

# The Braggi

## 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.

July 2014

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### President's Report



The highlight of our AGM in November last year was the real progress made in getting a history group restarted. The principal objectives of the group are to encourage research into golf history at national and club level and to run talks and seminars on golf history. John Buckley and Michael Sheret agreed to set up a History Sub-Committee and work on getting a seminar prepared for April 2014.

The first seminar was held at Tempe House on 29th April. Details are in the report of the History Sub-Committee. I would like to give special thanks to Michael Sheret and Norman Richardson as researchers and presenters for their hard work, especially in going to primary sources of historical evidence such as the original Spark diaries and the archives of the Royal Blackheath Golf Club in London. Norman and Michael have solved some of the mysteries surrounding those 1839 Sydney golfers. If the success of a seminar is the quantity and quality of the questions that follow, this seminar was certainly a success.

At the AGM we gave our thanks to Malcolm McIntosh, our long serving and hardworking Treasurer. As the Spartans used to say: Malcolm "you have been a steady and reliable brick in our defences". Steve Doorey now takes over as our Treasurer. The Treasurer's report at our last Management Committee shows our financial position to be strong and we are holding the annual subscription at \$30.

Treasurer Steve is working on a membership drive and the hard task of keeping our membership lists up to date. He has put together a short and to the point survey to be sent with your membership renewal invoice. The purpose of the survey is to find out members' interests and what they would most like to get from the Society in the future. The survey should enable us to increase member participation in the Society's events. Please complete this survey – it won't take long – and return it with your membership renewal.

The 2013 Australian Hickory Shaft Championship was held at Carnarvon in November. Once again the Carnarvon Golf Club was a great host and I would like to thank the Club and our contact there, John Lock, for a very enjoyable golfing and dining day. The 2009 Champion Derrin Morgan repeated his success to become the 2013 Champion with a fine score of 76. Derrin is now based in Sydney and we hope to see him at some other of our hickory events.

It is with great regret that I have to announce that Tom Moore has resigned from the Management Committee and is stepping back from his involvement in AGHS events. The Society owes a great deal to Tommy, a foundation member of the Australian Golf Collectors Society (the predecessor of AGHS) in 1995 and its President for the first ten years. Tommy started the Golf Museum in 1999 and has spent many hours building up and managing the collection. In many ways he has been the face of the Society with his presence at AGHS display at the Australian Open and other top events. It was Tommy who started the hickory golf movement in Australia way back in 1990 and has taken hickory golf to the far reaches of New South Wales.

Top of my wish list for the future is to see more members participating in our events. The next two events will be the repeat of the Tempe House seminar on 6th August in the fine old headquarters of the Royal Australian Historical Society followed by the Bobby Locke Trophy on 21st August at Auburn City Links. (See *Coming Events*) For those who missed out the Tempe House seminar, you will find much to learn about the earliest known golf in Australia at the repeat. Fellow Members, please give yourself much enjoyment in attending the Seminar and our next golf outing at Auburn.

Bruce Nairn OAM  
*President*



[www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Golf-Heritage-Society-Museum](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Golf-Heritage-Society-Museum)



## Captain's Report

Fellow Members,

It has been a quiet time with little hickory golf over the Summer months. The Al Howard Trophy at Kiama in March was won by Ron Hall (Port Kembla GC) with 30 points with Steve Doorey (Cabramatta GC) runner up on 25 points; while a very successful event was held at Windsor Golf Club, the results of which are reported in this issue.



Members of the AGHS have been flying the flag at The Australian Open at Royal Sydney, the Australian PGA Seniors Championship at Richmond, the NSW Ladies Open at Oatlands, the Jack Newton Golf Day at Terrey Hills and the Banjo Patterson Classic at Duntray League Golf Club, Orange. A putting green was made available at Royal Sydney and Tom Moore, Jim Glenday, Steve Doorey, Norm Richardson and I were kept busy introducing patrons of all ages to putting with a hickory putter. At Duntray League the field played holes 6, 7 and 8 with a hickory set of clubs. Club Manager, Matthew Furze kindly provided Tom Moore and me with accommodation for the night. John Furze, Duntray League Professional and a larger than life person, interacted with Tom Moore and me with Matthew as cameraman in making a video and photographic slide show for the benefit of the Club. In saying that, Duntray League at Orange is well worth a visit. A short stay in the charming old world House and golf on what is always a very picturesque course is a very enjoyable experience.

