of 63 net, off 27.

*The Fairfield Biz, 20 August 1953, p. 8*



**Tony Doggett (L) and friend at Tony's childhood home opposite Liverpool Golf Course.**

**Vale Tony Doggett (cont.)**

Tony gave over 60 years of service to the Liverpool Club. First elected to the Board in 1960 at the age of 21, Tony served for a year before resigning due to regional work commitments.

He later served as Club Captain, President and Board member, eventually being honoured with Life Membership and Membership No. 1 of the Liverpool Club. He resigned from the Board in 2017 due to his ill-health.

While working around the bush as a painter, Tony won the NSW South Coast Amateur Championship. He represented Liverpool Golf Club in Junior Pennants, Pennants and Masters Pennants, and was runner-up three times in the Liverpool Cup.

He enjoyed more success as both a Foursome and Mixed Foursomes Champion. The single shot he took the most pride in was a four-iron from the 18th tee at Cromer. He went on to win the hole and the final match for the team, taking out the 1992 Masters Pennants Championship.

Tony was also more than capable with the hickories, winning the Bobby Locke Trophy in 2010, the handicap section of the Craigieburn Cup in 2012, and the scratch prize at the 2015 J. J. Paine Trophy.

Tony also worked for Slazenger making golf clubs, and as a police officer. In the early 1980s he joined the NSW Police Golf Club, holding the position of President from 2007 until just before his death. In recognition of his service, Tony was awarded the Australian Police Golf Championship Medal in February 2018.

The AGHS has renamed the Craigieburn Cup as the Tony Doggett Trophy in honour of the man who championed this event and who worked tirelessly for the Society.



*Thank you to the Doggett family for use of images and information from Tony's funeral eulogy.*



The Australian Golf Heritage Society Museum is proudly sponsored and supported by [Golf NSW](#), the [PGA of Australia](#), M3 Logistics and [Museums and Galleries New South Wales](#).



**Email:** [museum@australiangolfheritage.org.au](mailto:museum@australiangolfheritage.org.au)

**Website:** [www.australiangolfheritage.org.au](http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ausgolfmuseum/](http://www.facebook.com/ausgolfmuseum/)

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/channel/UCx6NueLRcCquvq6uq\\_ZhiSQ/videos](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx6NueLRcCquvq6uq_ZhiSQ/videos)

**Museums  
& Galleries  
of NSW**

The Museum—although currently homeless—can give advice on collecting, restoring and preserving old or antique golf clubs or other golfing artefacts.

# Captain's Report

"To the Fore" - Ross Howard

Already our 2019 schedule of events is unfolding with the playing of the Dan Cullen Trophy at Long Reef Golf Club on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

It was pleasing to see 18 other players face the starter this year since we had to cancel the event in 2018 due to only five starters. Bruno Pase, Hugh Jolly and the writer combined to lift the trophy this year.

The full report will be available shortly on the [AGHS website](#).



Winner of the Dan Cullen Trophy— (l-r) Ross Howard, Bruno Pase and Hugh Jolly (with Tom Moore)

April is looming as a busy month with two hickory events on the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Wollongong and Kiama Golf Clubs.

The Wollongong event on the 13<sup>th</sup> April is new and promises to be an addition that will increase a sphere of hickory influence in the Illawarra. The event is named the Alex Lowe Trophy after the first professional at the club.



Alex Lowe—1928  
(You Can Put My Name Down, John Murphy, 1997, p.28)

It is an 18 hole scratch and net format, with a start time of 12.45pm. Players need to book with [Wollongong Golf Club Pro Shop](#) on (02) 4222 3114. Please see the [AGHS website](#) for the details of the times and booking requirements.

The Kiama Hickory Challenge is a regular fixture on our schedule. It is an 18 hole Stableford event held at [Kiama Golf Club](#). Start time is 9:00 am, and players need to book with the Pro Shop on (02) 4237 7339. Please see the [AGHS website](#) for the details of the times and booking requirements.



The sometimes difficult approach to the 9th—Kiama Golf Club.

