

the Brassie

Newsletter of the Australian Golf Heritage Society

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.

Spring 2013

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Tom Moore, *Museum*

John Buckley

Steve Doorey

President's Report



Our Museum Curator, Emma Williams, has been granted leave of absence to embark on a twelve month course at Canberra museum. Her place has been taken until January 2014 by Ariana Deer, who has worked closely with Emma at the Museum for some time now. Also we have been fortunate to secure the services of Sydney University Intern Vicki Stanton. Both Ariana and Vicki have engaged in a number of projects at our Museum, one of which is the formation of a Traveling Exhibition. This project is well underway and we hope that golf clubs will see their way clear to avail themselves of this. In addition, Emma is confident that the Society will be receiving as grant from the National Library for the further assessment of our Book Collection.

Society Director, Tom Moore, deserves special mention for securing increased funding from the PGA of Australia. The Society is in a very satisfactory financial position which will enable commencement and fulfillment of a number of projects currently under consideration. Our "ball testing machine" which has been housed at Muirfield Golf Club is to be refurbished and we hope to find a suitable location to display it.



Mal Bray has moved to Queensland and has retired as Society Captain. We wish him well and thank him for his services and participation in Society events. Tony Doggett has stepped up to take on the responsibility of Captain. John Buckley, former President of NSW Golf Association, has been appointed to the vacancy. John brings with him a wealth of experience and contacts and I am sure will make a very positive contribution to The Society. Malcolm McIntosh will be retiring at the 2013 AGM as Treasurer of The Society. Malcolm has performed wonderful job as our Treasurer throughout the last seven years and we thank him for his contribution. Current Director, Steve Doorey, will be our new Treasurer.

The Australian Golf Heritage Society Annual Australian Hickory Shaft Championship is scheduled to be held at Carnarvon Golf Club on 22nd November, 2013. This is a major golfing event in the Society's golfing calendar and an opportunity to participate in what is considered to be "major" in hickory competition. An entry form is herewith and I look forward to seeing you there.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on 26th November at 7 pm at Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club, West Ryde. This is an important event in the Society's operation and I would encourage you to attend and participate and meet others within the Society.

Bruce Nairn OAM
President



www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Golf-Heritage-Society-Museum

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Newsletter design & artwork
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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.

Captain's Report

As Acting Captain I would like to thank retiring Captain Mal Bray for his time and effort in looking after the golf interests of the members of the AGHS and to wish him well in the future. We may well see increased interest in hickory golf in the New England region.

Our major event for 2013 is the Australian Hickory Shaft Championship at Carnarvon Golf Club on Friday 22nd November 2013 from 11am. I would like to encourage all members to make an effort to attend this event and make use of your hickory golf clubs. Alternatively if you need to you may obtain hickory golf clubs for a nominal fee on the day. Carnarvon Golf Club is extremely generous in their support of the AGHS and our championship. This is also an opportunity to invite your golfing friends to participate in our most prestigious event of the year.

Sunday 8th September saw 11 players for the Craigieburn Hickory Cup at Peppers Craigieburn Resort, Bowral. I have to admit that, next to



our Championship, this is my favourite hickory event, reasons being:

1. Play is on a genuine little course designed for hickory golf about 100 years ago – nine greens and 18 tees.
2. With the resort guesthouse and beauty of the course and gardens it is not hard to transport yourself back to that bygone era.
3. A relaxed meal, interesting guest speakers, and talking with friends with a common interest. Frank Phillips (*twice Australian Open Champion*) and our inimitable friend Edgar Oakman find time to attend.

Guest speaker this year was Rex McKay and he gave an interesting talk of his early years as a golfer when he was one of New South Wales' leading amateurs, and including his experiences overseas and as a young married man travelling Europe in a Morris ex-Post Office van.