The Playing Calendar for the rest of 2014 has now been finalized hopefully giving you ample time to plan your hickory events. Our playing numbers were down at our 2013 events and I am hoping for better attendance this year. Included with your 2014/15 fees renewal is a brief survey of Members' preferences for events and interests

including in regard to play with hickory or modern clubs. I would appreciate you taking the time to complete and return the survey so that your Committee can gauge the preferences of Members in planning these events.

In the meantime I ask all playing Members to endeavour to attend our events and, if possible, to bring along a friend and introduce them to the hickory game.

Good golfing in 2014,

*Yours in golf*

Tony Doggett, Captain.

## Coming Events

### 2014 Fixtures

#### Thursday 21 August - The Bobby Locke Trophy

Auburn City Links, 12.30 pm hit off

18 Hole scratch - Qualifying event

Handicap event held in conjunction

Refreshments after golf

\$30 per person

Enquiries Tony Doggett (02) 9639 2849

#### Sunday 14 September - Craigieburn Cup

Craigieburn, Bowral

18 Hole scratch and handicap

12 noon hit off

7 pm Dinner and Guest Speaker

Overnight stay at Peppers

Enquiries Tony Doggett (02) 9639 2849

#### Sunday 28 September - Liverpool Invitation

Liverpool Golf Club 3 pm hit off

9 Holes

A chance to introduce a friend to Hickory Golf

Enquiries Tony Doggett (02) 9639 2849

#### Friday 21 November - Hickory Championship

Carnarvon Golf Club

18 Hole Scratch and Handicap (Mens and Ladies Comps)

12 noon hit off

Australian Hickory Shaft Golf Championship

Enquiries Tony Doggett (02) 9639 2849





## VALE... Al Howard

It has been well chronicled that Al Howard, prolific golf architect, professional golfer and golf journalist passed away on 9th January this year.

Al is best known for his work as a golf architect.

There have been few golf architects as prolific as Al.

It was not only the number of courses he designed or renovated but the wide range in the sort of golf courses. Al worked on simple low budget municipal courses, courses with sand greens in rural Australia as well as courses for private clubs and resorts with more generous budgets. I believe that Al's favourites were the Twin Towns Golf Course at Banora Point, NSW, and the course for the Tasmania Golf Club on Barilla Bluff. The 3rd hole at Tasmania GC is a much discussed and photographed hole. It is a supremely challenging golf hole. A combination of the natural terrain and clever design gives the golfer many options on how to play it. On similar terrain it is often favourably compared to the much praised 18th at Pebble Beach.

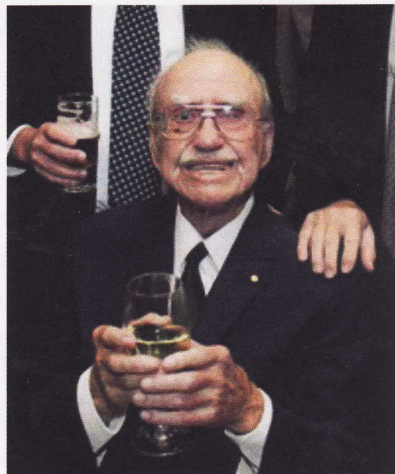
In his book, 19th Hole Nostalgia, Al described his introduction to golf architecture, as a lad of about fifteen, working with his father Tom Howard and Eric Apperly on laying out The Lakes -

*"So commenced my apprenticeship in golf course design ... in that hilly and scrubby terrain ... As chief 'gofer' for the team at The Lakes I dragged the chain through thicket and tussock, waved flags from sandhills and swamps and unbeknown to them plotted a few diabolical holes of my own."*

As a player, Al did win some small events, joint winner of the North British Purse in 1938 and the Royal Sydney Purse in 1946 and set a course record of 63 at the Cammeray Course in 1940. In 1931, in the first Australian Open he played in at Royal Sydney he took last prize-money of One Pound (\$2 dollars). Although not a fortune, Al was able to shout 13 of his mates to a fish dinner.