May is the traditional J. J. Paine Trophy event at Windsor Country Golf Club, with early morning tea and scones and a delightful 9 holes on this course. Details of the times and booking requirements will be posted to the [AGHS website](#) as they become available..

The AGHS is endeavouring to schedule the playing of the Al Howard Memorial Trophy later in May along the Murray River courses over two days. As soon as we have firm details, we will advise accordingly.

In September, the Australian Hickory Shaft Championship will be conducted at Concord Club in Sydney, and an inaugural Australian Hickory Shaft Foursomes event will be played at Elanora Country Club as part of the two day fixture.

The final dates should be known in the near future and will keep all interested parties advised as soon as possible.

The Tony Doggett Craigieburn Cup will be played at Peppers Craigieburn, Bowral in the Southern Highlands, and is also being organised to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this unique venue. Peppers, the hotel operators, are keen to assist in the playing of this event so stay tuned.

I look forward to seeing you at any or all of the days mentioned above.

# Fourth Annual Festival of Tropical Hickory Golf

Organised and Hosted by the AGHS Queensland Chapter



On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Golf Heritage Society conducted hickory golfing events at three of Brisbane's - and Queensland's - most historic golf courses:

- Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship - at Royal Queensland Golf Club
- Queensland Hickory Shaft Foursomes Championship - at The Brisbane Golf Club
- AGHS 4BBB - at St Lucia Golf Links

## Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship

The fourth annual Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship was contested again over Royal Queensland Golf Club's Eagle Farm links. The club's par 72 course was in perfect condition and the event was played over a layout approximating the length of the original 1920s Carnegie Clark-designed links.

The field of twenty contestants comprised regular AGHS players from the local Nudgee, Royal Queensland Brisbane Golf Clubs. This year, for the first time we were joined by international visitors Tom and Susan Tracey from Boise, Idaho, USA.

Interstate and country visitors included Greg Lawler from Devonport Golf Club, Tony Mountstephens from Pymble Golf Club, Matthew and Ryan McCarthy from Rowes Bay Golf

Club (Townsville), Scott Hendry from City Golf Club (Toowoomba) and Geoff Skinner from Main Ridge Golf Club (Toowoomba).

Winner of the Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship for the second year running was former Royal Queensland Golf Club Captain Chris Cooper with a fine score of 79 strokes.



AGHS Patron Charlie Earp presenting the winner's trophy to 2018 Queensland Hickory Shaft Champion, Chris Cooper

In second place, just one stroke behind, was AGHS (Queensland Chapter) Treasurer Ross Haslam. This year, third place on the podium was occupied by previous two-time winner Alan Grieve with a very creditable score of 82 strokes.

Winner of this year's nett event was Ross Haslam with a remarkable score of 63 off a handicap of 17. Ross is the second recipient of the Monks-Earp Shield. Jointly named in honour of the inaugural AGHS (Queensland Chapter) Captain, Peter Monks, and our Patron, Charlie Earp, this handsome trophy was made and donated last year by Ross himself.

Drinks in the clubhouse were followed by presentations and dinner in RQGC's Silver Boomerang Room.

**Fourth Annual Festival of Tropical Hickory Golf (cont.)**

Dr Peter Monks, inaugural captain of the Queensland Chapter of the AGHS presenting the Monks-Earp Trophy to Ross Haslam.

We thank the members and committee of Royal Queensland Golf Club for making their wonderful course and facilities available for this year's event.

We also thank the club for waiving green fees for visitors to this event, our most important of the year. As always, RQGC Manager Tim Gahan and his staff ensured a faultless day of golf and joyful evening of celebration.

Also, special thanks to Steve Rhind and staff of the club's golf centre who so efficiently look after AGHS events throughout the year.

**Queensland Hickory Shaft Foursomes Championship**

On Sunday 11th November 2018, twenty keen hickory golfers assembled at 7:00 am for a 7:30 am hit-off at The Brisbane Golf Club to contest the third annual Queensland Hickory Shaft Foursomes Championship.

