

# 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

### Dan Cullen Trophy

On Friday 18 February 2005, the Dan Cullen Trophy was played at that wonderful links-like course, Long Reef. This was the third year the event has been played there, organised with the assistance of Les Browne and pro Gary Churcher, and we were warmly welcomed and enjoyed a fine afternoon's golf. Sincere thanks to Les and Gary.

One small hick-up occurred when we were about to hit off, we advised that no dining facilities would be available at the club that evening. Some lateral thinking occurred by the 'Dining Committee' and it was decided to buy a dozen pizzas and have them delivered to the club. That problem solved we went off to play golf. On the third fairway a buggy came toward us with two Club Employees, they advised that the caterer had been contacted and agreed to come in and prepare our meal. Pizzas cancelled by a phone call from the course, and with great relief to all members of the 'Dining Committee' we set off to complete our game of golf. From the results you will see that no member of the 'Dining Committee' featured in the trophies.

Results of the Dan Cullen Trophy, over ten holes of par 40:

**Winners:** Ross Howard and John Fletcher with 36<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> (46/9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>)

**Runners up:** Ray Drummond and Henry Paterson with 37 (43/6)

During the evening, Jimmy Boots 84 years young, spoke about his early

days at Elanora as a caddie (see separate story). We also heard from Dan Cullen who, following his service in the Second World War, took the job as Professional at Roseville Golf Club. Tom Moore had found, as only Tom can, a golf club Dan made when the Professional at Roseville. This was presented to Dan who responded with some wonderful anecdotes about his time at Roseville. As the Pro in those days, Dan was not allowed in the club house. Being somewhat resourceful and mildly resentful, Dan arranged to play with a group of ex-AIF men, all prominent members. After the game, they arranged to go inside for a drink and Dan apologised, "I'm sorry gentlemen, but you will appreciate I am only the Professional and not allowed in the club house." "Rubbish," said one, "I'll fix that straight away!" He did and Dan was in.

### Introduction to Hickory

We plan to hold an event during May at the Auburn Links. The event will be played with Hickory clubs and each Society member will be required to bring a friend to play in a two-person Ambrose. Members will be encouraged to bring along one or two special collectibles for a 'show and tell' during snacks after the game. This will introduce visitors to the enjoyment of collecting and give Society members an opportunity to examine special items owned by other members.

*Peter Read* Captain

## The Golf Collectors Society of Australia

Volume 3 Issue 1

March 2005

### Special points of interest:

- *Reports on the 2005 Dan Cullen Trophy event*
- *Alan 'Stumpy' Waterson—a great amateur from the 1930-40s*
- *Museum development actions*
- *Golf club historians seminar on Archiving Practices—part of the 2005 Program*

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**The Dan Cullen Trophy**—Ross Howard reports (Ross and John Fletcher won the 2-ball Ambrose event over 10 holes and played with Henry Paterson and Ray Drummond, who were runners up. Ray won our hickory Championship scratch division last October and John was runner up in the handicap division. *Editor*)

Long Reef is at least two golf links on the one site, depending upon the prevailing zephyr. Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February provided those fortunate enough to have the day off from work, grand parenting duties, shopping or gardening, with very pleasant golfing weather. As well, the course was in “great nick” particularly the greens being soft enough to receive and hold a lofted hickory shot. As a current member of the Reef plus a term back in the late 60’s early 70’s, I like to see how well the links have developed in keeping with its seaside environment.

A two ball Ambrose reminds me foursomes, with comments such as “I’ve never been here before” whilst still trying to give support to your partner. John Fletcher and I were grouped with Henry Paterson and Ray Drummond and we were so relaxed that it was only at the final hole did we ask: “How do we work out the handicap?”