Simon Lawrance won the event with a scratch score of 71. Handicap winner was Rex McKay with a net 59. Anne Murray (*Moss Vale*) successfully defended her title with a net 64. Anne and her husband Bob are long standing friends of



mine and Anne stated her intention to try and increase the Southern Highlands entries. In Anne's words, "a really enjoyable day, nice people, nice meal and interesting dinner speakers." The winner, Simon Lawrance, is a qualified greenskeeper who assists The Peppers Resort with course maintenance and it is Simon we have to thank for the excellent course presentation. The AGHS also thanks Peppers Craigieburn manager Robyn Bautovich for her patience and assistance. We hope to make this event bigger and better. For results and highlights of other events during the year refer to report prepared in conjunction with Steve Doorey. Going forward I believe there is a need to formalise the conditions (rules) we play our hickory golf events under. I have canvassed members' opinions during the period I have been playing with the AGHS and while we need to keep the majority happy below is a bit of food for thought:

- A. Our Championship – Rules of golf with the host club Local Rules of the day, but for hickory club preservation, a one club length drop from tree roots.
- B. Ambrose – Rules of golf, host club Local Rules, play out of bunkers, hazards, etc. A 30cm preferred lie through the green.
- C. Other Events – This is where everyone differs. Rules of golf, host club Local Rules; play out of bunkers or drop out of bunkers; preferred lies on fairways or preferred lies through the green; one club length drop from tree roots, etc.

My preference is that we play our golf as per Our Championship above. I know what some members say about modern bunkers, but what about greens. In the early 1950s I played on couch grass greens, cut to around ½ inch every Friday, now they are bent grass shaved to ground level and we accept this. I say "Championship" Rules and "Ambrose" Rules and then everyone knows how we play.

Perhaps we can discuss this and make a recommendation in this regard at our Annual General Meeting to be held on 26th November 2013 at Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club commencing at 7pm. I encourage Members who are able to attend this Meeting.

Yours in golf

Tony Doggett, Acting Captain.

September 2013

..... Coming Events

2013 Fixtures

Port Kembla Hickory Day

7th November 2013 at 11.00 a.m.

Port Kembla Golf Club

\$25 - Green Fee and Dinner

Contact: Rex McKay on (02) 4295 1828

**Australian Hickory Shaft Championships
The Annual Championships of The Society**

22nd November 2013 at 11.00 a.m.

Carnarvon Golf Club, 65 Nottingham Rd, Lidcombe

\$40 - Green Fee and Dinner

Hickory Clubs Available

18 hole Stroke

Contact: Malcolm McIntosh on (02) 9638 7992

AGM Australian Golf Heritage Society

26th November 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club, 1156 Victoria Rd, West Ryde

"If they don't have golf in Heaven - I'm not going"

- Unknown - but too good not to share.

..... Event Results 2012 - 2013

2012 - 2013 in REVIEW :: By Steve Doorey

**2012 Australian Hickory Shaft Championship Report,
Carnarvon Golf Club - 30 November 2012**

The 2012 Hickory Shaft Championship was contested by 49 players over an immaculately presented Carnarvon Golf Club in conditions that could - in terms of weather - be best described as trying. A peak temperature of 38° with attendant high humidity ensured that the cool water being distributed by AGHS secretary John Lock was more than welcome.

The scratch section of the competition was dominated by Wynnum's Alan Grieve - winner of the 2011 U.S. Hickory Open - Darron Watt from Wagga Wagga Country Club, and Asquith's Martyn Black. A see-sawing first nine that saw the three turn on 37, 42 and 39 respectively.

Other players in the mix at this stage included Peter Read and Bruno Pase on 42, Rob Downie, Peter Monks, Ron Hall and David Brydson on 43, and a foursome on 44 - Greg Taylor, Clark Gibbons, Luke Kavanagh and Phil Baird.

Over the second nine, the scores were also subject to some toing and froing. Alan closed his round with an impressive six over par total of 78. Darron played par golf for the final

2012 - 2013 in REVIEW (cont)

eleven holes . . . and finished on 78. Many groups back in the field, Martyn parred the 17th and - after chalking up an amazing birdie 3 on the last - finished on 78. And that meant that a sudden death play-off would decide the Championship.

From the first tee Darron pushed his tee shot right, and found himself adjacent to the 15th green and blocked out by trees. Alan's drive finished on the right half of the fairway just short of the bunkers. Martyn got the best drive away and was in the middle of the fairway. Alan played first, and stroked another fine shot up the fairway. He was followed by Darron who - rather than take the easy option - went over the top of the trees to put his ball back in play. Martyn made good contact with his second, but pulled it left into the tree line.