Having hosted the Queensland Open on the previous weekend, The Brisbane Golf Club's beautiful and historic Yeeroongpilly links were in superlative condition. It is a rare privilege for us to play our foursomes championship on a

championship-quality course as set-up for a state open championship.

Local player Alan Grieve and USA visitor Tom Tracey provided a masterclass of controlled and imperious foursomes golf. With both members of the team playing off a handicap of 6, neither played a false shot during the entire round.

Having demoralized the field with a score of 75 shots off-the-stick, their score could easily have been a number of shots lower with a fraction more luck on the greens. Runners-up with a score of 81 were Ross Haslam and Bradley Tatnell. Third on the day were the local pairing Kerrod Crocker and Chris Webster with a score of 84.



Foursomes Champions—Alan Grieve and Tom Tracey

The Treasurer's Trophy for the best nett score was won Ross Haslam and Bradley Tatnell with a score of 68. Runners-up with a score of 76.5 were locals Kerrod Crocker and Chris Webster and in third place was the city/country pairing of Paul Adams and Geoff Skinner.

Drinks, presentations and a beautiful lunch were held in the charming and historic clubhouse of The Brisbane Golf Club.



### Fourth Annual Festival of Tropical Hickory Golf (cont.)



Winners of the Treasurer's Trophy for the best nett score, Bradley Tatnell and Ross Haslam

Following presentations for the day's events, a 'special' presentation was made by Ross Haslam to our youngest participant, eleven year-old Ryan McCarthy from Townsville.

The gift comprised a full set of George Nicoll hickory shafted irons passed-on to Ross by stalwart NSW AGHS member Lachie Wilson.

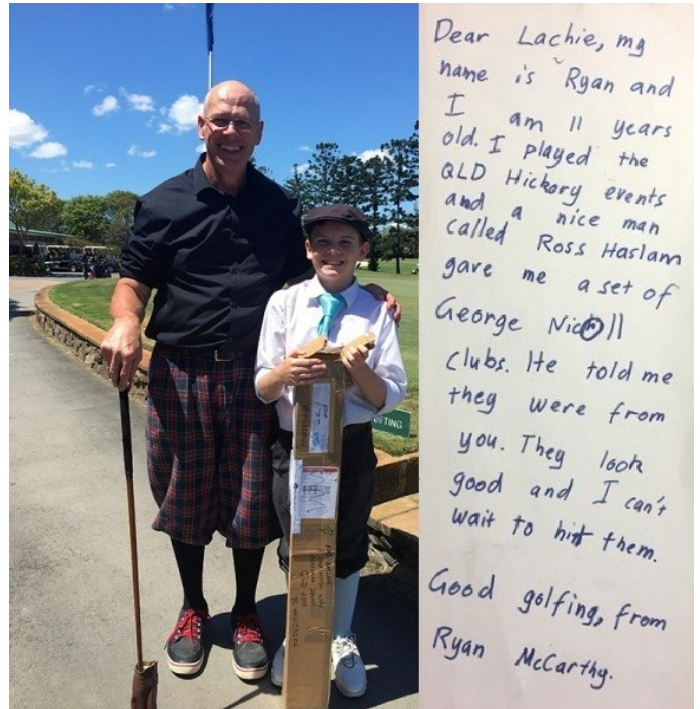
Having a very low swing weight, these clubs are sure to bolster Ryan's already impressive game. With a field spanning generations, with ages from 11 to 84, we believe the etiquette, manners and history of the game will have a dependable custodian in Ryan.

AGHS sincerely thanks the members, committee and staff of The Brisbane Golf Club for hosting our foursomes championship for the third year in a row and also for waiving green fees for visitors.

This contribution to the growth of hickory golf in Queensland is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Alan Grieve who managed all arrangements with the Club in the lead-up and during this event.

Surrounded by displays of historic golfing artifacts and photographs which chart the club's illustrious history, it is

hard to imagine a more appropriate venue for a hickory shaft competition.



Ross Haslam and Ryan McCarthy, and Ryan's note of thanks to Lachie Wilson

### AGHS 4BBB

After playing our 4BBB event at Nudgee Golf Club for the past few years, major renovations to the South Course there necessitated the selection of a new venue this year: St Lucia Golf Links.

