

# the Brassie

## Brassie n.

'In place of the many spoons of a nearly bygone age, there has come into use a club named 'the brassie'. This weapon, lofted somewhat more than a driver and less than a spoon, is shod or soled, with brass, whereby its wielder is enabled to play off roads and hard lies without injury to the head.'

*In Horace Hutchinson's Badminton Golf (1890).*

## Captain's Corner

The Australian Hickory shafted Championship was played for the first time at the Coast Golf Club, in windy and wet conditions on a testing links-like layout. A full report is on page 2. Overall, the winners were:

- Hickory shafted golf, enjoyed by a near-record field;
- **Scratch:** Ray Drummond 83; Runner up, Des Froneman 87;
- **Handicap:** Steve Sewell (13) net 72; Runner up J Fetcher (15) Net 74.

For a number of unavoidable reasons the annual Interstate Challenge between 'The Golf Collectors Society' (NSW) and 'The Golf Society of Australia' (Vic.) had to be cancelled this year. It was to be played at Woodlands Golf Club, Victoria on 29 October. Members will be looking forward to the event next year.



The field for the Dan Cullen Trophy, Long Reef GC, February 2004

A booking has been made for a game of golf at Elanora Golf Club Friday March 18, 2005, with final arrangements for the day to be confirmed. It is possible that a seminar on Archiving club history records will be combined with the day. Watch this space for further developments.

The Centenary Australian Open at the Australian GC will be held from November 25-28. Peter Thomson and Arnold Palmer will play a special exhibition match over nine holes on Wednesday 24 November. GCSA will have a display at the Open, in conjunction with the Golf Society of Australia. Look at [www.australianopengolf.com.au](http://www.australianopengolf.com.au) for more details.

The GCSA display will also be at the NSW Open at the Liverpool GC over November 18-21. There will be no admission charge for this tournament.

## The Golf Collectors Society of Australia

### Volume 2 Issue 4

### November 2004

#### Special points of interest:

- *GCSA Exhibition at the NSW and Australian Opens*
- *Grant received for Museum management software*
- *Museum development underway: talent needed*
- *Golf club historians focus on Oral History*

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## The 13<sup>th</sup> Australian Hickory Shafted Championship – Thursday 14 October 2004

The event was played for the first time at the testing layout at The Coast, a 3 kilometre long boomerang on the cliff edge adjacent to the St Michaels and New South Wales clubs. A fine day greeted the field of 28 that started in benign conditions. But the leading group had played only three holes when the southerly buster got up and play suddenly became a real challenge in the gale force wind.

By the time the first group was through the 9<sup>th</sup>, it was possible the threatening weather or the poor light would win the tournament. It seemed certain the last group would finish very wet and in the dark. This thought pushed aside, the lead group headed for the far side of the course, downwind for a while but knowing the last five holes would be right into it. Captain Peter Read (4), who played in the Japanese Left Handed Championship the prior week, and won the Seniors Division, played well for 16 holes. However, he finished with a 6 (double) at the 17<sup>th</sup> and a 7 (triple) at the last for 87.

Just behind, Young Dan Cullen (6), the host for the day, was not doing well as he should, having been club champion at nearby St Michaels and NSW in the same year, even if a few ago. In the same group, Martyn Black, Curator at Castle Hill GC had hit a beautiful drive on the first with his first grip of a hickory club, parred the hole and enjoyed the rest of the round enormously.

Patron Dan Cullen Snr. at 89 has now reinvigorated his game with a new set of Callaways and had hit a hundred practice balls before the game. He had the good sense to enjoy the first nine and then enjoy a shower before a good yarn with Bill McWilliam and special guest, cartoonist Tony Rafty. Players enjoyed their company after the round.

**Rising star John Fletcher (15) was playing the best golf of his recent good period, with a mere 41 strokes on the front nine or two better than his mark. This included a stunning par on the fifth hole of 395m, into the howling wind. A good low drive and then another off the short**

**grass still needed a full cleek approach from 130m to hit the bank in front of the green and bounce onto the surface, a decent distance from the pin. He did it and sank the putt. Des Froneman (12), the 2002 champion watched this performance and gritted his teeth but stayed relaxed. Des was in contention, as he often is.**

Steve Sewell (13) in Tom Moore's group, played with solid determination through the round and needed to par the last for a net 72, a very difficult task into the headwind. The fairway drops 20m into a valley and after playing up to the plateau, doglegs sharply right to a sloping green protected in front by a small lake and on other sides by mounds. Steve was pin high but well left in two and not on the green in three. But he holed his fourth from just off the green, thirty five feet from the cup.

