

## *Golf Society of Australia*

### *Golf Club Historians Forum*

#### *Report of meeting held at Box Hill Club March 2014*

#### **Welcome**

Geoff Vincent, President, Golf Society of Australia (GSA).  
Opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

#### **An Outline of the Role of the Golf Society of Australia and Objectives of Historians Forums**

Dick Kirby, Committee Member, GSA gave a brief history of the society..  
Initiated by Dr Ken Shepherd and formed in 1981 to research and preserve and document the history of golf in Australia.

Dick outlined the society's statement of purpose.

- Assist Golf Australia to develop and maintain a National Golf Museum  
Currently the society has two displays one at the Sports Museum at the MCG and another display at Moonah Links, Rye.
  - To collate and record the history of golf in Australia.
  - Co operate with any club, association or organisation whose activities and purposes are similar to that of the society.
  - Bring together society members to enjoy social golf days and dinners.
  - Arrange Guest speakers at the Dinners and meetings.
  - Conduct Historian's Forums (started in 2004) Guest speaker present all matter of different topics from an historical perspectives
  - The society publishes a quarterly magazine "The Long Game"
  - In closing his presentation Dick discussed membership guideline encouraging all club historians and members of club historical committees to join the society.
- The society has a current membership is around 190

## **Historians Activities – Club Pennant Scores since 1896**

Ian Rowell, Riversdale GC,

Ian spoke about his project looking at Men's Pennant results since the competitions inception in 1899. In particular identifying all players, the matches they have played and their scores.

Ian has produced archival material of value to Riversdale and many clubs.

Some back ground on Ian

He joined as Junior Member in 1964

Member of the Senior Pennant team during the years 1974-78

Ian served on the Board 1976-1980

He is ardent collector of golfing history and memorabilia and is currently a member of the Riversdale Heritage Sub Committee.

It has been long and tedious project with Ian telling us of the many hours he spent in the State Library reading through the sporting pages of such papers as the Weekly Times, Sporting Globe, The Age, The Argus.

Other interesting facts that came to light in his research were

- The articles of a 100 years ago were far more detailed than they are today.
- The method by which matches were decided and results reported was referred to by up in "Aces".
- The number of players that made up a team and how it varied over the years before settling on the 7 member team as we know today.
- Also player movement between the clubs was quite common.

Murray Cropley Golf Victoria /Latrobe currently can produce Pennant scores since 1987.

Ian's presentation was very entertaining and sparked the interest of the women at the meeting who are keen to look at he own club Women's Pennant scores..

## **Box Hill Golf Club – A Follow-up on the Centenary Year**

### **John Trionfi Director**

John spoke to the meeting about Box Hill's Centenary celebrations -2013

He gave some background - the club saw a name change in June 2012 from Middlebororugh to Box Hill.

BHGC was first registered in April 1913

### ***What they did..***

The Whitehorse Golfer magazine published a number of historical articles. A Centenary Week of Golf was held with different golf competitions held each day with the week culminating in a Gala Dinner on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The dinner featured an audio visual presentation of slides photos and articles from the period.

John showed us the Centenary bag tag that was struck and given to each member with their name engraved.

To further mark the Centenary a number of memorabilia have been put on display at the club such items such as early woods and irons and a plaque with the history of the golf ball . John invited those present the meeting to have a look at the display.

A number of old photos have been framed and are on display including one of the 1840 Open Day along with several others of the course from the 1950's.

In closing John spoke about the future plans for the club.

With a membership of 2000 + noting they have Social member category.

The plans include extending the bistro and function room plus adding a multi-storey car park.

### **Hickory Clubs – their care and maintenance Cliff George**

Max Finlay was unable to attend

Tony McLean acknowledged the valuable work both done by society members Cliff and Max with regard to collecting, preserving and restoring hickory clubs.

Cliff firstly spoke about the popularity of Hickory clubs in the USA which has seen incredible growth since 2000 with some 15 players growing to approx. 3 million today.

As a result the US Society of Hickories working with the USGA has developed a set of playing guidelines or Rules of compliance.

Other countries UK, Europe have adopted these guidelines.

Cliff has been strong advocate for formalising and adopting the same guidelines with the aim to preserve the many pre 1940 hickory clubs that we know exist.

And in 2012 produced a formal document for use in competition here in Australia.

3 hickory club in various stages of condition were passed around for members to examine. There were also many other clubs on display.

Cliff encouraged anyone interested to participate in the GSA hickory days such as the annual Al Howard Trophy.

### **Northern Golf Club – 100 years Club History – Brendan Moloney**

Michael Church, President, Northern GC to provide an update.

Brendan spoke briefly about the book “The Jewel of the North”  
The story of a 100 yrs. of the Northern Golf Club and introduced the author Michael Church who spoke passionately about the project he started in 2007.

Michael also gave us a nice short story involving Royal North Devon GC and a member Samson Bennett .who became involved at Northern and years later went on to become a prolific course designer.

GSA member Peter Gompertz a member at Royal North Devon for 21 years contributed to the discussions.

The book is in print and will be available for purchase soon.

### **Show and Tell.**

Attendees are invited to bring along any old golf clubs or golf memorabilia for assessment and comment by the experts.

Peter Gompertz brought along a aluminium headed club for discussion.

### **General Discussion.**

### **Next meeting**

Moe GC, Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

### **Closure and vote of thanks to Box Hill Golf Club**

Geoff Vincent and Tony McLean