Darron played next, and hit a fine shot to the heart of the green. This was followed by Alan putting his third on the front right of the green. Meanwhile, Martyn was getting up close and personal with a she oak, and put his third into the bunker at the front of the green. By some strange quirk, the ball stayed in the face of the bunker - it wasn't plugged, it was just . . . in the face of the bunker.

Martyn was away, and played one of those one-foot-in, one-foot-out, down-the-shaft, if-my-foot-slips-here-I'm-gone shots from the bunker, and put his ball 45 cm. from the hole for a tap in par. Darron and Alan both took two putts for par, so it was off to the second tee.

Martyn drove first, and put his shot just in the rough on the right hand side of the fairway. Darron took an iron from the tee and put his shot on the right hand side of the fairway. Alan then swiped a mighty drive which drew impressively around the dogleg. Although no one on the tee saw it finish, they had an idea that it was good.

Darron was the first to play, and stroked his second shot pin high on the left of the green, about five metres from the hole. Martyn played next, and left his shot short to the right of the green. Alan played his second from the middle of the fairway and finished on the front left quarter of the green. Martyn chipped on to the green, and his ball passed the hole to be on a similar line to Darron, but well inside his mark.

Alan was away, and his uphill putt of around seven metres shaved the hole, and left him the simplest of tap-ins for par. Darron charged his ball by the hole, leaving him with a tricky return. His second - like Alan's first - shaved the hole, and left him with a tap in bogey. Martyn then putt to take the Championship to a third sudden-death hole, but his effort slid by and - again - a tap in bogey was the result. The 2012 Championship belonged to Alan Grieve.

In the handicap section, Dr. Michael Sheret was narrowly in the lead at the 9th hole from Luke Kavanagh, with Rex McKay, Gerry Bush and Peter Monks in close pursuit. Not out of the picture - but facing a slightly more difficult task to make up the leeway - were Des Froneman and Greg Taylor.

Apart from a triple at the 16th, Michael played bogey golf to the end to finish with a net 70 with the remainder of the field maintaining station. Luke finished on 71, Rex with a net 75, Gerry on 76, Peter

2012 – 2013 in REVIEW (cont)

managed two pars and a birdie on his way to a net 79, while Des and Greg finished on 78 and 79 respectively.

The ladies field was down on numbers from last year, but keen competition was still the order of the day. Jane Buckley was again the scratch winner with a score of 101. Last year's handicap runner-up - Jan Bush - took out handicap honours with a net score of 81, nine strokes clear of the closest competition.

At the discretion of the organisers, a prize was also awarded to Albert Watts as the 2012 Australian Junior Hickory Champion.

2013 Al Howard Trophy

Yowani Golf Club - 19 March 2013

This Annual Australian Golf Heritage Society v. Golf Society of Australia event - individual match play over 18 holes using original hickory shafted clubs - was contested at the magnificent Yowani course.

The Melbourne-based GSA team was Geoff Vincent (president), Cliff George, Dick Kirby, Peter Gompertz, Peter Stickley, and David Branson, while the AGHS was represented by Tom Moore, Tony Doggett, Dr Michael Sheret, Mal Bray, Graham World and Rob Downie.

With a little juggling (as was the case last year) we arranged 6 matches and hit off in perfect Canberra weather. As the matches were - in accordance with the format - played through to the 18th, the outcome was determined on total holes won and lost. AGHS finished victors with 19 and the Golf Society of Australia with 9.

GSA obviously missed regular participants Ian Rennick, Paul Burgess and Max Findlay, and were further hampered by the late scratching of Tony McLean. Nonetheless, a great time was had by all participants.

This event will be held in Victoria in 2014, and at the post event dinner, it was suggested by Geoff Vincent that the event may be played at one of the sandbelt courses if sufficient starters are interested and able to make the journey.

Kiama Hickory Challenge

Kiama Golf Club - 12 April 2013

On a beautiful autumn Friday, and on a beautifully prepared course, the second annual Kiama Hickory Shootout for the prestigious "Al Howard Putter" was contested by a field of ten local and visiting players.

The event is played over a shortened course of 12 holes using the Stableford scoring system. Wily veteran Tom Moore - playing at the end of the field - blew his opponents away with superb golf which included a mixture of pars and a birdie at the very difficult par 3 sixth, and recorded 21 points.