Steve had a simple approach: "The weather – real hickory weather – was the same for everyone, no use bothering about it. Just play your game and accept what comes. Off 13, I play bogey golf, keep my head still and down, make a nice easy swing, a bit slower in the wind, with accurate mashie shots a better option than bold shots with a less lofted club. Staying down even works even on putts. 'Wait for the sound of the ball in the cup', Gary Player said." It certainly paid off for Steve, with tap in putts on each of the last six holes, except the last, where it was a 35 foot tap in. Playing only three hickory games in three years and playing The Coast only once, fifteen years ago, helped Steve concentrate a little harder.

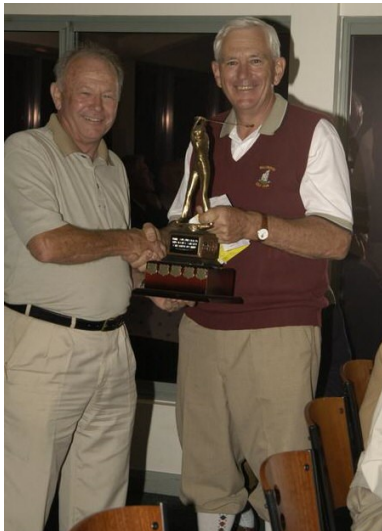
The final group did battle the dark but the rain held off except for a few isolated showers. Henry Paterson was out of the race but Ray Drummond (8) was right in it. Playing almost flawless golf with six clubs he had never seen before, Ray proved that bad weather brings out the best in good golfers. Some in the field thought of the opposite effect. Perhaps it was Ray's grounding in Melbourne that helped him handle the quick greens. Or was it solid iron play that put the ball in a good position? Or maybe his even swing tempo despite the buffeting. Or maybe it was having few games in recent years and instinctively going back to basics, always a good thing to do. Ray putted from 25 feet for eagle on the dogleg left, uphill par 5, 11<sup>th</sup> and was more than satisfied with the birdie. He



Ray Drummond plays 'flat-foot' golf in the wind



Des Froneman favours a wide stance



Ray Drummond, 2004 Hickory shaft Champion



Steve Sewell, 2004 Handicap Champion



Steve Sewell in balance and sunlight



A Steve Sewell tap in

All pics on this page and many more were taken by Vicki Cullen and others from IBImages and are available for purchase from [www.ibimages.com](http://www.ibimages.com) where the access code & password is golf/hickory

## The Bobby Locke Story: Part 2 – Australian Open Champion 1955

By Des Froneman

Bobby Locke enjoyed visiting Australia. He particularly liked the sand-belt courses of Melbourne and the excellent weather conditions which favoured playing throughout the year. He had the greatest respect for the golfing skills of the many Australian professionals he encountered in tournament play around the world.

He spoke often and long about the character and achievements of Norman von Nida, Peter Thomson, Bruce Crampton and the many others he met during his visits down under. In his later years he often hankered for ‘just one last trip to that wonderful golfing country, Australia’.

Bobby Locke won four Open Championships in Britain: Royal St Georges (1949); Troon (1950); Lytham St Annes (1952); and St Andrews (1957). Together with Peter Thomson, he dominated the Open Championship for more than a decade, and in the process the two of them focused the world on the tenacity and skills of golfers from the southern hemisphere. There can be little doubt that they established a pattern and a foundation which was adopted by the likes of Gary Player, Kel Nagle, Greg Norman, Harold Henning, David Graham, Graham Marsh, Jack Newton, Wayne Grady, Ernie Els, Stuart Appleby, Retief Goosen, Robert Allenby and others who have had successful worldwide careers.

Shortly after the end of World War II, Bobby was invited by Sam Snead to visit America – Snead was the British Open Champion and the leading player in America at the time. After a ‘demonstration’ tour of South Africa, where Bobby beat Sam 12 times in 16 matches and halved two of the other four, they travelled to the United States.

In the first event, the Masters at Augusta, Bobby was placed tenth, having the honour of rounds with Bobby Jones, Byron Nelson and Jimmy Demaret. He then won four of the next six tournaments and became widely known as the foreigner with the strange ‘buggy-whip’ swing and looping putting action.

The tournaments Bobby won in those first two months were: The Carolinas Open; The Houston Open; The Philadelphia Enquirer Open; and the Goodall Round Robin tournament. Together with the earnings from a number of top five finishes, he ended the half season in America only \$200 behind the full season money winner Jimmy Demaret – not bad for a Rookie with a ‘weak right arm’ on the biggest professional golf tour in the world at the time.

