

The Brassie

The aim of AGHS is to encourage the collection, research, recording and preservation of information and objects connected with the history of golf in Australia, to inform golfers, golf clubs and the community in general.

Summer 2012

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Design, layout & artwork

Thomas Winter

President's Message

The Australian Golf Heritage Society held its Annual General Meeting at North Ryde Golf Club on 27th October. Two of our Board Members, namely Nikki Bethwaite and Jim Glenday, have now retired as Directors. Both have made significant contributions in their capacity as representatives of Golf NSW. Tony Doggett retired as Captain but has remained as a Director and, on behalf of the Society, I would like to thank him for the efforts he has made in that position. The following Members were elected to executive positions:-

Bruce Nairn *Chairman*

Malcolm McIntosh *Treasurer*

John Lock *Secretary*

Tom Moore *Director*

Tony Doggett *Director*

Steve Doorey *Director*

In addition Peter Monks and Charlie Earp, Royal Queensland Golf Club, have made considerable progress in establishing a Queensland Chapter of our Society.

Emma Williams, our Museum Curator, has been successful in obtaining \$4,000 grant from the Federal Community Heritage Body. This grant is to be used to provide a complete and independent "Significance Assessment" of our Museum collection.

Emma has done a terrific job at the Museum this year, especially in organizing the PGA Centenary Exhibition which was officially launched at the Museum on 22nd September. The night was a great success and the backdrop of the Museum provided a considerable insight into the history of golf and the work of the AGHS. The opening was attended by the NSW Government Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, the Member for Granville, Tony Issa, the CEO of the PGA of Australia, Brian Thorburn and the Chairman of Golf NSW, Chris Allen. The night was a celebration of golf and of the ongoing contribution of the PGA and its Members to the development and success of Australian golf both at the professional and amateur levels. My thanks to Tom Moore and his willing team and caterers who made the night a wonderful success.

The Australian Hickory Championship was held at Carnarvon Golf Club on 30th November and it was very pleasing to see a further increase in attendance this year. Congratulations to the defending champions in both the Men's and Ladies sections, namely Perry Somers and Jane Buckley, who were again successful in winning their events.

2011 has been a successful year for the Society. We find ourselves in a satisfactory financial position due mainly to the continuing support of our sponsors namely, Golf NSW, the PGA of Australia, Dennis Brosnan and Museums NSW. The Australian Golf Heritage Society used the occasion of the PGA Centenary opening to present a plaque to Dennis Brosnan in recognition of the contribution he has made in providing the Museum premises to the Society. In this regard, our sponsors together with the NSW Golf Foundation, assisted in financing the installation of air conditioning in the Museum earlier this year. This will contribute greatly to the preservation of the exhibits and to the comfort of staff and visitors to the Museum.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our Directors on the Management Committee and especially Tom Moore and his assistants Emma Williams and Arianna Deer and all of the Museum volunteers. Also Steve Doorey, Tom Winter and Gerry Bush for their continuing efforts in connection with the website and publications.

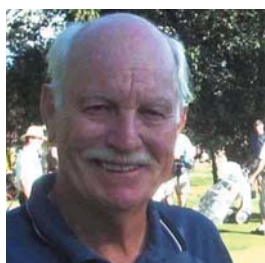


With best wishes for 2012,
Bruce Nairn.

Museum Report

2011 has been a most exciting year culminating in the presentation of the exhibition "100 Years of Professional Golf" coinciding with the Centenary of the founding of the Australian PGA in 1911. The Minister for Sport, The Hon Graham Annesley MP congratulated the AGHS on the Museum and spoke positively about future government assistance in recognising the international significance of the Museum and securing a permanent home for the collection. "Golf fans will appreciate the quality of the Society's collection, research and preservation of information and objects connected with the history of golf in Australia". Mr Annesley's comments were endorsed by Brian Thorburn, CEO of PGA Australia, recognising the importance of preserving Australia's golfing history.