Suffice to say, Fletch was reliable off the tee and kept the little white pill in play for every hole except the last where he duffed it big time. Finally I had to experience the pressure and hit one above knee height and nearly straight; what teamwork! Meantime Ray and Henry continued to keep their team on the mown section of the links, how boring! Guys, you should experiment a little, like our back handed attempts from under the only tree of any size on the 14<sup>th</sup>. However the best was yet to come, with two good blows up the par 5 15<sup>th</sup> (Fletch’s shots), into the breeze and then we put the ball 4 feet from the cup and sank it for a birdie four. High fives all round, but in recollection it was only Fletch and yours truly that participated. Even at this stage, no one had been bothering with net scores, we were all enjoying the game so much.

Finally to the 18<sup>th</sup> via a bit of “army” golf (left right left) and then to add up the card, inquire of Captain Reid the mathematics and as the presentation unfolded, a win by ¼ a shot from our playing partners. Oh, that Fridays should be so good, and with the weekend still to come.

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On a personal note: The Dan Cullen Trophy event is not simply great for the links place we play or the implements we use. The event pays tribute to Dan Cullen who now aged 90 and a pro for 70 years, still makes his mark in golf. As well, it brings out characters like Jimmy Boots, a great guest speaker, who started caddying at the nearby

Elanora course 75 years ago. And my own connection through dad, Al Howard a pro since 1931 who redesigned the starting holes at Long Reef forty years ago, now 91 and unfortunately could not attend, and his dad, Tommy, a pro from 1922 until his death in 1969 and present in spirit, comes to life in a way I cannot describe.

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**MEMORIES OF ELANORA GOLF CLUB**

**By Jim Boots**

In 1930, during the Depression, when I was only 10 years old, opposite our home lives a man named Harold Lovell. Harold had just started work as the Caddy Master in James Scott’s Pro Shop at Elanora Golf Club. One day, my brother and I walked to Elanora Golf Club and met Harold Lovell and asked if we could caddy. He said, “Yes, but because you are so small you can only caddy for lady members as their bags are only small.”

Harold gave us a lesson on what we had to do. He said: “Make sure you keep up with the players. Call them ‘Sir’ or ‘Mr’ and the ladies ‘Mrs’. On a blind hole, such as over the hill, go well out in front to see where the ball lands.”

Every Saturday and Sunday we would have to go into a draw to get a job. As there so many men out of work they got preference over us boys. The pay was two shillings and threepence a round and if you were lucky you might get a threepence tip. After a couple of years caddying we had learnt a lot about the game. After I saw someone play a couple of holes I could tell them what club to use.

The men caddies went on strike for a threepence rise – which they got. If you ever got a sixpence tip you would make sure the tipper had a good lie (if no-one was looking!). You would also ask him if he was playing next week and if you could wait and caddy for him.

“Choko” Murrell was a character. We called him “Treadem” because of his custom of treading the ball into the ground for those players who were mean tippers.

While we were waiting for a job a lot of men and boys used to play marbles or go for a swim in the dam. If Miss Oswald Sealy saw you in the dam she would come after you and chase you through the bush. We used to grab our clothes and run through the bushes, getting lots of scratches all over our bodies when she chased us. Another thing we did when we couldn’t get a job was to walk along the creeks catching yabbies (which are like small lobsters) and they are still there today. In 1934 I saw Joe Kirkwood and Gene Sarazen play at Elanora.



John Fletcher's driving style



Ross & John collaborate on a putt

All pics on this page and many more were taken by Ian Bennett from IBIimages and are available for purchase at \$12 pp from [www.ibimages.com](http://www.ibimages.com) where the access code & password is golf/hickory



Fletcher & Howard, Dan Cullen, Drummond & Paterson

Jim Boots, ex Caddy,  
Guest Speaker



Dan Cullen finishes in style

**Alan ‘Stumpy’ Waterson**

Our Museum was very fortunate recently to receive golf clubs used by the late Alan Waterson. They were a gift from Alan’s sister, Mrs Jim Miller of Long Jetty

Alan Waterson, although only just over 5 feet tall, was a giant of the amateur golf world in Australia in the 1930s-1940s. Born in 1915, Alan joined Moore Park in 1930 and won nine Club Championships between 1934 and 1948. He won the NSW Amateur Championship in 1933, 1939, 1940, 1947 and 1948 and the Australian Amateur Championship in 1946. In the same year he scored 291 to finish second to the legendary Ossie Pickworth (289) in the Australian Open at Royal Sydney.