Winner of the Ladies event was local member Leigh Steel, off a handicap of 19. Playing with hickories for the first time, she scored a very creditable 19 points.

Kiama Hickory Challenge (cont)

Best dressed player was judged to be newcomer Rob Downie from the Worrige Club. Best dressed lady was Patricia Wilson.

All players thanked Kiama Golf Club - and member Andrew Wilson - for hosting the event, and praised Andrew for his organisational skills. It is hoped that next year the event will be expanded and granted the title of . . . The Illawarra Hickory Championship.

Dan Cullen Trophy

Long Reef Golf Club - 15 April 2013

Despite the delightful Long Reef Golf Course being at its finest, only a small field contested the Dan Cullen Trophy this year.

Under the format of 10 holes of two ball Ambrose, the winners - Martin Pickrell from Avondale (18) and his uncle Tony Pickrell from North Ryde (17) - had 44 off the stick for the 10 holes played. With an adjusted handicap of 55/6, this gave them 381/6.

Scratch winners were Rob Downie from the Worrige Club and veteran Tom Moore from Muirfield with 43 strokes.

Watching Adam Scott become the first Australian to take the US Masters in the white knuckle finish earlier in the day probably kept our numbers down, and we look forward to a bigger crowd in 2014. Dan - who was not in the best of health - apologised for not being able to make it on the day.

Moore Park Centenary Celebration

Moore Park Golf Club - 24 May 2013

Friday 24 May 2013 marked 100 years to the day since golf was first played officially on the Moore Park Municipal course, and to acknowledge, commemorate and celebrate the oldest municipal links in Australia, the AGHS - with the assistance of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust - co-ordinated a nine hole hickory shaft Ambrose event.

The links were presented in marvellous condition considering the inclement weather of the previous two days and, after a hearty lunch, around 40 players - including N.S.W. and the Scottish Open winner Peter O'Malley - dispersed to all points of the second nine for the shotgun start. Play from the gold markers shortened up the course a little, but the scores returned were nonetheless remarkable:

Mixed Two-Ball Ambrose

Martyn Black & Katrina Brown ... gross 37 (5) net 32

Mixed Two-Ball Ambrose Runners Up

Jill Downie & Rob Downie ... gross 43 (9.75) net 33.25

Members Two-Ball Ambrose

Peter Read & Tony Pickrell ... gross 37 (5.25) net 31.75

Members Two-Ball Ambrose Runners Up

Alan Grieve & Jim Glenday ... gross 37 (5) net 32

2012 – 2013 in REVIEW (cont)

Two-Ball Ambrose (Scratch)

Steve Bonner & Michael Sheret ... gross 40

Nearest The Pin (Mens): Tony Pickrell

Nearest The Pin (Ladies): Not won

Longest Drive (Mens): Luke Kavanagh

Longest Drive (Ladies) Marg Naylor

Best Dressed Member: Luke Kavanagh

Best Dressed Lady: Jane Buckley

Playing the 10th hole with a 1.62" ball offered the participants an opportunity to experience another long forgotten (or never experienced) aspect of the royal and ancient game. Scores ranged from a birdie two, through par threes, to bogey, double bogey, others . . . and double and triple-others. That would be why we now play with the big ball?

Auburn Show and Tell,

Rosnay Golf Club - Sunday 25 July 2013

A course presented in its usual beautiful condition combined with dry and sunny weather to greet a field of thirteen players over nine holes of Individual Stableford competition. The winner was Tony Pickrell (18) with a score of 22. Runner up was Steve Doorey (21), with a score of 18, then came Andrew Wilson (13) 17; Peter Read (3) 14; Michael Sheret (22) 14; and Jim Glenday (15) 14. After "rehydration" and a meal, the serious showing and telling commenced.

Andrew Wilson commenced with a small ball (1.62") Penfold Ace found in mother-in-law's kitchen drawer. It eventuated that it was the first ball she had ever won in a ball competition, and was a treasured memento. He followed up with an Arch Keane wood (c.1935), the first club he ever used on a course . . . thought to be Kiama in about 1970.

