



GOLF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

PATRON: MRS ANNE COURT

Report from the Golf Historians Forum held at Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club - Monday 11 April 2022

The first Historians Forum for the year was held at Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club. An interesting and entertaining couple of hours was enjoyed at the club affectionately called "PK "

Our key speakers were Ben Fenwick - PKGC President and Chair of History Committee and Glenn Stuart - Director of Courses, together gave an insight into the foundation story of how Peninsula and Kingswood came together.

Ben, a Kingswood member reminded us of both club's early history and opened his presentation outlining some significant dates in a timeline snapshot of the early colourful history of Kingswood.

1904 The Dandenong Golf Club formed on leased land.

Relocated to a property owned by John Hemming named "Kingswood " (after his birthplace near Bristol)

1937 Relocated to a new site in Dingley on land offered for lease by the Gartside family.
18 holes laid out by Mick and Vern Morcom

A humorous point of interest was that in 1937 a club on leased land was prohibited from obtaining a liquor licence. To get around this issue a group of fifty members arranged by Cedric Broomhall, joined the almost defunct Royal Melbourne Tennis Club which operated in Lonsdale St with a liquor licence.

This gave the members the numbers to win a vote to accept a proposal from Kingswood to relocate the administrative headquarters of RMTC to the Dingley site. This allowed liquor to be sold legally at the Kingswood clubhouse.

While no tennis was ever played at Kingswood the RMTC continued to have their Annual General Meetings there with no business arising for many years.

1961 Members vote to increase the Subscription by thirty five percent and pay a onetime levy equivalent to a year's Subs. to fund a plan to buy the land from the Gartside's over a 12 yr. period
Officially settlement occurred March 1973

He continued with slides containing significant dates & lovely images from Peninsula's early days.

1922 Tower Family sells over 460 acres of land at Frankston to Tower Golf House company for 11,000 pounds.

1922 Golf courses laid out and first played in 1923 - Peninsula Golf Club (PGC) forms in 1924

1963-7 Land south of Skye Road was sold and developed for housing and a school.
PGC moved to current site and 36 holes designed by Sloan Morpeth were constructed along with a new clubhouse with accommodation.

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Ben continued and closed with an insight into the much published and discussed proposal to merge these two great clubs. The local community and Kingwood's members showed considerable strength and support for their surrounds and club during the long and at times emotional negotiations with the involved parties.

The clubs officially merged in September 2013 and their website now proudly says "a Sandbelt Masterpiece"

Director of Courses Glenn Stuart spoke of the redevelopment of the Frankston site. His presentation was complemented by a very professional slide show, containing wonderful early images of the surrounding land and course along with many progressive images taken of the two courses as they both came to life and how they look today.

Past Committee member, Tony Rule gave an interesting talk about how the "Stymie rule" was taken out of practice and abolished for good. Ivo Whitton (Five Time Australian Open winner and Captain Royal Melbourne GC 1947) was the Australian delegate on the 1951 Rules of Golf Committee at the time.

Tony's entertaining slide show had images and quotes from the proponents of the Stymie and then its reasons for being abolished. In 1952 it was removed from the Rules.
A link to the slide show will be available on the website.

Our final speaker was 31-year member Angela Bailey, who shared her lovely story of achieving two holes in one in the same round. Angela achieved this rare feat in a competition playing on the South Course in 2018.

The statistics tell us that achieving two aces in the one round are sixty-five million to one !
The presented her with a framed print of the holes.
Well done Angela ,though she did report that overall, her round was not that great.

For the Show and Tell segment, several attendees spoke about old clubs and personal photos along with some further tales how clubs acquired their liquor licenses.

The Golf Society thanks PK for their hospitality and a thoroughly enjoyable couple of hours the club.

Kim Hastie
Honorary Secretary

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