Our collection has been enhanced during 2011 by the addition of Golf Professional Edgar Oakman's collection and we have purchased "The Jubilee Set", one of 50 sets made to celebrate fifty years of modern clubmaking by the PGF Company, 1932 – 1982.



Tony Gresham, one of Australia's great amateur champions presented the Museum with a NSW Vardon Trophy together with several golf woods which he used to represent Australia in Eisenhower World Cup events. *(It is interesting to point out that the Cup is a four man team event where the worst score is eliminated after each round. In 28 rounds Tony's score was*

used every time). The new lighting and display cabinets have improved all of the exhibits which together with the new air conditioning now present the Museum as a very professional environment for both visitors and staff. Our successful application for a Community Heritage Grant of \$4,000 will allow us to carry on the greater work of the Museum with a complete and independent Significance Assessment of the collection.



For those interested, repaired and restored hickory shafted iron head clubs are available from the Museum. These are suitable for display but not guaranteed for play and can be purchased from the Museum for \$20. Left and right handed clubs available. Contact Tom Moore Tel 9871 2798.

Many thanks to Steve Doorey and Tom Winter for their updates to the AGHS Website



As always the Museum welcomes AGHS Members and visitors and we can now be found on Facebook.
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Golf-Heritage-Society-Museum/163599337026751>.

Emma Williams, *Museum Curator*

2011 Australian Hickory Championship 30th November 2011 - Carnarvon Golf Club



The skies were sullen, a stiff breeze was blowing from the north-west, and the Bureau of Meteorology's forecast of showers and afternoon thunderstorms with the possibility of large hail bordered on the dire, but that failed to discourage the 57 competitors who faced the starter at this year's Australian Hickory Championship.

The Carnarvon layout was presented in near-perfect condition, and – luckily – the afternoon turned into

one of those close, sticky, steamy Sydney days out of which you can wring the humidity conditions which probably offered some encouragement to the Queensland contingent

Perry Somers Successfully Defends His Title



At the serious end of the field, three players – Steve Jacobsen, Alan Grieve and Peter Monks – parred the first to start their rounds in fine style. By the time their second holes were completed, they shared the lead with the 2010 Champion, Perry Somers.

Steve Jacobsen birdied the par three third to establish a two stroke lead, and held on in front until he bogied the four ninth. A par by Derrin Morgan on the same hole saw both players turn on 38.

Perry Somers was a stroke behind, from Clarke Gibbons on 41 and Alan Grieve on 43. Derrin then assumed the ascendancy, holding a lead of one or two strokes over Steve and/or Perry until the thirteenth hole.

And then it happened. It wasn't quite Gene Sarazen's shot heard 'round the world' at the 1935 Masters, but to appropriately paraphrase a comment made at that time - "Mr. Perry done made a two on 14!"

This fine eagle put Perry and Derrin level on 60, and parity remained after they both parred the 15th. The par three 16th saw Perry make a fine three, while Derrin had a disastrous triple bogey. Perry's birdie, par finish against Derrin's par, bogey saw Perry's 75 win by five strokes, with Steve Jacobsen recording an 82 to finish in third.

Barry Meares Finishes in Front

In the handicap section of the competition, the effective lead of the event was shared at one time or another by five players – Barry Meares, Clarke Gibbons, Nino Santone, Alan Grieve and Peter Monks.

Peter held sway early and led after four holes, but then the form that got Alan Grieve over the line in the U.S. Championship kicked in, and he led until 7th. A par at 8th against Alan's triple saw Barry take the lead, which he held to the turn.

Clarke parred 10th to head the field, and then he and Barry swapped the lead on each hole until 16th, with Nino briefly sharing the lead on the 15th. Both Barry and Clarke scored a 6 on the 17th, but Barry's bogey 5 on the last against Clarke's double bogey saw his net 77 take the prize. While all this was going on GerryBush was playing steady golf and his net score of 78 managed to snare runner-up on a countback from Nino and Clarke. This could probably be attributed to the birdie 2 Gerry scored on the 16th – the only under par figure on the hole for the day.