Perhaps Al never reached the same great golfing heights as his father Tommy, but what an amazing life. How he managed to fit it all into 100 years is remarkable. He was at the forefront of every important advance in professional golf from the 1920s

A fond memory of Al was at a seminar held by the



Australian Golf Heritage Society in 2009 with golf writers Terry Smith and Jim Webster reminiscing about the old pros. Without warning Al, with all of his ninety four years got on his feet, walked on to the stage and used his walking stick to demonstrate how to make your golf swing foolproof. Brought the house down.

*Farewell Al, good golfing on the Links beyond.*

Tom Moore and Michael Sheret.



## Museum Report

In October 2013, the Museum was awarded a Community Heritage Grant (CHG) to have a Preservation Needs Assessment conducted on the object collection. This assessment follows on from the Significance Assessment that was conducted in 2011, and will look at the suitability of current storage and make recommendations for future conservation measures. It is hoped that a similar assessment program will commence on the library material later this year.



In February, Vicki Stanton presented the outcomes of her internship at the AGHS to her lecturers and peers at the University of Sydney. Vicki's internship project - To develop a travelling exhibition for the AGHS - is close to completion. A big thank you to Vicki for the great work she conducted while interning with the Society and for her continued input and collaboration with Arianna into the management and presentation of the collection.

Emma Williams



## Fred Findlay (1871-1958) *A golfer who led an interesting life*

Fred Findlay, like his father, was a professional soldier and served in the British army for 22 years.

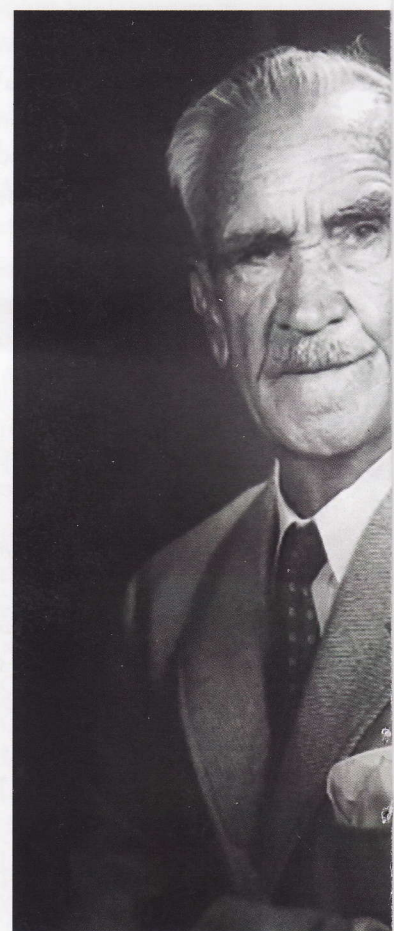
He was an accomplished musician, being a skilled exponent of the cornet, and he rose to the rank of Sergeant-Bandmaster. He played his early golf at Montrose, a classic old links on the east coast of Scotland. He was good enough to break the course record in 1898 with a score of 71 on a course measuring 5609 yards, long by the standards of the guttie era.

Towards the end of his time in Scotland he spent 18 months as the professional at the Royal Albert Golf Club, now known as Royal Montrose. Near the end of 1909 he migrated to Australia mainly for the health of his son Freddie, who probably had tuberculosis, a disease rife in the cold damp industrial towns of Scotland.

In January 1910 he was appointed professional at the Metropolitan Golf Club in Melbourne. Like professionals of his day Fred was, apart from teaching duties and running a shop, also the starter, caddie master, curator of the green and club maker. He made his mark in many ways. The History of Metropolitan praises him particularly in his starter role. With a firm hand and a courteous manner, Fred brought much needed discipline and order to the competition days. Playing opportunities for professionals were interrupted by World War I. Fred's tournament record was unremarkable but his scorecard for his round in December 1918 is preserved in the Metropolitan archives: 68 strokes, 11 under bogey, on a course measuring 6079 yards.