Bobby returned to America in a further two years (1949-50) for half season visits and had many more wins. However, he became less popular with American pro golfers who felt he was plundering the prize money which was supposed to go towards their own earnings as Americans. After some unpleasant exchanges on the matter, during which he was penalised on a technicality, he opted to avoid playing further golf in America and concentrated his efforts mainly in Britain, South Africa, Europe and Australia for the remainder of his career.

During his three brief visits to America, however, Bobby Locke left an indelible mark and in 1988 his putter was recognised as the “Putter of the Century”, covering the first 100 years of golf in America.

As one of the first true international competitors, he was successful in winning more than seventy tournaments around the world, including the national titles of South Africa (9 times), Britain (4 times), Canada, Ireland, Holland, France, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

Those who were fortunate to play regularly with Bobby will acknowledge three beliefs as fundamental to his style and tenacity:

1. “Give every player a fair chance to play every shot”;
2. “Never be hurried – in tough circumstances, breathe deeply before your shot and then swing easily”;
3. “When you have decided on the line and strength required on the green – **every putt is a straight putt**”.

## Join this Golf Club: You Wish!

GCSA President Tom Moore recently joined an exclusive golfing club with no clubhouse, course or fees, where members are excellent golfers of somewhat advanced years. Patron Dan Cullen has been a member for years. It's the BYA-GC, as in 'Beat your Age'. Congratulations Tom!

Old Dan was grumbling about a bad round recently and was able to add, "But I still beat my by 10"!! That must something

to put on one of the club's honour boards. Bill McWilliam, recently awarded the Order of Australia for his services to golf, has been a member for years.

In 1979, Legh Winsor won the Barwon Heads GC Saturday comp with a scratch score of 87, breaking his age by 7. Winsor won the Australian Amateur Championship in 1921 and was the Royal Adelaide GC champion ten times. On his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday, Legh played with Peter

Thomson and shot a 77, one of the 2,000 times he has broken his age. He played of scratch for thirty years. For a sideline, Legh played cricket for South Australia as wicket keeper, before and after WWI.



Caption describing

## Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) – a Composed Golfer

In the program notes of a recent Sydney Symphony concert at the Opera House, Owen Denmeade discovered that the legendary English composer, Edward Elgar of Pomp & Circumstance, the Enigma Variations fame, plus many others still on the charts after 90 years, frustrated at the lack of recognition and having to take in

*"If golf is a game of rhythm,  
who better to play it well  
than the composer  
of the grand sweeping movement of  
the Enigma Variations"*

students to make a living, constantly talked in the 1890s of

giving it all away and becoming ....  
**a Professional Golfer!!**

Owen's wife Chloe, who takes him to concerts in an attempt to inject some sophistication into the boy from Bondi, is furious.

## Golf Historians' Seminar on Oral History

Over twenty enthusiastic golf club historians had a great day at Pennant Hills GC listening to Rosie Block explain the principles and techniques of Oral History. Rosie is an experienced professional in the field and manages the OH unit at the NSW State Library. The value and importance of the recorded voice took on a power and a place that writing cannot occu-

py. It is essential that the voices of golf's rich experience are captured as a vital part of club histories.

This was our third seminar for club historians and their number in GCSA's membership continues to rise. The next seminars are being planned: on archiving, research and writing. With the Museum's Resource

Centre high in our priorities and other resources available, GCSA and the club historians group is well placed to support the clubs who want to respect and celebrate their history.

Erwin Huber, the historian for Moore Park GC has agreed to lead the historians' group and guide the activity program.

## Museum Development Plan (MDP)

A Grant from the Museums & Galleries Foundation for the MOSAiC collection management software has the MDP off to a good start. Now we need people with the talent and enthusiasm to implement the plan, guided by a consultant. How well do you fit one of these roles?

### General responsibilities of all roles:

- Contribute ideas and enthusiasm to the Museum Development Project
- Inform Taskforce members about progress and obstacles in the specific role
- Liaise with and assist other Taskforce members

### DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR:

- Liaise with the Consultant about development tasks and priorities
- Liaise with Contractors and suppliers about their contribution to development tasks
- Assess progress on development tasks and inform the Taskforce Director

### DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR:

- Commission and maintain the integrity of the Collection MOSAiC *Plus* database
- Enter data about Museum items into the database
- Provide information from the database to Taskforce members and enquirers.

### RESOURCE CENTRE MANAGER:

- Catalogue the Museum's collections of books, magazines and other reference material in the Collection MOSAiC *Plus* software;
- Store and display the Resource Centre's materials in suitable shelving and cabinets;
- Respond to requests for information;
- Assist visitors to the Resource Centre;
- Develop information 'kits' from the Resource Centre's materials for distribution.

