

# The Brassie

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## Special points of interest:

- The Dan Cullen Trophy results at Long Reef GC
- The 2003 Events Program
- Australian Historic Golf Trust and Museum
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## The Dan Cullen Trophy

The best of all possible results occurred on the beautiful sunny Friday March 14 at Longreef, when GCSA Patron Dan and his son Dan Jnr were the winners of Dan's own trophy. Their score was a robust four under for the 10-hole 2 ball Ambrose event. It was Dan Jnr's first hit with hickories and the pair's first win together in any golf event. The Perpetual Trophy for this GCSA members event is a 'Dan Cullen' putter (circa 1937) displayed in a glass case.

**Winners:** Dan Cullen (retired Golf Professional) and his son Dan Cullen Jnr. (N.S.W.) with a net score of 35¼

**Runners up:** Peter Watts (Asquith) and Ernie Perkins (Muirfield) 35¼.

Results of the 'Links Classic' event, held in conjunction for non-society members, were:

**Winners:** Jessica Sullivan (16 years old Long Reef member, off 9) and John Fletcher (Woolaware) with a score of 34¼ on cb.

**Runners up:** Gary Churcher (Professional at Long Reef) and Max Garske (CEO of the PGA) also 34¼.



Owen Denmeade was event photographer and raconteur, and after the excellent dinner, Dan Cullen and Al Howard entertained the crowd with stories of days long gone but not forgotten. GCSA appreciates Les Browne's contribution to arrange for the Dan Cullen Trophy and the Links Classic to be played at Long Reef, a seaside course well suited to hickory play.

## Hickory Events – 2003 Program

A 'Nine & Dine' event has been confirmed for Woolaware Golf Club, on Thursday 25 September 2003. Our thanks go to John Fletcher for organising this event. A guest speaker will be invited and further details will be available in the next *Brassie*.

Owen Denmeade has been in contact with Avalon Golf Club, where Vicki Jellie is interested in holding a 'Hickory

Day' for her members, possibly in July. Details will be made available on confirmation. Maitland/Windsor event has been deferred to later in the year.

GCSA's Championships will be held on Thursday October 16, at the Auburn GC, hit-off at noon. The annual challenge with the Golf Society of Australia (GSA) is scheduled for late October, early November. Date to be confirmed

# Australian Historic Golf Trust and Museum

The Trust *holds* the collection of clubs and memorabilia and the GCSA manages the museum on behalf of the Trust. The Trustees are Geoff Scott, Tom Moore, Ken Shepherd (Vic.) and Malcolm Purcell (W.A.). However, GCSA's preference is for the golfing bodies' CEOs to also be Trustees, to reflect their support for the history of golf and this was discussed at the Trust meeting on May 13. Letters are to be sent inviting the golfing bodies' involvement in the Trust and this provides the potential for a national plan for the major golf collections. Plans are developing for the Trust to acquire

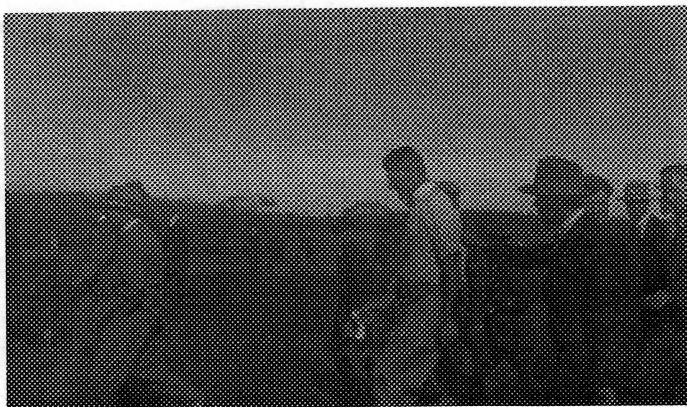
from Dunlop the Slazenger's golf ball testing machine that has been stored in a shed on the Australian GC's practice fairway for some years. It is some years since Dunlop made golf balls in Australia.

Other acquisitions include a complete handwritten handicap regis-

ter of the Hunters Hill GC for 1901-1920, donated by the NSWGA. The HHGC was on land overlooking the present Gladesville Bridge. A suitable display case has been obtained.

Tom is getting some support from GCSA members to volunteer for museum duties on occasional Sundays. These days are available if you would like to engage the visitors in interesting conversation: June 1 & 15, July 13 & 27, August 10 & 24, September 7 & 21, October 5 & 19, November 2, 16 & 30 and December 14 & 28.