Then in 1922 he resigned amicably from his position at Metropolitan and, in the following year, took himself off to America. There, at the age of 51, he quickly established himself as a successful golf architect working in the Virginia area. He is credited with being responsible for the design of 41 courses. His masterpiece is undoubtedly the north/south course at the Farmington Country Club. In his twilight years

This is a summary of a  
Steve Doorey and Mi  
September 2013 issue of  
magazine of the Briti  
Society. The full article,  
research processes and  
sources of evidence, is  
contacting <SheretMA  
<steve\_doorey@b



### *Acknowledgments*

Beverley Aberline, great granddaughter of J.  
her family scrapbook

Richard Tweddle, RACV Corporate Solicitor  
Healesville golf club

Neil Crafter gave us extracts from The Architect  
This was important in sorting out courses designed by  
those in partnership with his grandson Buddy Lovin



1872 – 1966)

*interesting and varied life*

research article by  
Michael Sheret in the  
Through the Green,  
Golf Collectors  
which describes the  
references to the  
may be obtained by  
@bigpond.com> or  
bigpond.com>.



Fred lived in a cottage on the Farmington property. In his nineties Fred was still scoring below his age around Farmington, but he probably devoted more time to poetry and painting, two of his abiding passions. Our research solved two mysteries about Fred's career. Golf historians generally thought that Fred had no experience in golf architecture before going to America. This was not the case. In 1914 he designed a course at Ararat in Victoria. Very little is known about this course. It has not survived. In 1911/12 Fred laid out a seven hole course in a public park in Healesville, Victoria. This was abandoned in 1919. On a larger property and with better financial backing Fred built his second course at Healesville. Originally a nine hole course, it has undergone many changes since Fred's time. It is now owned by the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria and in 2012 was ranked a creditable 55th in Australia's best courses.

The second mystery was what inspired Fred at 51 years of age to give up a secure position at Metropolitan and move to America. Prior to our research the conventional wisdom was that he was influenced by his older brother, Alex Findlay, well established in America as a top class golfer, golf architect and all-round golf entrepreneur. While Alex may have had some influence on Fred's career in America we do not think he was the major influence. All the evidence points to his son-in-law, Raymond "Ben" Franklin Loving, as the main influence on Fred's move and subsequent career in America.

We don't know what brought Ben to Australia originally, but he married Fred's daughter Ruth in Australia in 1924 and took her to Virginia, where Fred, Ben and Ruth were very close.

At the beginning of his golf architecture career in America Fred and Ben were partners in the business. Later Ben became the General Manager at Farmington and stayed in that position for 44 years.

**Comments:**

James Findlay, Fred's brother, for sharing  
book with us.

tor, for sharing his research notes on  
course with us.

acts of Golf by Cornish & Whitten (1993).

Fred alone, those in partnership with Ben Loving,  
g and those designed independently by Buddy.



### History Sub-Committee

The Society is making rapid progress in reviving the golf talks – seminar is probably a better word – that we used to have. To this end John Buckley, Norman Richardson and I have formed a History Sub-Committee, and I have been co-opted to the Management Committee so that I can contribute more effectively.

Every AGHS Member should have got notice of our first seminar held on 29 April and will know that it was about the earliest known golf in Australia.

That was in 1839 at Grose Farm, where golf is no longer played as the area is now occupied by Sydney University, the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Victoria Park. Presenters of the seminar, Norm and myself, have uncovered a lot of new information about that short lived early phase of golf, notably from the diaries of Alexander Brodie Spark in their original form, from the archives of the Royal Blackheath Golf Club, London and from various other primary sources.

We seemed to hold the attention of our audience for fifty minutes or so and then we had a lively session of questions and answers for nearly half an hour until sandwiches arrived.

We had two banners prepared for the seminar with extracts from the original Spark diaries and a fine image of Grose Farm as Sydney University was being built but with some farmland still visible.



**L to R: Michael Sheret, Robert Spark, Norman Richardson with Alexander Brodie Spark banner in the back.**

### History Sub-Committee (cont.)

These banners will reside in the AGHS Golf Museum, where they will be an appropriate and informative acquisition.