St Lucia Golf Links were home to Indooroopilly Golf Club for the first sixty years of its existence. Formed in mid-1925, the club's first nine holes were finished within a year and the full eighteen hole layout was in play by the end of 1926.

The initial St Lucia course was designed by Scottish-born Daniel Gordon "Dan" Soutar, who emigrated to Australia in 1903. As a golf professional at Royal Sydney, Manly and Moore Park Golf Clubs, and as a foundation member of the Australian PGA, Dan Soutar had a profound influence on early Australian golf as an instructor, club-maker and course designer.

During the much reported 1926 visit to Australia by Dr Alistair Mackenzie, during which his primary responsibility was to re-design Royal Melbourne Golf Club's much celebrated West Course, the renowned British golf course architect also made a number of local and interstate side-trips; one of which was

**Fourth Annual Festival of Tropical Hickory Golf (cont.)**

to Brisbane. The primary aim of Mackenzie's northern excursion was to suggest improvements to the recently inaugurated Carnegie Clark-designed layout of Royal Queensland Golf Club's Eagle Farm links.

While he was in Brisbane, Indooroopilly Golf Club consequently engaged Mackenzie to recommend enhancements to its recently completed course at St Lucia.

This year, a record nineteen players participated in this popular event. The winners were Alan Grieve and Chris Webster with a fabulous score of 46 stableford points.



Rob King-Scott with 4BBB winners Alan Grieve and Chris Webster.

Runners-up with a commendable tally of 45 stableford points were Rob King-Scott and Andrew Baker. In third place with a score of 43 stableford points were US visitor Tom Tracy and his Brisbane friend David Mason.

Special mention must be made of Tom Tracey's round of 73 off-the-stick, comprising at least five birdies during the afternoon. It was a great pleasure for Tom's opponents to witness such a demonstration of high-level hickory play.

Special thanks to:

**Rob King-Scott** -- who coordinated all three events; liaised with Royal Queensland Golf Club... and more

**Ross Haslam** -- who created and distributed posters; created ball markers and bag tags; loaned and provided clubs to other competitors; arranged Ryan's gift . . . and more

**Alan Grieve** -- who co-ordinated everything with The Brisbane Golf Club... and more

**Peter Clark** -- Director of Golf at St Lucia Golf Links -- whose co-operation and generosity made our afternoon there extremely pleasurable and memorable.

See you next year at: The Fifth Annual Festival of Tropical Hickory Golf

- Andrew Baker

**AGHS - Queensland Chapter**

For more photos of the Fourth Annual Festival of Tropical Hickory Golf and full scores for each of the events, visit the [AGHS website](#).



Little golfer (1910); State Library of Victoria.  
<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/280828>

## From the Historians

The History Sub-Committee at the moment consists of Hugh Jolly and myself. Norm Richardson took a break half way through 2018 and should rejoin us during 2019.

Since the last issue of *The Brassie* the following lectures/seminars have been given to audiences numbering between fifteen and twenty.

5 July. ***Golf in Times of War***, Michael Sheret at the Australian National University as part of the annual conference of the Australian Historical Association. Two exhibits from the AGHS Museum were displayed and discussed as part of the lecture.

26 July. ***Early History of Royal Sydney Golf Club***, Hugh Jolly at Royal Sydney.

9 August. ***Golf in Times of War***, Michael Sheret & Vicki Stanton (Collections Manager at the AGHS Museum) at the University of Technology, Sydney, as part of the seminar programme of the Australian Association for Sports History. Two exhibits from the AGHS Museum were displayed and discussed as part of the lecture.

4 September. ***Golf in Times of War***, Michael Sheret at The Lakes Golf Club. Two exhibits from the AGHS Museum were displayed and discussed as part of the lecture.

27 September. ***Golf in Sydney in 1839***, Michael Sheret at the British Golf Museum in St Andrews.

2 November. ***The Great War and The Club***. Hugh Jolly has been active in putting together a display at his club, Royal Sydney. Hugh gave the preamble to the talk by fellow Heritage Committee member Paul Duffy at Royal Sydney. Two exhibits from the AGHS Museum were displayed and discussed as part of the display and the lecture.