Peter Read stood behind Stumpy on the tee of the 14<sup>th</sup> hole at Moore Park, 170 metres into a par 3 when he was playing in the City of Sydney Open about 1960. With a 4 iron, the ball flew straight at the target but Stumpy turned around and said, “Damn, I left it on the club face a bit long.” The ball hit right near the pin and then kicked on, finishing 10’ over the back of the green , almost out of bounds. It was a great shot from a golfer who knew exactly what was happening at the split second of impact.

The clubs and bag are a virtual time capsule of how golf was played in those days, over fifty years ago. The bag is a Flexible 8” leather, made for carrying over the shoulder. In one pocket was a pencil, sharpener and small penknife, a rubber, many tees including broken tees for iron shots, a rule book, bandaids and both leather and cotton gloves, the latter for wet weather.

The clubs (mainly short irons; we are trying to locate the mid and long irons) are a tribute to Alan’s ingenuity. Few are matched in name or manufacturer. Almost all have lead weights affixed to the back and few have matching grips. Alan’s putter is a Gem, with an offset blade and much lead attached, and from all accounts, it was a deadly weapon in his hands.

We are deeply indebted to Mrs Miller for her foresight in securing Alan’s clubs since his death a few years ago.

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**Stumpy Waterson – Erwin Huber’s story**

Erwin is the Historian of Moore Park GC

Anyone who has heard of or had contact with Alan “Stumpy” Waterson would appreciate just what a prodigiously talented Golfer he was.

After joining the Moore Park GC in 1930 as a 15-year old he quickly applied himself to the task and showed his skills and flair for the game by shooting a net 59 off a handicap of 9 barely 12 months later. During the natural course of his progression toward the “Scratch” mark, he mastered a arsenal of golf shots, which he practised tirelessly under all sorts of weather and course conditions.

However, what Alan regarded as a particularly useful long-iron shot into a strong head-wind seemed to elude him. Apparently he had trouble achieving the right kind of trajectory that was needed to give the shot penetration.

Right at that time (mid 1930s), a certain Gene Sarazen, the American Master golfer, was touring Australia to play some exhibition matches (these types of matches were common in those days and used to supplement the otherwise meagre income of the Professionals).

Alan was, fortuitously, paired with this Mr. Sarazen during one of those matches and inquired as to the necessary technique to play this “Stinger” shot. Successfully, Sarazen obliged graciously and Alan set about his work. In his own words he practised the shot for a full six months - without success (he was always hard on himself). But then – one day – everything just clicked, and Alan could play that shot AT WILL for the rest of his career.

Another interesting aspect of Alan’s golfing career was his work at Gowings in the City. Alan worked in the Gentlemen’s Outfitters Dept. As we know, in those days the working week ended at midday Saturday – around the same time the Pennant matches used to commence. So it was inevitable that Alan, after rushing to the course – still wearing his customary business shirt, coat and tie – would be “well down” in the early parts of his encounters. However, once he steadied himself he proved too much of a handful for most of his opponents.

Quite often, especially after his triumphant year of 1946, he was asked when he was going to turn Professional. He would have none of it, as in those days the life of a playing (touring) Professional was far from glamorous. Travel was slow, expensive and cumbersome, while the “purses” largely amounted to chicken-feed.

He was happy in his secure job, which sustained him and his beloved wife “Dolly”, but he was equally satisfied knowing that he could mix it with the best – as an amateur.

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## 'Around the Traps' with Owen Denmeade

### In the Grip of Science

This has nothing to do with GCSA Captain Peter Read or Hon. Secretary Barry Leithhead, (both lefties) but a recent report from the Royal Society of Biological Sciences revealed that the Boston Strangler, Jack the Ripper, Billy the Kid and Osama bin Laden were all – you guessed it – left handers!!