Rob Downie passed around some keepsakes from the US Hickory Open, and topped it off by showing the medal he received as the Super Senior Champion. Des Froneman then showed a replica printed report from Golf Illustrated of the 1899 Open at Sandwich, won by Harry Vardon with a score of 310.

President's Putter Result

Full advantage of the glorious weather on Sunday 29 July was taken by President's Putter qualifiers Luke Kavanagh and Michael Sheret, who chose the Manly course as the venue for their second round match.

Sadly for Michael and gladly for Luke, the match ended with Luke the victor to the tune of three up and two to play. The match was played with great enjoyment on both sides. Congratulations to Luke, commiserations to Michael.

Congratulations to Rex McKay who eventually won The Putter from Luke Kavanagh.

Bobby Locke Trophy Qualifying

Rosnay Golf Club – 15 August 2013

The qualifying round of the Bobby Locke Trophy – 18 holes of scratch matchplay – was played at Rosnay Golf Club in excellent weather and over a course that is a credit to the greenkeepers, with excellent greens for a public golf course. Due to the esteem in which Tom Moore is held, hospitality at Auburn is always good.

The qualifiers, and their first matches were:

Dennis Sundin v Tony Doggett

Rex McKay v Des Froneman

Rob Downie v Andrew Wilson

Tom Moore v Tony Pickrell

The remainder of the series will be played on a knockout basis, on mutually agreed venues and dates.

The "Craigieburn Cup" of 2013.

Peppers Craigieburn Resort -

The course at Craigieburn is nearing its century and is well suited to hickory golf. The course curator ensured that everything was just right; freshly mowing the greens and cutting new holes. He is rightly proud of his course and is determined to see that the



Craigieburn Cup – eighteen holes of stroke play - becomes one of the prestige golfing events of the Southern Highlands.

Although they did not play Edgar Oakman and twice Australian Open Champion Frank Phillips took a great interest in what the Australian Golf Heritage Society is doing to preserve and respect the history of golf in Australia.

Some magnificent golf was played over the beautiful course at Bowral. Simon Lawrance - the Course Curator - took out the Craigieburn Cup with a great score of 71. Hot on Simon's heels was veteran Des Froneman with a beautifully crafted score of 74. Handicap winner was evergreen Rex McKay (14) - with a net 59. Runner up to Rex was Tony Doggett (18) with a net 61. Ladies winner was Anne Murray (44) from Moss Vale - who defended the Title she won last year - with a net 64.

Following the game a beautiful dinner was held in the Old Craigieburn Homestead, with guest speaker Rex McKay - a leading amateur from the South Coast - speaking about his life and golfing career. Rex won the NSW Junior Title in 1951 and in 1954 won the ACT Championship, and the NSW Foursomes Title with Barry Warren. Rex also toured overseas and played in the British Amateur and Open Titles. Nowadays Rex plays regularly as a member of Port Kembla Golf Club, and also at Pymble Golf Club, where he is now the oldest playing member.

Australian Golf Collections

Thirty three years ago I started working in architectural antiques specialising in ceramic tiles and it was about then that I also became a member of the National Trust. I started collecting golf memorabilia thirty years ago. By then I had already played golf for twenty years and had a keen interest in history and antiques. I acquired my first piece in 1983 and it still has pride of place hanging on the wall. I have been an antiques and collectables dealer since 1990 and not long after that I also joined the Golf Collectors Society.

In the first ten years I would buy anything old, interesting or unusual that was golf as, at that time, there weren't a lot of items available - but everything seemed desirable. However, about twenty years ago I realised that what interested me most and what I was really passionate about was anything to do with Australian golf. I could relate more to Aussie memorabilia rather than the overseas items and also it felt personal. From about that time I mainly collected Australian golf memorabilia, collectables and antiques.

The collection now numbers around 6,000 items, 75% of which is Australian. I love strange and quirky items as well as the social culture that collecting golf memorabilia through the decades reflects - the clothing, life styles and the way so many non golf items were sold or promoted using golf eg cigarettes, alcohol, ceramics, silverware, clothing etc. By the 1920s golf scenes regularly appeared on the covers of New Idea, Women's Weekly, The Sydney Mail etc and many different comics. In Australian newspaper advertising golf was used to sell potions, creams and tonics as far back as the 1890s.