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The subject of **myths in golf history** is something the History Sub-Committee has had to deal with frequently over the years.

Quite some time ago an unsubstantiated claim was published that the nine hole golf course on Norfolk Island was the oldest course in Australia and was built by convict labour, 1834 or 1841 take your pick.

The claim was, for a while, picked up by the media. Thinking that there might be good evidence to support the claim, the Norfolk Island Golf Club put the claim on their website. Eventually the Club contacted the History Sub-Committee. There was no evidence, and the Club took the claim off their

website. Conferences, like the one at ANU mentioned above, are good ways of meeting professional historians.

One of the persons presenting his research was Dr Tim Causer, a Senior Research Associate in the Faculty of Laws at the University College, University of London. I mention this as, erroneously as it turned out, Tim's name was put about as someone who had knowledge of evidence to support the claim made for the Norfolk Island golf course.

Tim had spent time in Norfolk Island researching the period when the island was a penal colony and publishing his research in the academic journals. The conference was an excellent opportunity to have an informal conversation with Tim. As expected, he had never met or known the author of the claim for Norfolk island's golf course, had no knowledge of any evidence to support the claim and agreed that the claim was unlikely – now or in the future – to be supported by any evidence.

Fortunately, especially since the Club took the claim off its website, it seems to have lost all its momentum.

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**Publications** outside of *The Brassie*.

***A Divisive Clash over the Rules of Golf in 1907*** by Michael Sheret, *Sporting Traditions*, journal of the Australian Society for Sports History, May 2018, pp 23-33.

***A Rules Incident in 1912*** by Michael Sheret, *Through the Green*, magazine of the British Golf Collectors Society, September 2018, pp 24-28.

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The History Sub-Committee continues to **answer questions** from the general public. Since the last issue of *The Brassie* we have answered six, some being very easy to answer and others requiring research and a detailed reply.

The questions come to us through the AGHS website. A good example of the long reach of our website came from France from Rémy Marchand. In his collection of golf artefacts he had Australian clubs, two stamped P G Merrilees and one stamped Roy Smith.

We were able to supply information on the two professionals and the clubs they served, information ranging from 1909 to 1962.

**Michael Sheret**

History Sub-Committee (cont.)



Lecture *Golf in Times of War* at The Lakes Golf Club

**HICKORY Polish Open**

VERY FIRST IN POLISH HISTORY

**7-8 September 2019**

Gradi Golf Club

If anyone finds themselves in Poland later in the year and fancies a spot of hickory golf there is the inaugural Hickory Polish Open.

# A Golf Course Lost to War

**Michael Sheret discusses the formation, and the demise, of Mosman Golf Club with a particular focus on the effect of World War Two.**

## Formation of the Mosman Golf Club

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1923 a meeting of the Mosman Golf Club was held at the Mosman Town Hall.<sup>1</sup> The President of the Club, Alderman Peter Burrows, addressed the members on the progress of the Club to date.

The Mosman Golf Club was formed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 1922 and registered as a limited company on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1922. The first Captain of the Club was Mr Paton. The first Secretary was Mr R. C. Clarke, who was succeeded at the meeting by Mr Hunt.

At the meeting Colonel R. Sands was elected a life member. He had initiated the formation of the Club and had secured the land on the Middle Head Military Reserve from the Commonwealth Defence Department on a 21 year lease at £200 per annum rental. The area leased was 61 acres, ample for a nine hole course and clubhouse.<sup>2</sup>

The President informed the members that work was underway on the course. The layout and overall supervision was the responsibility of Dan Soutar, an accomplished professional golfer and experienced golf architect. The cost of establishing the course was estimated at £1250.

Alderman William De Putron, a leading Sydney architect, had prepared plans for the clubhouse at an estimated cost of £3000. The plans were accepted by the Committee and were on view at the meeting. Proposals were put forward for a debenture scheme to the amount of £3000 for the clubhouse with interest set at 5%.