A special vote of thanks goes to Ross Berry for facilitating the use of Tempe House, the home of Alexander

Brodie Spark and one of the oldest and most beautiful buildings in Australia. Altogether there were thirty one people in attendance. A very special guest was Dr Robert Spark, great-great grandson of Alexander Brodie. Peter Hines was there to represent the PGA and Stuart Fraser, CEO of Golf NSW. We could have squeezed in about another half dozen participants. AGHS members who couldn't make it will have another opportunity as the seminar will be held again on 6 August at the Royal Australian Historical Society, 133 Macquarie Street, another elegant old building.

For the future, any golf club that wants to hold a "history day" can get in touch with the History Sub-Committee through the Contacts page on the AGHS website. The club can decide on the format of the day. It can include some hickory play, a general golf history

seminar, a talk by the club's historians, a dinner, a showing of some of the interesting artefacts from the AGHS Golf Museum. Whatever "package" the golf club thinks is suitable.

**Michael Sheret**

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](http://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.



## On a Golf Club's History...

The research and writing of Michael Sheret and Norm Richardson on the first golf club in Australia, the New South Wales Golf Club on Grose Farm in 1839, has set a very high standard indeed. The first NSW Golf Club had a very short life, lasting for no more than four years. The seminar on 29 April at Tempe House was very well attended with lively questions and discussion about the subject. It's good news that the golf historians seminars have started again after a lapse of almost five years. Every golf club has a history worth recording and telling and many golf club historians have done a great job in doing just that. Peter Thomson wrote in Victoria Golf Club's history book : (1)

*"Club golf is the very essence of the game. It is not the Open Championship nor the televised professional purses that give golf its plasma, it is the friendly matches played on home territory between people paying their dues to support their own links and nurture what has been handed down to them. That is the game's lifeblood. In turn this trust is passed onto the next generation intact and solvent and in this manner a club perpetuates, carried along on a solid rock of loyalty and affection. Some clubs have a special character which sets them apart."*

*It is not the quality of the course or the accommodation of the building that distinguishes them. It is more essentially the membership, past and present, and the file of achievement over a period of decades that creates a tradition".*

There are many ways a golf club can approach its history – by collecting information and objects to understand its past or by creating a story to recognise and respect its traditions.(2) My club, Windsor Country Golf Club, has done some of that. Our club was formed and the course was laid down in 1962 and Robert Lewis wrote a book on the first 50 years.(3) It was easy because the President and Captain had been members since 1962 and Robert, when a boy, lived on the dairy farm that became the golf course. Not all clubs are so lucky. The club's history book recognised that golf was played in Windsor as early as 1905, so the period from 1962 was really the 'last' fifty years of golf in Windsor, not the first.

As part of the club's jubilee year we celebrated that 1905 golf event when the former Mayor, JJ Paine, opened the Gosper's paddock course, where a 'dainty afternoon tea' was served.



(4) In 2013 we started with morning tea, then nine holes of hickory golf, lunch and a talk on golf's history in the district. Hawkesbury historians Ian Jack and Jan Barkley-Jack researched old records and the *Richmond & Windsor Gazette* to disclose that golf was first played in Windsor on 6 October 1902. A club was formed in 1903 with Mr JJ Paine as President – the full text of Ian's talk is on the AGHS website.<sup>(5-6)</sup> It was also published in the British Golf Collectors Society's magazine *Through the Green* (March 2014). The 2014 JJ Paine Trophy Event was played on Monday 5th May and it is now an annual club fixture. You can play it in 2015.

There are hundreds of golf clubs in New South Wales like Windsor and others, like the 1839 NSW golf club, have ceased to exist. Every one of them has a history and should have a historian or two. Some do, as AGHS membership shows. Promoting golf club history is something Golf NSW will encourage and AGHS will support, to capture that 'file of achievement over a period of decades that creates a tradition'. I look forward to more AGHS seminars for golf historians.