QUIZ: Can you name the mystery golfer?



## Famous Unknown golfers who played with hickories

The only woman Australia's most famous writer, Patrick White cared for was a wee Carnoustie lassie, his nanny, 'Lizzy' Clark. Lizzy was the young sister of Carnegie, Walter and Robert Clark! It was Lizzy who taught Patrick to read!! Patrick recalls the tram rides to Rose Bay to meet her family.



*"Inside the Clark house you could hardly understand a word that was being said ... unintelligibly Scottish. The palms of Mrs Clark's hands were permanently white from rolling golf balls in a tray of paint. Her brothers made me some cut down clubs and I used to chop the turf in exas-*

*peration in the Clark's back yard."*

The Clark backyard of course was that area immediately behind the first tee at Royal Sydney. Several Collectors Society members have been known to do the same.

SOURCE: "Flaws in the Glass – a self portrait" by Patrick White

## Club Restoration and Collection

John Greenan (9652 2990 at Glenorie) does a superb job restoring persimmon wood heads. John uses tea bags for stain and there are a variety of colours including Earl Grey and English Breakfast. Believe me, your old woods will look better than new.

Tom Moore is excellent for polishing iron heads, grips and bindings. A special mixture of chemicals for

cleaning iron heads is available from the Museum Shop for \$25.

For everything to do with leather, including authentic pitched linen thread, Tom recommends Birds-ville Leather, in Wigram Street, Botany.

## LATE NEWS!!

The Golf Collectors have just received first option on an **outstanding** collection of hickory clubs and memorabilia. This is a very high quality offering and a great opportunity for investment.

Please contact Tom Moore if you are interested (9871 2798)



## Harry Vardon said .....writing in 'How to Play Golf'

This book was published in September 1912, with the second, third and fourth editions published the following month. That shows the interest in how to play golf when written by the winner of five British Open (he also won in 1914). The book was revised in 1924, and in the preface, Vardon mentions the changes caused by the new rubber-cored ball, in place of the gutta percha. Vardon explains the need to focus on the details and in the process, discloses the great skill he had with what we would regard as 'primitive instruments'.

*Golf demands deep thought until the end of one's playing days, especially on the small points*

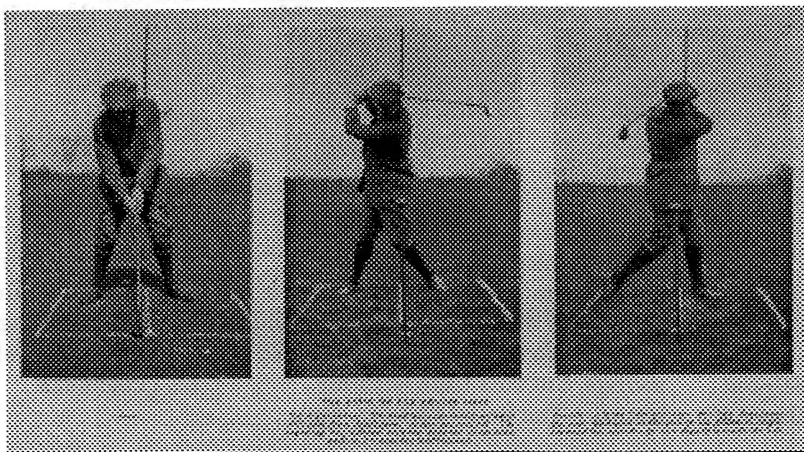
*Golf demands deep thought until the end of one's playing days, and, as one grows older, ideas continue to present themselves in connexion with the principles of executing shots. If I may say with frankness what I think, I will express the opinion that many amateurs fail to attain that degree of success which is in their reach for the simple reason that they do not reflect sufficiently on the possibilities, especially where small points are concerned. The professional has to think, because golf is his livelihood; that, in the abstract is why he excels. He gives close attention to the details, and knows the cause of every effect.*

*In this connexion, let me describe an experience which often falls to the professional who is called upon to travel consid-*

*erably in pursuit of golf. A little while ago I visited a course which I had not seen for seven or eight years. To mention one particular hole will be sufficient for my purpose. It had not been altered since the time of my introduction to it.*