Jane's Back to Back Wins

The ladies competition – with the number of starters reaching double figures for the first time - was also hotly contested. In the scratch competition, there were never more than three strokes between Liz Buckley, Jane Buckley and Margaret Naylor over the first nine holes. At the turn, both Liz and Jane had recorded 48 strokes, while Margaret was closed behind on 51.

On the second nine, Margaret gradually dropped out of the picture while the tussle between Liz and Jane see-sawed until they both stood on the 18th tee having had 92 shots. Jane's score of 5 on the last hole saw her beat Liz by two shots, while Carolyn Bloch recorded the best back nine of 48 to come in third, a further 4 shots in arrears. Like Perry, Jane's win was also a repeat of last year's result.

Off handicap, it was more of the same. Carolyn Bloch, Jan Bush, Liz Buckley and Margaret Naylor were never more than two shots apart over the first nine, but Carolyn's solid scoring over the last six holes saw her pull away to win by 7 from Jan Bush, with Margaret Naylor a shot behind in third.

Steve Doorey, Author

PICTURE GALLERY :....

The first shot of the Championship



Perry, Jane and Barry share the secrets of their success

In Case You Were Wondering . . .

- The toughest holes on the course were the par four 15th and 18th – both 1.68 average over par, and five pars on each.
- The easiest hole appears to have been the par four 13th – a mere 0.87



PICTURE GALLERY cont :....



Coming Events in 2012 (for your diary)

16th March 2012 :: 2 pm bit-off

The Dan Cullen Trophy

2 Ball Ambrose :: Long Reef GC

29-31 March at

The Al Howard Trophy

Matchplay vs Australian Golf Society (Victoria)

Tocumwal, Victoria

August (to be confirmed)

"Show and Tell Day"

9 Hole Stroke :: Rosnay GC

Bobby Locke Trophy

(to be confirmed)

September (to be confirmed)

Liverpool GC

9 hole Stroke

November (to be confirmed)

Australian Hickory Championships

18 hole stroke

The Golf Museum at Granville is proudly sponsored by Golf Mart and supported by Golf NSW, PGA of Australia and Museums & Galleries New South Wales

The Golf Museum (located above Golf Mart), 4 Parramatta Rd, Granville

Telephone 9637 4720 + www.australiangolfheritage.org.au

Open on Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Admission FREE.

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

Tom Moore's address to PGA Centenary Exhibition, 22 September 2011

The Hon. Graham Annesley, NSW Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr. Tony Issa, MP for Granville, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for giving me the honour of speaking on the occasion of the opening of our Museum's Exhibition "One Hundred Years of Professional Golf in Australia"

I must immediately pay tribute to our Patrons, Dan Cullen DFC, who is with us tonight, and Kel Nagle, winner of the Centenary British Open at St Andrews in 1960. Also to our longest serving Australian Professional and great supporter of our efforts, Mr. Al Howard. I am not sure whether Al, is 89 or 98, but he did play in the 1931 Australian Open. To be associated with these gentlemen is an absolute privilege.

I speak as a proud member of 58 years of a truly wonderful organization. The PGA in Australia was founded in 1911, and our Centenary is something that is being well and truly celebrated throughout Australia, as it should be. I believe it is incumbent upon every present day Golf Professional to pay homage to those men who made it all possible. The PGA was formed by some 15 dissatisfied Golf Professionals who objected to the treatment given to them at the Australian Open being played at the Royal Sydney Golf Club. They were denied entry to the clubhouse, having been given a tent to eat in and get changed. These men, in true Australian tradition, saw themselves as pursuing an honourable profession and refused to put up with such treatment. Leading players in those days were mostly wealthy Amateurs who could afford to travel the world, whilst Golf Professionals were often referred to as "Glorified Caddies". Most Golf Professionals would have been Club Professionals who had a job at a Club teaching, selling and repairing clubs with little chance to play for the small amount of prize money available. Some were even greenkeepers and their wives were caterers at the club where they were attached.