### MUSEUM ADMINISTRATOR:

- Prepare records of donations, accessions and other activities in line with the Collections Management Manual and the Collections MOSAiC *Plus* system

### WRITER:

- Research and draft information to describe the Museum and its collection in general and specific items in particular
- Develop text, display and 'hand out' material;
- Develop promotional messages about the Museum and its collection

### VISITATION PROMOTIONS:

- Develop and action ideas to promote increasing visitation at the Museum
- Develop and action ideas for special features and events at the Museum

Contact Barry Leithhead for more details on 9652 1430 or [barryleithhead@hotmail.net.au](mailto:barryleithhead@hotmail.net.au)

## Legends of the Turf

(Extracted with permission from ATM the magazine of Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association)

The AGCSA Board recently bestowed Distinguished Service Awards to five legends of their industry. They included Mick Morcom, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Melbourne from 1905-1937, his son Vernon, Head Greenkeeper at Kingston Heath GC 1928-1967 and Claude Crockford, Course Manager at RMGC 1937-1975.

THE MORCOM FAMILY (written by Graham Grant, Superintendent of Kingston Heath 1982-)

While Melbourne was home to one of the turf industry's great individuals, it was also home of "one of the country's most remarkable families, the Morcoms." (Mike Clayton, A Round Forever, 2001). Mick and Vernon Morcom had a huge impact not only on the turf management profession, but golf throughout Australia.

### MICK MORCOM

The words used by Alister MacKenzie are probably better than any to give and insight into the skills of Mick Morcom.

In relation to Royal Melbourne, MacKenzie wrote: "I have suggested to the Council of the Club that the work of construction be left entirely in the hands of the Greenkeeper, M A Morcom. Morcom is, I think, the most intelligent greenkeeper I have come in contact with in this or any other country and understand my plans thoroughly."

On Kingston Heath, MacKenzie had this to say about Morcom: "The construction work which has been carried out by Morcom is in many respects better than I have seen on any other golf course in Britain or Australia."

And upon his return to Britain, MacKenzie penned in Golf Illustrated: "The Royal Melbourne Golf Club has the good fortune to have the best greenkeeper I have come across in Britain, America or Australia – a man named Morcom – and I managed to persuade most of the golf clubs in Australia to secure his services for the purpose in helping in their construction work."

"Morcom has not only read, but has studied every book he could possibly get hold of on the subject of golf course construction and green keeping, and has been in constant touch with the Green section of the USGA, who have done so much good in green keeping."

A paragraph from 'A Centenary History – Royal Melbourne Golf Club' reads: "It is pertinent that MacKenzie mentions construction as well as green keeping when referring to Morcom. After 60 years it is not easy to assess the relative contributions of MacKenzie, Russell and Morcom in the design and construction of the West Course or Russell and Morcom with the east Course, but it should be borne in mind that a world famous golf course architect and an Australian (golf) champion would find it much easier to be acknowledged than a club employee."

The Brassie Editor

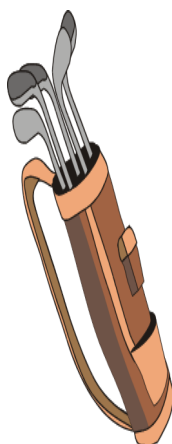
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*Respecting, conserving and  
celebrating the history of golf  
in Australia*

*The Golf Collectors Society of Australia is the ideal forum  
for people:*

- *Interested in golf's rich and relevant history;*
- *Collecting old clubs and other memorabilia;*
- *Wanting to play with hickory shafted clubs;*
- *Researching and writing the history of their club.*

*These like-minded people with varying interests across  
the spectrum of golf's history find much in common. The  
helpfulness of members is a feature of GCSA and new  
members extend their knowledge and enjoyment of golf.*

*Playing with hickories is good for your game with mod-  
ern clubs. With hickories, you go back to basics - an easy  
swing, head still, feeling the shaft and the club in your  
hands. These are good lessons to relearn.*

*Join GCSA and extend your enjoyment of golf!*

## Subscriptions for 2004-5

Good news!! The annual subscriptions have been kept at the same nominal level as last year - \$30 renewal and \$20 joining fee. Even better news, new members joining since 1 January 2004, subscriptions continue through to June 30, 2005. If you have not yet paid, please complete this form and send your cheque promptly.

NAME:	
POSTAL ADDRESS:	
EMAIL:	Phone:
CLUB:	
Please forward your cheque for \$30 (\$50 for new members) payable to The Golf Collectors Society of Australia to: Tom Moore, 52 Becky Avenue, North Rocks NSW 2151	