Typically a golf collection of Australian memorabilia starts with equipment and then trophies, as these were the main things before the merchandising. However, in saying that, finding any items before 1900 that were made for or in Australia is rare - although this is not the case for overseas items that can be sourced easily by the internet. The inference of this is that any Australian item prior to 1900 is historic and, indeed, is needed to give integrity to a collection.

Below are some of the cornerstone items in the collection:

Long Nosed Wood

Circa 1891 and marked R Taylor. This was probably made by Richard Taylor in the first year he came here. He was the first golf professional in Australia and 1891 was the beginning of Melbourne Golf Club. (This wood is the earliest known Club attributed to the beginnings of professional, organised club golf in Australia.)

Scared Neck/Spliced Neck Australian Woods

These are extremely rare and I only know of about thirty in existence, there are five in the collection.

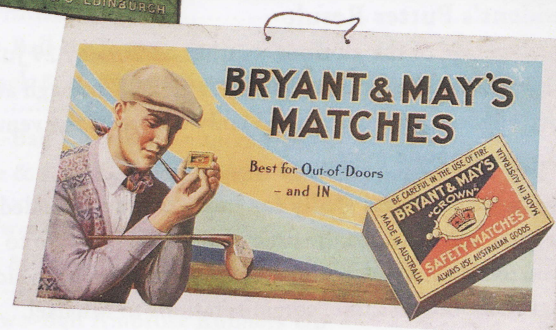
Hundreds of Australian connected Hickory Shafted clubs from 1891 - 1941.

Trophies -

1895 Melbourne Ladies Golf Club (pre Royal) won by Miss J Davie, a subsequent winner of the Australian Ladies Championship

1899 Royal Melbourne Ladies Golf Club presented by Sir Frederick Sargood, owner of the Ripponlea Estate

1899 Australian Golf Championship Doubles 2nd place Hugh MacNeil and C.E.S Gillies





1897 The Australian Golf Club won by C R Burnside
 1898 Essendon Golf Club Trophy
 1915 Queensland Ladies Champion won by M Green
 1898 Essendon Golf Club Trophy
 1915 Queensland Ladies Champion won by M Green
 1934 The Australian Golf Clubs Jubilee Cadogan Cup
 1948 NSW Amateur Championship won by A Waterson
 1965 Queensland PGA Championship won by L Wilson
 Plus hundreds of trophies from every state in Australia.
 The first golf ball made in Australia was in 1905. In the collection is an Australian made golf ball from 1906 – The Scientific by The Barnett Glass Company

Hundreds of original newspaper pictorial pages -

1894 Melbourne Golf Club, the first Australian Amateur Championship
 1897 R Taylor (Vic.) vs J Scott (NSW) - the first professional match in Australia
 1896 Golf in Sydney

Other Australian Items

Golf balls (some wrapped) from the 1920s
 Boxes of tees from the 1930s
 Six hundred plus medals and badges, the earliest from Hobart Golf Club 1907
 Huge collection of cigarette cards, trade cards and postcards dating back to 1905
 Golf tournament programs, golf price lists and catalogues back to the 1920s

Golf Rule Books starting from 1904
 Scorecards dating back to 1900
 Press photographs dating back to 1920
 Golf magazines from 1920s to 1970s
 Hickory shafted putter circa 1929 made from decommissioned HMAS Sydney
 The largest collection of Australian made or Australian featured golf china/pottery
 All of the above is excluding the overseas component of the collection.
 The collection has some of the earliest Australian golf items; it is the largest and most varied Australian golf collection in the world, comparable to the best overseas collections.
 It is an amazing research tool as there are thousands of magazines, newspapers, catalogues, ephemera etc. Items from the collection have been used by many clubs and individuals for research and histories.
 I am always happy to assist anyone who is interested in Australian golf history and memorabilia or would like some information on any Australian golf item they might have.

Leon (Old Golf) Rowbell

Email: leonoldgolf@iprimus.com.au

Picture: COLLEEN PETCH

The Masters Pennant

It was 10 am, 1st June, 1980 and the match began - the inaugural "Past Masters Pennant Series". All the matches were played in fours - indeed quite good matches. The result of the match was a tie, Eastlakes 4½ and Woollooware 4½. It so happened that Jeff Lendrum and Noel Swanson had finished all square after 18 holes and neither would budge and go out and play 19th hole for a result. So history says the first Masters Pennant match finished in a draw..... a brilliant result!