Golf Professionals in Australia today are the beneficiaries of the struggle of these pioneers. Their story is one of a great and fascinating journey to have reached a position where Golf Professionals today find themselves as part of a respected world wide profession. I believe it represents the "Australian Story," - a country where success for effort is amply rewarded. They played in some money Tournaments but they were few and far between. Joe Kirkwood became the first Australian born Open winner in 1920. Joe has never been given the respect or recognition he deserved. His wonderful mastery of the game was legendary. His ability to play all the shots, left or right handed, high and low, probably led to his downfall as a player. It was said that he could not decide which type of shot to hit. He did manage to come 3rd in the British Open won by the legendary Bobby Jones. His efforts to popularise the game in Australia have largely gone unrecognised. It was Joe who attracted two of the best players in the world, Gene Sarazen and Walter Hagen, to tour Australia in the early 1930's which really ignited interest in the game. Joe continued to travel the world spreading interest in the game with his exceptional trick shot routine.

The first truly exclusive Tournament Professional did not come until the 1930's when Norman von Nida burst on the scene. Professionals took the game to all parts of the country, spreading the game by assisting Golf Clubs with the layout of courses, and teaching the fundamentals of the game. Their livelihood in country areas would have been most precarious. Dan has told me that at the end of the week when all expenses were paid he would be lucky to have 1 shilling left over. Their progression is one of gradual uplifting of themselves and by the sheer efforts of their combined personalities. Early Professionals like Fred Popplewell, Don Spence, Carnegie Clark, Tommy Howard, Lou Kelly, Billy Bolger to name but a few saw themselves as experts in their chosen profession and demanded that they be treated accordingly. Later, our Patron Dan Cullen, Al Howard, Colin de Groot, Eric Cremin, Ossie Pickworth, Jim Eve, Roy Canvin and Kel Nagle took up the reins and continued the progress. Along the way they were able to gain the support of powerful men in the community, Sir Dallas Brooks, Governor of Victoria, Sir Les Herron, Lieutenant Governor of NSW, Clare Higson, Jack Chown and many others who admired their attitude and respected their ability to teach and play golf. These men helped push the status of the Professionals.

At the Golf Museum the Australian Golf Heritage Society is made up of keen golfers from all over Australia who are determined to conserve, respect and display Australia's wonderful golfing history. Starting from humble beginnings in 1973, we have gradually progressed to the stage where, with great help from Dennis Brosnan, of Golf Mart, who has donated our accommodation free of charge, and financial sponsorship from The PGA, GolfNSW and Museums and Galleries NSW, and many willing helpers, we are able to showcase our Museum and display here tonight.

Highlight of our collection must be clubs owned and used by founding PGA member Carnegie Clark who used them to win his three Australian Opens. They are on loan from the "NSW Hall of Champions", and the toolbox of another founding member, Dan Soutar. Dan was a carpenter when he arrived in Australia before turning Professional. We also have a copy of Dan's book "The Australian Golfer". It is believed to be the first golf book published in Australia in 1906.

To try and thank everyone who worked tirelessly to put this Centenary exhibition together would be fraught with danger, although I must single out our Curator, Emma Williams, who has worked around the clock to have everything ready for tonight. Could I just say a sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone else who gave so freely of their time and energy. Without exception, everyone to whom I mentioned we were thinking of holding an exhibition said "How can I help?"

We are proud of what we have achieved and hope you will share with us our Celebration of "100 Years of Professional Golf in Australia."

Tom Moore.

The Early History of Golf in New South Wales

By Norman Richardson.

Alexander Brodie Spark

The first documented evidence of golf being played in Sydney was in 1839. A course was laid out at Grose Farm, work commencing on 25th May. The following are extracts from the diaries of Alexander Brodie Spark, Captain of the club.