“Yes,” said Peter, currently World Senior Leftie Champion and proud of it, “but were they left handed golfers?” Most left handed people

play right handed golf and most left handed golfers are naturally right handed, including – you guessed it – Peter and Barry.

Not wanting to be associated with that ragtag lot mentioned above, Peter (who has also been NSW and Australian Police Golf Champion) recalled that at one stage a few years ago, six of the top eight policemen in NSW, from Commissioner Avery down, were left handed golfers. (Oooopps!!)

### Old-time Golfers

Jim Ferrier's grandfather, a Carnoustie man, laid out the first golf course in China. Jim's father who was born in China was five times Champion of Shanghai.

This year, HSBC will sponsor a full field stroke event tournament in Shanghai, co-sanctioned by the Asian and European tours and Tiger Woods is billed as the star attraction.

Kel Nagle on a visit to America in 1954 found the *Acushnet* Bulls Eye putter he was to use for the rest of his career. Legendary Sam Snead once said, “If I had Nagle's putting stroke, nobody would ever beat me.”

Keith Murdoch, Rupert's dad, began his journalistic career with a golf column in *The Age* under the pseudonym 'Niblick'. Rupert's Uncle Frank finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the 1912 Australian Open.

## Hickory Golf at the Centenary PGA Championship?

Peter Hines, Executive Officer Tournament Operations for PGA of Australia and a long-time GCSA member, is keen to introduce a Hickory Challenge to the PGA's centenary tournament at Coolum Qld, in November 2005. The Dunhill Links Championship at St Andrews in 2004 set a precedent when VJ Singh, Ernie Els, Colin Montgomerie and Sam Torrance played matches over 4 holes against celeb-

rities, except Sam's opponent was his son Daniel, who plays off 1.

Tom Moore (pic right) has been spreading the word among his fellow professionals and more than twenty who have experienced the sweet feel. GCSA has provided the PGA with a number of ideas for how hickory-shaft golf can add an extra dimension to their Centenary PGA Championship.



Peter Read, Dan Cullen & his club



## Archiving Practices for Golf Club Historians with Joanne Birkl of the History Company

Golf Club Historians are invited to attend a seminar on **Archiving Practices** at 10am on Friday 15 April, 2005 at Elanora Golf Club, Elanora Road, Elanora Heights.

### Program:

- 10.00 Registration and tea/coffee, upstairs in the Library
- 10.30 Welcome: to Elanora GC, Mary Barry & from GCSA-GCH leader, Erwin Huber
- 10.45 Introduction to Archiving Practices – Jo Birkl
- 12.00 Archiving practices in other golf clubs – one or two presentations
- 12.30 Sandwich Lunch**
- 1.15 Tour of the Archives Room
- 2.00 Golf for those historians interested

Participants will be provided with a folder of useful information.

The History Company specialises in setting up and maintaining small archives for organisations and a number of golf clubs use their services. Elanora was one of the first and has kindly agreed to host this seminar on Archiving Practice in GCSA's seminar program for golf club historians.

This will be a first class opportunity to hear about archiving practices and see archives at their best. The morning starts at 10am with registration and tea/coffee in the Library, with the seminar at 10.30am. Jo Birkl will explain the principles behind archiving and demonstrate their application at Elanora. One or two golf club historians will explain their archiving practices. There will be opportunities for questions, comments and networking with golf club historians.

The seminar will be followed by lunch and a visit to Elanora's archives room where in small groups we will see the archives of plans, records and membership and scrap books on trophies, the original club house, press cuttings, early history, the Jubilee and 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

RSVP by Monday 11 April 2005 to confirm:

Seminar	Lunch	Golf
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By post, phone or email to GCSA Secretary  
PO Box 23, Glenorie NSW 2157 (02 9652 1430)  
[barryleithhead@hotmail.net.au](mailto:barryleithhead@hotmail.net.au)

## Developing the Museum

The NSWGA has granted \$5,000 to support the Museum's development plan and these funds were deposited to GCSA's account with the NSW Police Credit Union. Using some of these funds, a desk top computer and printer were sourced from a Parramatta supplier after quotes were obtained from Harris Technology and Dell.