It was projected that the scheme could be retired progressively over a period of 15 years. The response to the debenture proposals was described as "very satisfactory". The membership was already full at 100 Members and 50 Associates, and there was now a waiting list. The annual subscription was 4 guineas. The entrance fee for Members was 10 guineas and 2 guineas for Associates.<sup>3</sup> The financial position of the Club was healthy with a credit balance of £724.

## The Golf Course

The nine hole course was opened on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1924 with seven holes in play.<sup>4</sup> The Mayor of Mosman, Mr Peter Burrows, performed the opening ceremony by driving the first ball. It turned out to be a fine shot and was accompanied by hearty cheers. The Club had secured the

services of Tom Popplewell as the Club's professional.<sup>5</sup> In the afternoon he and Dan Soutar played an exhibition match. Colonel Sands presented a silver cup for the Club Championship. The aerial photographs taken in the 1930s show a well-established golf course.<sup>6</sup>



The course looking away from the clubhouse.  
(NSW State Library Collection)



The clubhouse is slightly above the centre of the photograph.  
(NSW State Library Collection)

## The Clubhouse

There were cost overruns in the construction of the clubhouse, and additional debentures to the value of £1500 were issued to members.<sup>7</sup> It would appear that these debentures were obligatory upon the members. In February 1925 the clubhouse was reported to be near completion with a revised cost of £4000.<sup>8</sup> On the 11<sup>th</sup> March 1925 the

## A Golf Course Lost to War (cont.)

clubhouse had electric light and was sufficiently complete to hold a well attended ball with supper and dancing into the late hours.<sup>9</sup> Part of the celebrations was a putting competition on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole in front of the clubhouse.



Registering for the competition.  
(Courtesy of Mosman Public Library)

### The Lease

When the lease was granted in 1923 there was a great deal of public protest. Points raised concerned land of great beauty being taken over by a wealthy private club rather than being open to the general public, clearing of trees and a short-lived gate that restricted public access to the beaches.<sup>10</sup>

At the time the lease was granted to the Club the land was considered to be not required by the Defence Department. In September 1924 the Minister of Defence, Mr Bowden, explained in House of Representatives that the Mosman Council had 114 acres of land on either side of the golf course on permissive occupancy at a peppercorn rental.<sup>11</sup> He also explained that the lease of land to the Golf Club contained a clause that the land could be resumed without compensation if it was ever required by the military.

In 1935 the Club sought to have its original lease extended by 10 years beyond the original 21 years. That would have extended the lease to 1954 with the rent reduced from £200 to £160. There was also a request for additional land to be included in the lease.<sup>12</sup>

Eventually the lease was extended, but the request for additional land was dropped.<sup>13</sup> Many protests, on the same issues as when the original lease was granted, were made about the extension of the lease. One of the most vigorous and detailed of these protests came from W. A. Windeyer, a prominent figure in golf administration.<sup>14</sup>

He pointed out that as “Chairman of the [NSW] Golf Council, I visited the course shortly before its [1924] opening, at the invitation of the late Mayor of Mosman. I told him very forcibly that, although it would make a most picturesque rough course, my personal opinion was that it was quite wrong that, when at last the reserve was to be opened, a few golfers should be allowed to occupy the main part of it to the practical exclusion of the general public”.

He supported the protest against the proposed extension of the land under the lease and stated that “... a rescission under the provisions contained in the existing lease should be demanded”. Although not entirely clear, it would appear that he considered that the entire lease should be cancelled.

### War Intervenes

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1939 Australia declared war on Germany. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1940 Germany invaded and overran Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1940 France surrendered to Germany. While all this was happening Australian intelligence would have been very aware of Japan’s expansionist ambitions through military conquest. The threat to Australia was becoming more and more real.