### REFERENCES:

1. The Victoria Golf Club History
2. Writing a golf club history (2007) edited by John Pearson & Barry Leithhead – AGHS website;
3. Windsor Country Golf Club – the first fifty years
4. Photograph of the 1905 golf and dainty afternoon tea on Gosper's Paddock, Windsor taken by Dr Callaghan, held by the Hawkesbury Regional Museum
5. The JJ Paine Trophy event booklet 2013
6. AGHS:<http://www.australiangolfheritage.org.au/documents/JJ%20Paine%20Booklet%20final.pdf>

Barry Leithhead - May 2014



## SNOW & ICE GOLF TOURNAMENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

When Winter approaches in the Northern Hemisphere and golfers put their golfing equipment away there is another group of intrepid golfers who bring their golfing equipment out to play golf in the snow and on frozen lakes and rivers around the world.

According to many historians there was a short game of "kolf" being played in Holland on frozen canals and ponds around 17th century. Snow golf as we know it was created in Fife, Scotland in 1847 by Stuart McKenzie, who was the illegitimate older brother of Old Tom Morris who invented the modern game of golf. Rumour has it that Stuart was fed up with his younger brother getting all of the recognition and acclaim and he was alleged to have said "Och whit kind of big Jessies are ye that ye have to wait to play golf only on the green grass. Can ye no be like me and play in the snow?"

Snow golf blossomed in Scotland for three years before Stuart was killed in a tragic and supposedly unprovoked penguin attack – although some bystanders insist the penguin was acting in self defense. The trauma of the attack caused snow golf in Scotland to languish for over half a century. History tells us that in 1892, renowned English author and poet, Rudyard Kipling, famous for his Jungle Book stories married an American lady, Carolyn Balestier. They later settled with his good friend, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in Brattleboro, Vermont. Kipling, who lived a great deal of his life in India where the temperatures could reach 100 degs in the shade, reveled in the cooler climate of Vermont. On a cool Winters day Kipling was seen in a paddock which was covered in snow hitting something with a white birch branch. This became a familiar sight to the locals until one day he appeared dressed in knee high socks, black boots, green knickers, a red plaid hat and on his shoulders was a bag of mixed clubs. After making a wee mound with snow, he proceeded to place his red ball on top like a tee, thus commencing the start of golf being played in the snow.

Today there are many prestigious snow and ice golf tournaments being played all over the world. It has become very popular with both professional and amateur golfers with many famous companies sponsoring these events. There is the Drambuie Ice Golf Championship first held in Uummannaq, Greenland in 1997. This was the brainchild Arnie Neiman who asked Rolf Henning-Jensom to design an 18 hole course on ice and so began a great golfing experience. In 2012 the BMW Winter Snow Golf Cup was held in Megeve, France. This tournament was inspired by avid golf enthusiast, Philippe Guilham, who not only presented this tournament but also the prestigious Vacheron Constantin Snow Golf Cup, held in St Moritz. The wine and champagne company of Borel and Kroff started the Borel and Kroff Snow Golf Cup in 1979, held in beautiful Gstaad, Switzerland. Likewise Chivas famous whiskey makers also hold their own Chivas International Snow Golf Championship in Switzerland. Not to be outdone, there is the Snow Golf Champion Tournament held on the Aletsch Glacier on the Jung Frau mountain in the Swiss Alps. They tee off at an altitude of 3,465 metres where over forty Swiss sporting personalities took part. Then there is the Lake Baikal Ice Golf Tournament held on the largest, deepest and oldest lake in the world in Siberia.

There are many great snow and ice tournaments held in countries all over the world both for fun, but also to raise much needed funds for charities in Canada, Finland, Sweden, Austria, England, America and Argentina. Without the help of those intrepid golfers and golf club committees around the world a lot of happiness and enjoyment would not have been shared. The Rockwell Police Department in Texas hold the Santa Snow Flight golf where they fly Santa in to play snow golf and all the money raised is donated to under privileged children at Christmas time. In 2010, the Utukkuu Snow Golf Challenge was held in Anchorage, Alaska. In this first tournament the golfers, businesses and local townsfolk raised over \$36,500 for the Aqqaluk Trust where the money is then used to preserve the culture, language and dignity on the Inuit people. This is just a small sample of the kindness of the whole golfing fraternity worldwide. However so often we never get to hear of the fantastic events and the people who run them.

Bob Davies (*Scottish Bob*). Email <justus96bigpond.com>