Back in the clubhouse cordial festivities, drinking and celebrations were taking place. Many photographs were taken of players and officials. Both Eastlakes and Woollooware have retained copies of these photographs in their archives.

Bill Marshall, delegate to the NSW Golf Association, was in attendance and John Cantrall and I were talking to him very excitedly about the response and success of "The Past Masters" match. Bill Marshall initially dampened our enthusiasm because he said it just wouldn't work, it wouldn't get off the ground. I didn't understand why he was talking that way because I knew deep down this idea I had for over 50's to have their own pennant series would take off, sweep Australia and possibly the world. We had a meeting at Eastlakes Golf Club on that day and drew up a format to give this event some direction. It was decided the players must be over 50 years of age on the day of play. It would be named the Past Masters Senior Pennant, all matches to be played in fours, and other clubs to be contacted would be Kogarah, Cronulla, Bexley and Beverley Park.

In 1981 the first pennant series was scheduled to play with teams Woollooware, Eastlakes, Kogarah, Bexley, Beverley Park and Cronulla.

Prior to the first series being played meetings were held. I attended the first meeting at Woollooware Golf Club, which George Young chaired. It was decided "Past" wasn't a very appropriate name, no one likes to be past, so the word "Senior" was put in its place. The Competition was now known as The Senior Masters Pennant.

At the finish of the meetings, George Young said to me that it was a great thing that I had done. This idea was marvellous for golf and suggested there could be a trophy named after me. I was a little embarrassed, although I was quite proud of the results of my efforts, but I must point out John Cantrall needs to be remembered also as he made his course available to us that original day in June 1980.

The first series that was played in 1981 was very closely fought. There was never much in it. Woollooware were fortunate enough to nudge out Cronulla and be the first winners of The Senior Masters Pennant. The players were ecstatic about this tournament and they themselves became the promoters, which has seen it grow to what it is today.

Brian Keane, being a printer for the Sydney papers, used his contacts through 1980, 1981 and 1982 to promote this event

telling the story of its foundation and formation on how the idea of the event was first conceived in 1980. I stayed on as non playing Captain of the Woollooware team for 3 years. I found it difficult to make myself available at all times so I stood down as team Captain and my involvement with the Senior Masters Pennant. I could see the tournament was in good hands. Joe Tierney went to the meetings in my place.

We all know that the tournament is now endorsed by NSW Golf and to eliminate any other confusion with their other pennant series, it is now known as "The Masters Pennant". Now reaching the age where I can play in my tournament which commenced 15 years ago at Eastlakes Golf Club I feel very honoured and proud to be playing in this event. I always had faith that this tournament designed for 50's and over was going to be very successful.

I can't express the thanks that I have to give to the committees that have nurtured this tournament, in particular George Young and Joe Tierney, for their efforts.

The committees from 1980 to this day have done a wonderful job in fulfilling my dreams for this event where old foes meet and golfers that have started late have a chance to participate.

To all the old foes, when you meet, enjoy each others company.

To golfers that have started late, enjoy the event and play the game the way it should be played..... like gentlemen.

My best and sincere wishes,

Darryl Betts 6 November 1995

...and the rest is history.



To date thirty one Pennants have been competed. For the record Mona Vale won the 2013 Competition over Castle Hill - claiming their first Pennant in this event. As will inevitably happen, and in harmony with the original objects of the foundation of The Masters Pennant Competition, 2013 saw the participation of a father and son playing in the same team. From Windsor Golf Club John Banting, and his son Geoff, both represented in 2013. John is rising 75 and plays off a handicap of 6 while Geoff turned 50 this year and plays off a handicap of 8. Windsor Golf Club believe this is a rare occurrence in Masters Pennant and are proud of their efforts, particularly John's longevity of competing. The Masters Pennant is a Member of the Australian Golf Heritage Society and we wish them all the best for their future competition and camaraderie. The website for your interest is:

<<http://www.masterspennant.com.au>>