Playing golf.  
(Courtesy of the Sydney Harbour Trust)

## A Golf Course Lost to War (cont.)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 1940 the Defence Department informed the Mosman Golf Club that the Clubhouse and Golf Course would be taken over for military purposes.<sup>15</sup> Part of the land would be used for a new naval depot and the remainder for other military purposes. The members of the Club were given four days notice to clear the premises. Eight or nine staff lost their jobs. A Special General Meeting of the Mosman Golf Club was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 1940.<sup>16</sup> It was agreed to wind up the company. The Commonwealth of Australia gave £2,476 to the Club to meet its liabilities and for the refund of subscriptions paid by the Members and Associates, numbering some three hundred in 1940. And so ended the Mosman Golf Club and its nine hole golf course.

### Post World War II

One of the most important buildings to be established on the old golf course land was HMAS Penguin, commissioned on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1942.<sup>17</sup> It was a large naval hospital and training centre. Today, it no longer functions as a hospital. Its main purpose is to train naval personnel. HMAS Penguin is the home of the ADF Diving School (ADFDS), the RAN Hydrographic School and the RAN Medical School. Importantly, in 1985 it acquired a recompression chamber.

During the war the old clubhouse was used for officer accommodation and as part of the Eastern Command Signals.<sup>18</sup> After the war it was divided into two apartments and used as accommodation for senior officers. The general area is now part of the Sydney Harbour Trust. In 1999 it was put on the State Heritage List and in 2004 the Commonwealth Heritage list. These listings mean that the

very elegant old Mosman Golf Clubhouse is heritage listed. It now operates as a restaurant and function centre, the *Burnt Orange*. Leading down from the old clubhouse there remains some cleared grassland, which was once part of the golf course. Eagle eyes might be able to work out what was once the ninth putting green in front of the clubhouse. More prominent is one of the old tees, beautifully constructed into a gentle slope. It makes a fitting monument to what was once a thriving and wealthy golf club that put a lot of resources into the building of its golf course.

### Endnotes

1. *Daily Telegraph*, 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1923, p8.
2. *Daily Telegraph*, 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1923, p17.
3. The Associate category, as was customary, would have been open only to women.
4. *The Sun* (Sydney), 6<sup>th</sup> of April, p10.
5. *Daily Telegraph*, 7<sup>th</sup> of April 1924, p9.
6. The original photographs are held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.
7. *Evening News*, 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1924, p3.
8. *Evening News*, 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1925, p1.
9. *Daily Telegraph*, 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1925, p2.
10. *Daily Telegraph*, 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1924, p5.
11. *Daily Telegraph*, 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1924, p6.
12. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1935, p8.
13. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16<sup>th</sup> of July 1935, p10.
14. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15<sup>th</sup> of June 1935, p14.
15. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1940, p7.
16. <[www.burntorange.com.au/history.html](http://www.burntorange.com.au/history.html)> accessed 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.
17. <[www.navy.gov.au/establishments/hmas-penguin](http://www.navy.gov.au/establishments/hmas-penguin)> accessed 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.
18. <[www.burntorange.com.au/history.html](http://www.burntorange.com.au/history.html)> accessed 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.



Mosman Clubhouse—2019

## Team Matches in Golf

### On old and modern ways of deciding the winning team

If you have an interest in the history of golf and the way the game has evolved over the years, it is almost inevitable that you will come to think that some of the old ways were better than what they are today.

I remember one of my first games with the British Golf Collectors Society, where two teams were opposed to each other. The result was not decided as in the familiar modern method by adding up the number matches won for each side.

In the modern method if, for example, there were 8 matches and Team A won 5 and Team B won 3, then Team A would be the winner by five matches to three. What happened in the BGCS event was that each match played the full 18 holes and recorded number of holes the winning player was in front at the end of the 18 holes. Then each side added up the number of holes up for their winning players.

The team with more holes up was declared the winning team. In the BGCS method if, for example, Team A again won 5 matches but their total holes up came to 11 and Team B again won three matches but was a total of 15 holes up, then Team B would be the winner. Sometimes, as the above example, the two methods give different results, but more often the two methods give the same result.

The BGCS method appealed to me immediately. Every player had the incentive to play their best for their team right to the very end when all 18 holes were completed. If, for example, after 16 holes Player A was three up on Player B, then of course Player A could not lose the match.

