

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. Its wielder is enabled to play off roads and hard lies without injury to the head. Cf. *Horace Hutchinson's Badminton Golf* (1890)

Captain's Corner

"To the fore".

Greetings to all. This is my first note to you as "Captaine" and I write under the name of the golf column that Dad wrote under for 30+ years with the Mirror group of newspapers.

The year started with the playing of the Dan Cullen Trophy at Long Reef on March 2nd – a perfect Friday a'noon, on an immaculate course, a real tribute to the club. Our two ball Ambrose was played "as it lies", a new rule proposed by Michael Sheret to be trialed this year. We did have optional drop from the wettish bunkers. It was also suggested that in future years the net h'cap be adjusted according to the number of holes played. (eg. 5/9 for the 10 holes played at Long Reef). This should be fairer for all and the theory will be monitored by Mavis and I with our trusty calculator.

Best gross score of the day was an excellent even par 40! Net winners had a creditable 32 ¾ (gross 42). A strong golfing tie for 70+ years exists between the Cullen and Howard families. It started in the late 30's when my grandpa Tom suggested to Dan (who had just won the W.A. Open) that he "go east" to further his golfing career. Perhaps grandpa wanted Dan off the scene so he could win another W.A. Open even in his fifties. The tie continues as our Secretary Henry Patterson and I were the winners with our playing partners Des Froneman and John Fletcher runners up.

I trust everyone enjoyed the day and as outlined hereunder I am working on some of the issues raised during the presentation.

Sunday (30/4) Henry and I (+ 6 mates) head for the Murray to catch up with Glen McCully and to plan our Interstate Challenge series to be held during October. The plan is 2 days with "hickories" – the Al Howard Trophy and the Hickory Championship plus a two day team event with new fangled shafts. There will be a couple of dinners and information evenings during the visit.

We plan to play over the next 4-5 years each of the courses that were established during the hickory era. A "hickory day" presentation pack is proposed for each club.

2 great reads that Dad and I have just finished by Mark Frost are "the Grand Slam" (about Robert Tyre Jones amazing 1930 effort) and "The Greatest Game Ever Played" (about Francis Oimnet's U.S. Open win).

Thought of the month – "the 3rd shot on any hole is the most critical" – think about it!

Best Regards, **Ross Howard**

Coming Events

- The A.B.C. Collectors Programme has contacted us (due to representations by Owen Denmeade) to do a show on our collection at the museum. They would also like to show some of our members, appropriately dressed, playing with hickories. This is an unbelievable opportunity to "showcase" our society – Auburn City Links have agreed to us playing on **Wednesday 16th May**. Contact Tom on 98712798.
- **Thursday 31 May** – Pennant Hills Golf Club -9.30 to 12.30 –(see recent circular) –G.C.Historians Group Update + talk by Trish Leen, conservator. Members \$25, Non-members \$30. For catering purposes please contact Erwin Huber on 93995492, erwinhuber@optusnet.com.au, or post at 31 Cuthbert St., QUEENS PARK 2022
- **Saturday 16 June** – 10A.M. to 4P.M. Working Bee at the Museum
- **Friday 22 June** – Avalon Hickory Day proposed by Ross Ayliffe as a fundraiser for the Cheshire Foundation. All G.C.S.A. members invited – cost \$50 or \$58 with lunch. To enter please ring John on 9974 4341
- **Saturday 7 July – Big Day at the Museum** – Working Bee 10-4, Workshop on Maintaining Hickories, Open Day – Developing our Collection, Using our Resource Centre attended by Megan Barham M.G.N.S.W.

- Newcomers** * Tom Joy – Ashgrove G.C., Q'ld- a new member keen on collecting scorecards, club and Pub logo golf balls –also beer coasters. Contact Tom on (03) 33253115.
- * Mal Bray –Your new **EDITOR**. 50 years at Pennant Hills G.C., 15 as ed. of that club's newsletter. Thanks to Barry Leithhead for his excellent work in this capacity in past Years.

Newsy Bits

- Report on the proposed merger A.H.G.T. and G.C.S.A. – in progress, completion expected 30/6/07
- Future BIG event – Visit to Perth in 2008. KEEP THIS YEAR FREE!
- Sick List – Alan Heil is recovering after a gall bladder op. Alan and wife Heather were holidaying in N.Z. when Alan had his attack. They sped home for Alan to have his surgery and he is now on the mend much to Heather's relief.
- Help needed – to assist programming please let us know about any important events in which our society could be involved.
- **BUY,SELL,SWAP, DONATE**- As a service to ONLY OUR MEMBERS, contact Mal (Ed.) to have published any items you'd like included in future issues. Email – maldar@optusnet.com.au
Address -1 Kelvin Court, OATLANDS 2117, Ph/Fax – (02)96832969

Freebies – A quantity of brass and aluminium sole plates – contact Tom Moore on 98712798

Feature Article –The Club Baseplate

Early wooden headed clubs instead of a baseplate had a small piece of rams' horn fitted to the leading edge. Any added weight was placed at the rear of the head since early clubmakers believed that the weight had to be directly behind the clubface.

To reduce wear, full brass plates were fitted to clubs used for fairway shots – Brassies were born! Added weight could now be hidden under the plate Clubmakers seized on the idea of advertising on the baseplate and had them made with their name, club or manufacturing trade mark.

All early plates were brass or aluminium, brass for fairway clubs and aluminium on the larger drivers to ensure they weren't too heavy. The plates either covered the whole base or were straight edged –fancy cutting only becoming available when routers were introduced.

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