*Moreover, I had to play it on the second occasion in practically the same circumstances, in the matter of the weather, as seven or eight years ago – that is to say, in a strong right-to-left wind. In the first instance, I decided to hit my drive into the wind and impart pull to the ball to as to gain distance by the effect of the spin and the wind coming into kindly co-operation on my behalf when the ball was*

*nearing its end. On the later occasion I found myself playing what I regard as the up-to-date game. I hit an almost straight drive with a suspicion of cut on it so as to bring the ball into the wind at the finish of its flight. Each constituted I think, the right tactics at the time of their employment. But why did I alter? Because the ball had changed. Now that the ball is so resilient and so susceptible to the slightest movement that accentuates the run, the intentional pull is the most dangerous shot in the game. To keep it under perfect control when the ground is hard and the course is narrow is so difficult as to involve very big risk. Here then is a concrete example of the way in which golf has changed.*



## THE GOLF COLLECTORS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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If you have some special interest in golf history or golf collecting let us know. If you want to promote some aspect of golf history as a GCSA activity, we are interested. If you want to interest your golfing colleagues or your club in GCSA activities, then we want to help you.

Email Captain, Peter Read on read1pet@presto.net.au or Barry Leithhead on bsleith@ozemail.com.au

## The History of your Golf Club

The NSW Golf Association published an excellent book – 'The Story of Golf in New South Wales 1851-1987', by David J Innes (1998). There are references to 230 golf clubs – is yours one of them? Does your club have a recorded history or if not, does it have a history that should be recorded? What might not seem to be a history now, certainly will be in twenty and fifty years time. In the style of PG Wodehouse, does your club have an 'oldest member' who is the repository for all the tall tales of days long gone?

GCSA has a vision that every club should have an historian who respects and conserves the history of the club. We see that each club should sponsor that person as a GCSA member and that the histo-

rian members can form a special group in GCSA that meets to compare techniques, discoveries and notes about collecting and conserving club histories.

What a wonderful tribute, to extend the substance of David Innes' great book into a series of living histories that are recorded and conserved. Are you interested? If so, then talk to your Club Captain or Committee and to Ross Howard (9958 4628) to see how this vision can be brought into focus and action.

Speaking of which, Owen Denmeade has recently begun returning old clubs to 'where they belong'. So off to Wollongong with a beautiful Alex Lowe 'jigger'. Tea and scones on the verandah with

the Club Secretary Manager Kevin Fagg was great fun. "Hang on a minute". Kevin ducks off into his office and returns with the head of another Alex Lowe club. "Someone dug this up years ago in their front yard". Would you believe it's a Maxwell Star niblick, a perfect match for the jigger. Tom Moore has since recreated the second club and now there are two wonderful mementoes of a much-loved early club professional, plus more tea and scones on the verandah. It was a wonderful experience and excellent PR for the Collectors Society. Think about it!

Well Barry Leithhead did and he found 16 clubs in his collection that show the name of a professional and his club. Tom Moore has the list.

## I met a Professional one day ....

... at the Tumut GC in southern NSW, when on my way to the 2002 annual challenge against the Golf Society of Australia at Royal Melbourne. Where better for a practice round than Tumut? Well Gundagai would have been better, because the pro there, Graham Cheshire is a GCSA member. But it was Graham's day off, so Tumut it was. I walked into the pro shop to be greeted by a young pro, Des Shearer, not yet thirty (not related to Bob) and he spied my leather

bag of old clubs with interest. "My grandfather had some of those, but he wouldn't give them to me" he said. "Don't you have any?" I asked. No. "Have you ever hit with them?" No.

He was busy then, so I went back after my nine holes to see him again. I am a leftie but he is a pro, so he took a left handed stance and grip and swung as smooth as a pro swings, but this time with my brassie. The ball flew long, high,

straight then with faint draw, to a spot about 200m distant. "Can't believe it, so smooth," he said. "Let me hit an iron." He did and that look of disbelief came across his face. "How come it goes so well, when it's so old", he wondered. An idea like, 'What difference do modern clubs really make?' started to come into his mind, like it does. I left him thinking about how he could get those old clubs away from his grandfather.

## GCSA Membership for a Golfing Friend

GCSA needs new members to share the fun of hickory golf. The cost is a modest \$30 pa and it's a great gift for a friend or relative.

Complete the details and send a cheque for \$30 to:

GCSA  
PO Box 23, Glenorie NSW 2157

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....P/c.....

Phone: ..... Email: .....

Club ..... H/cap .....