In the BGCS method, however, Player A over the remaining 2 holes would be trying to increase the lead to 5 holes and Player B would be trying to reduce the gap to 1 hole. Both could improve the position of their team right to the end of eighteen holes. That was my immediate impression. After thinking some more about the two methods, I realised that the BGCS method was a much better way of assessing the overall strength of each team.

Readers with a background in mathematics or the principles of measurement will immediately understand my point. The modern method does not measure the relative strength of the two teams, because it gives the same weight to a narrow win, say by 1 hole up, as it does to an overwhelming win, say by 7 holes up with 6 to play. In contrast the BGCS method gives proportionate weights to a win by 1 hole and a win by 7 holes. For non-mathematicians this is best illustrated by what is called in the trade a constructed data set.

Match #	Team A	Team B
1	1 up	
2	1 up	
3	1 up	
4	1 up	
5	Halved	Halved
6		7 up & 6 to play
7		7 up & 6 to play
8		7 up & 6 to play

In the constructed data set (above) Team A would be the winner by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  matches to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  under the modern method of team scoring. The problem with this result is that in the first five matches the players in each group played more or less equally well. Indeed, as so often happens in golf, one lucky break or one unlucky break could easily have produced a different result in those first five matches.

In the last three matches, however, the players in Team B played much better golf than the Team A players. Overall, Team B was a much stronger team, but this does not show in the result,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  matches to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , because of equal weighting to each match.

With some research I found that the total holes up method was used quite regularly in times gone by. It is best illustrated by what is generally considered to be the first interstate match in Australia (see Note below).



Victorian State Team in 1900.

(Image published with the permission of Royal Melbourne Golf Club. It must not be further reproduced without permission from Royal Melbourne.)



## Team Matches in Golf (cont.)

In 1897 women golfers from Victoria travelled to Sydney to play women golfers from New South Wales. The results were reported in the Sydney Morning Herald, 19th August 1897 (page 6), and are shown in the image from the newspaper.

## GOLF.

A match of an intercolonial nature was played on the Sydney Golf Club's Links yesterday between a team of ladies representing the Royal Melbourne and Geelong Golf Clubs and one from the Sydney Club. As was anticipated the Victorians gained a substantial victory by 19 holes, which they deserved from their steady, all-round, and consistent play. A most exciting match was that between Miss Davie (Victoria) and Mrs. Fairfax (Sydney) the former winning by only one stroke on the last hole. The halved match between Miss Guthrie (Victoria) and Miss Weston (Sydney) was also very interesting as an exhibition of improved play on Miss Weston's part, and of pluck on Miss Guthrie's side, for her opponent held a substantial lead most of the way. Miss Yencken (Victoria) and Miss Brand (Sydney), the two scratch players in each club, both played a good game, but the Victorian was a little too strong. To Miss Wade Browne, however, so far as Sydney was concerned, fell the honours of the day, as she defeated her opponent by 4 up, being the only Sydney player to score. Both Miss Marsh (Victoria) and Miss Shaw (Victoria) played good steady games, being too consistent for their opponents. A feature of the present meeting is the improvement shown by some of the Sydney ladies, the result no doubt of encountering superior players for the first time in their golfing experience. The following are the scores:—

VICTORIA.		SYDNEY.	
Miss Yencken ...	4	Miss Dorothy Brand ...	0
Miss Davie ...	1	Mrs. J. O. Fairfax ...	0
Mrs. Branson ...	5	Mrs. Robson ...	0
Miss Guthrie ...	0	Miss Weston ...	0
Miss L. Shaw ...	6	Miss S. Darley ...	0
Miss Marsh ...	7	Mrs. Macneil ...	0
Miss Cumming ...	0	Miss Wade Browne ...	4
	23		4

**Notes.** In 1897 Victoria and New South Wales were separate colonies of the United Kingdom. After Federation in 1901 they became States within the independent nation of Australia.

The 1897 method of team scoring is currently used in the annual matches played between the Australian Golf Heritage Society and the Golf Society of Australia.

**Note:** This article is a slightly revised version of an article published in December 2018 in *Golfika*, magazine of the European Association of Golf Historians and Collectors

- Michael Sheret

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