*"25th May ... Captain Ferrier and Messrs George and Adam Wilson commenced operations at Grose Farm on behalf of the Golf Club...
1st June ... The New South Wales Golf Club was instituted. Many members on the field. Played my first game with Mr Duguid
8th June... at 2 o'clock repaired with Captain Ferrier to Grose Farm where we played at golf until sunset. The parties were numerous...
15th June... Played at golf for about an hour.
27th July... Golf ground saturated with rain."*

Alexander Spark, a Scotsman born in Elgin in 1792, arrived in Sydney in April 1823. He quickly became a successful businessman involved in shipping, insurance, banking and property. It is known the club was in existence until at least 1841 as stated in the minutes of the Blackheath Golf Club [London] dated Saturday 6th November, 1841.

"The secretary presented a gallon of claret from the Captain of the NSW Golf Club, Alexander Brodie Spark, Esq, on the occasion of the birth of a son and heir, when the health of Mrs Spark and the young golfer was drunk with all honours. Field Marshall Lindsay proposed, and Captain Cameron seconded, that A.B. Spark, Esq be henceforth an honorary member of this club which was carried unanimously."

The location of the course at Grose Farm, Sydney, was south of Parramatta Rd and east of what is now Missenden Rd, around the location of Orphans School Creek. This was common land originally granted to Lieut. Gov. Francis Grose. It became the grounds of Sydney University in the 1850s and later also the grounds of Prince Albert Hospital.



In the early 1840's drought ended the NSW pastoral boom. This and the property crash that followed caused a financial depression. Spark, unable to collect debts owing to him, was declared

insolvent in 1844. These circumstances seem to have also ended the existence of the New South Wales Golf Club. (*There is no link to the current NSW Golf Club.*)

The non-existence of the New South Wales Golf Club was noted in March 1844 by a newly arrived settler who wrote to the editor of the Australian Daily Journal under the by-line Lycidas. He expressed surprise that golf wasn't being played in the colony and gave a description of the game, clubs and balls and suggested open ground in the neighbourhood of the Sydney Glebe as a place to play.

David Robertson, John Dunsmure and Captain Kirk

In December 1849, the paper Bell's Life in Sydney published several articles promoting golf including a column asking why the Scots in Sydney had overlooked their national game and suggesting the formation of a society to be called the Australian Golf Club.



Originally a senior caddy from St Andrews, David Robertson, a draper in Sydney and brother of the St Andrews golf champion and ball maker Allan Robertson, replied to the editors offering assistance to form a club. He made suggestions of areas in Sydney suitable to be used as "links" and offered to play any man in the colony for any sum as soon as clubs could be procured from home.

John Dunsmure arrived in the Sydney in 1837 from Leith having lived with his family in the town of Wardie between Granton Harbour and Leith, near Edinburgh. Dunsmure practised as a solicitor and attorney. In January 1851, after auctioning the contents of his Bligh St home and his horses and carriages, Dunsmure and his family left for an extended trip to see family in Edinburgh. The holiday was curtailed when his business partner died in late 1851, and the Dunsmure family returned to Sydney on 11th July 1852. John Dunsmure built a country residence near Homebush which he called "Wardie". The grounds were seven acres, and featured an orchard, vineyard, vegetable gardens and three grassed paddocks, as well as having plenty of vacant land adjacent to the grounds. The location was on Parramatta Road, beside Powell's Creek extending towards Concord near the present day George St, this location being consistent with often quoted and vague location of Dunsmure's golf course as "being between Homebush and Concord".

In The Empire newspaper of 24th of November 1857 the following advertisement appeared.

"GOLF, GOLF, GOLF - The undersigned is prepared to play any man in Sydney in the above game for fifty pounds. H.K., Brisbane Inn, corner of Kent and Druitt Streets."

Elizabeth Creagh, mother-in-law of David Robertson, was the licensee of the Brisbane Inn and Robertson accepted the challenge.