The Collections MOASiC database system funded by the museums & galleries foundation was installed on the new computer. Peter Read and Barry Leithhead attended introductory training in the software at a seminar conducted by its developer, Tim Strutt of Information Services & Technology (WA) at the Powerhouse Museum .

About 800 items of the Museum's collection (accessions to late 2004) were entered into the Collections MOSAiC database in January 2005. The next priorities are to enter i) accessions since late 2004, ii) all books and magazines in the collection and additional and iii) descriptive information about the items in the collection,

On 16 January we met Zana Dare, formerly Curator at the Fairfield City's Museum & Gallery, who volunteered to assist us. These are the starting points Zana suggested:

- Consider the potential for education about golf, e.g. the NSW state government makes sport very big in the High School curriculum
- Attract an intern/research assistant from the Sydney University Sports Studies program;

- Develop the message and getting the word out
- Find interesting and unusual opportunities to articulate the message
- Create the library and research centre;
- Make the most of our Museums Australia membership & AMOL, like getting on their email list to locate free display cabinets and book shelves;
- Research the prospective supporters and donors.

On Thursday 27 January 2005, we met Moira Drew from Melbourne, Curator/Archivist for the AGU, PGA and RMGC, at the Museum and Marcelle Jacobs, Curator for the SCG Trust and the NSW Hall of Champions also attended. Moira considered our Museum 'a treasure' and congratulated GCSA on its presentation. We discussed how we could align the database record of our collection with that of the AGU who use the same system.

We have contacted Collections Australian Network – CAN (formerly Australian Museums Online-AMOL) to see how we might be able to make use of their online facilities. Action needs to be deferred until the Museum is better developed and CAN is fully established – expected in April 2005. We are considering developing our own website and Les Brown has suggested we could consider having a page on the NSWGA's website

Tom Moore's personal membership of Museums Australia has been transferred to GCSA. We are looking forward to sharing in MA's Sports Heritage Special Interest Group activity on Saturday 30 April 2005 at the Bradman Museum Bowral.

## 2005 Activity Plan for Golf Club Historians Special Interest Group

1. Creation of a comprehensive questionnaire to be disseminated by NSWGA to all golf clubs, leading to an update of the David Innes book 'The History of Golf in NSW'
2. Mail-out through NSWGA/WGNSW to all golf clubs in NSW to encourage them to appoint an Historian or History Group and to join GCSA with the GCH-SIG as their support and resource base; Consider how GCH-SIG can provide support on a regional basis;
3. Seminar Program:
  - Fri 15 April: Archiving Practices and inspection at Elanora GC with Jo Birkel
  - TBC: Researching archives at NSWGA
  - TBC: Researching archives at WGNSW
  - TBC: Writing the history of golf clubs – book, pamphlets and newsletters - with Colin Tatz? (TBA)
  - TBC: Design, style and presentation of GCH books with Gary Lester and Rhys Butler? (TBC)
  - TBC: Using the Golf Collectors Museum with Tom Moore
4. Working Bee at the Museum to develop the Resource Centre  
*Erwin Huber*, Leader Golf Club Historians SIG

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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 help-  
fulness 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.*

***GCSA's Golf Club Historians** have formed a Special  
Interest Group that assists and develops your role to  
research, record, archive and write the history of your club.  
Meet the other historians and share experiences,  
approaches and achievements through the SIG.*

*Join GCSA and extend your enjoyment of golf!*

## Join GCSA today!! Subscription to June 2006

Good news!! The annual subscriptions for new members joining before April 30 2005  
extends to 30 June 2006

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The Golf Collectors Society of Australia, 52 Becky Avenue, North Rocks NSW 2151