That same afternoon at 4 o'clock the game of golf was played at Hyde Park, from St James Church to Lyons Terrace and back twice, the winner being the one who covered the distance in the

The Early History of Golf in New South Wales (cont.)

fewest strokes. David Robertson was the victor, taking 18 strokes to Captain Kirk's 20 (Captain Kirk being the H.K. in the advertisement). Another match was played the following Wednesday. Again Robertson was victorious. After the event David Robertson undertook to write home to his brother to procure clubs and balls from the R&A for the youth of the colony and offered to teach any party gratuitously.

In September 1859 one case of golf clubs was listed as imported into Sydney - were these the clubs the R&A were asked to donate or a shipment organised by John Dunsmore from Edinburgh? On 18th of November, 1859, the Sydney Morning Herald carried the announcement of Allan Robertson's death. David Robertson thereafter soon left the colony to return to



John Dunsmore, Solicitor.

St Andrews.

He subsequently died on 14th of February, 1864, aged 39.

John Dunmore died not long after on 29th of September, 1864, aged 59.

Charles Lawrence

On 20th of September, 1864, an advertisement was placed in the Sydney Morning Herald,

"GOLF GOLF GOLF - A club is now being formed for the practice in this Ancient and Royal game, and gentlemen desirous of joining are requested to call upon the undersigned who will afford all information.

Charles Lawrence, Cricketing Depot, 353 George St."

Charles Lawrence was a member of the first English cricket team to tour Australia in 1861-62. He decided to stay on in Sydney and operate the Cricket Depot. From 1862 Lawrence was advertising to "impart instruction in golf - the national game of Scotland."

He was also to become coach of the Albert Cricket Club at Redfern. In 1863, the Albert Cricket Club published a yearly report which included a section on the Laws of Golf. An Albert Cricket Club committeeman at the time was Edward Goddard, whose son, William Cornelius Goddard, was a prominent cricket player in the later part of the decade. In 1871 William Goddard married Mary Mitsford Dunsmore, daughter of John Dunsmore. One of their sons John Mitsford Dunsmore Goddard, was to become a member of the Australian Golf Club in the days when the club was based at Botany. John Goddard made the donation of John Dunsmore's clubs to the Australian Golf Club. Unfortunately these relics of golf in Sydney in the 1850s were lost in the fire that destroyed their clubhouse at Kensington in 1931.

In the early 1880s Englishman Thomas Brentnall, an old Royal Musselburgh golfer and later to become one of the formation members of the Royal Melbourne Golf Club, played on Moore

Park with Scottish golfers - British Army Officers on rest and recreation from India.

Soon afterwards members of the future Australian Golf Club commenced play on the same location, and from this time on golf in NSW went from strength to strength.



Hyde Park - 1840's Hurling Match - Lyons Terrace in middle background



Charles Lawrence

Acknowledgements.

The Mitchell Library, Sydney, which holds the newspapers and other material used in this article.

Elizabeth Hamilton – great, great, granddaughter of John Dunsmore, in private correspondence with the author.

Bibliography.

The Respectable Sydney Merchant – A.B. Spark of Tempe by Graham Abbott and Geoffrey Little Sydney University 1976

The Story of Golf in NSW by David Innes. NSWGA 1988

Golf in Sydney Town before the 1850s by David J Innes.

Golf News November 1992.

The Golf Report

While the number of players in our events continues to be small we have nevertheless been very busy with our tournament schedule which culminated in 2011 Australian Hickory Shaft Championship held at Carnarvon on Wednesday 30th November. This Championship, which is the pinnacle of the Society's golfing calendar, requires all players to use pre1940 hickory clubs – repaired and reshaped clubs are acceptable – being either your own clubs or sets available on the day. Period dress is optional. In addition to the handicap events this is an Open competition which attracts the serious hickory players as well as the amateurs. This year was no exception with amongst others Perry Somers, Derrin Morgan and Alan Grieve playing and it was a great honour and experience to compete in the same field as them. Thanks to John Lock and Jim Glenday and all of the Society Members who assisted in the conduct of a very successful Championship. Our field this year was the largest so far and we look forward to increased numbers again next year. Carnarvon Golf Club was formed in 1927 in the Silverwater Rd, Derby St and Parramatta River area of Lidcombe before moving to its current site around 1950. We thank Carnarvon for the presentation of their course and hosting this year's Championship.

On 7th July the Bobby Locke Trophy was contested at Cammeray GC. The game was followed by interesting talks from Des Froneman, Dan Cullen and Rex McKay on aspects of the life of Bobby Locke – acknowledged as the “*Prince of Putters*”. The great Sam Snead once said of Locke's putting “What discouraged me was the way ‘Old Droopy Jowls’ held his putter at the tip with his left hand far over the shaft which was the same grip he used on all shots. He had a closed stance and hooked his putts instead of straight lining them. His grip was so light I thought he would drop the stick, and when he putted, instead of keeping still, he swayed like a bloomer girl. Mostly he did it with a rusty headed hickory shaft putter and with a style that that made no sense at all – until he picked the ball from the hole.”

The Royal Sydney Thursday Club had their annual 4 Ball Ambrose with hickory shafts on 14th July. Tom Moore, Peter Read, Mal Bray and I were invited. Included in the field of twenty was respected teaching professional, Dave Mercer. Our Patron and Centenary British Open Champion Kel Nagle joined us for lunch and watched everyone hit off on 1st tee. It was another enjoyable day and opportunity to play with the hickory shaft clubs.

The “*Show and Tell*” day at Rosnay GC was as usual good fun and saw Mavis Parry watch the golf and join the players in the Clubhouse. Sunday 18th September at Liverpool GC was another enjoyable day with three newcomers to hickory golf in Trevor Degroan (Fox Hills GC) and Trish and Andrew Wilson (Kiama GC)

On Wednesday 14th September, again at Liverpool GC for a *Cancer Charity Golf Day*, the field of Lady Golfers hit off 1st tee with a hickory club and putted out on 18th with a hickory putter. A lot of fun for the Ladies for a good cause.

Monday 19th September at Royal Sydney GC saw celebrations taking place for *100 years of the Australian PGA*. Tom Moore was in charge of the nearest-to-pin on 3rd hole using hickory clubs and I was in charge of the hickory shaft long drive on 16th tee - hitting into a two club wind Ken Druce set the pace early with a drive of 217m followed by Chris MacGill (Avondale GC) with 230m. Finally Patrick Fairweather (Killara GC) got one out to 245m. If I did not see it I would not have believed it!

On 14th April The AGHS held its annual match against The Golf

The Golf Report cont...

Society of Australia (Victoria) competing for the “*Al Howard Trophy*”. The event was held at Eden on the NSW south coast, and while only six players represented AGHS the occasion and camaraderie was very enjoyable. Next year the event will be held at Tocumwal in Victoria on 29th to 31st and will provide an excellent opportunity to combine travel and golf.

Unfortunately the Peppers Craigieburn Hickory Cup scheduled for Sunday 25th September had to be cancelled this year. This is an enjoyable event and we will revisit next year. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Some great news is that the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Golf Heritage Society is up and running. The good work put in by Dr Peter Monks and Charlie Earp has come to fruition. We wish them all the best and many enjoyable rounds with hickories.



The Australian Open Championship at The Lakes Golf Club from 10th to 13th November presented an opportunity to see some of the best local and international golfers competing prior to The Presidents Cup. The Society manned a tent at the event which again featured our Tasmanian member and Master Club-maker, Ross Baker. Many of you are aware of Ross's expertise and workmanship in his handmade long nose clubs which really are a

work of art. The youngest of our hickory shaft clubs are now about 75 years old and a visit to the tent to see Ross's collection, and how to care for clubs, was a highlight for anyone interested in the history of golf.

Good golfing,
Tony Doggett.



Vale

John “Spud” Murphy

10 August 2011

Stalwart of Illawarra Golf Association,

Life Member Wollongong Golf Club

of which he published the history of the Club for the period 1897 to 1997. Member of AGHS.

Wives of AGHS Members

Judy Bray,

Chloe Denmeade,

and Kath Richards