



GOLF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Patron: P.W. Thomson, AO, CBE.

Golf Club Historians Meeting Report of Meeting at Northern Golf Club February 25th 2013

Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Guest speaker Lenora Frost, explained the variety of the resources available from RHSV through its extensive library and archives. Emphasis was made on pre-booking a visit and advising of the nature of the research to be undertaken. In this way time is saved and the Society's representatives can offer optimum assistance. The image collection and a many scrapbooks is also a potentially rich resource.

Lenora mentioned an especially interesting volume in the collection on Kingston Heath Golf Club with photos of players in 1908. Geoff Vincent said he doubted even the club was unaware of this volume and would inform the club of its existence.

Another source for early golfing information resides in details of golf facilities at holiday locations in old travel and tourism brochures. Sample copies of these were distributed at the meeting.

Lenora reminded Golf Society of Australia members they have access to the RHSV facilities, as the GSA is an affiliated organisation.

Northern Golf Club, History & Heritage.

Michael Church, a long-term member of Northern and current President, spoke on the history of his club and especially its centenary celebrations and presented attendees with an extract from Golf Victoria magazine feature article on the club's history. A copy of which is attached.

Michael also acknowledged the input by Judy Manning, a long-term member of the club who has been a collector of Northern G C memorabilia since joining the club and which has been a valuable source for the preparation of displays and material for the forthcoming centenary book being written by Brendon Moloney

Club Heritage Groups.

A key objective of the every meeting of Golf Historians is to encourage all club representatives to be proactive in recording and promoting the preservation of the history of their individual clubs. Ways and means to achieve this varies



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from club to club and at these meetings representatives are encouraged to explain how they go about recording their past for the benefit of future generations.

With this in mind in 1999, and especially knowing the centenary of Woodlands Golf Club was approaching in 2013, Captain of the day Paul Burgess, asked long-term member Dr David Quin to set up an informal group of members with the aim to preserve the memorabilia and documents of the club and ensure its availability to current and future members. It was to be an ongoing group of volunteers and not a sub-committee of the existing committee with the Chairman reporting direct to the Captain. Paul mentioned the arrangement has worked well to date.

The collation, recording, cataloguing and storage of relevant records, publications, memorabilia, photographs, books, member interviews, press clippings, etc. has been achieved as planned in 1999, with the material centralised in a "Heritage Room" solely under the control of the Group and open to members to view upon request.

Key initiatives of the Woodlands Heritage Group are: -

1. Recruit new members to expand the awareness of the Groups purpose and gain resources to continue & complete various projects
2. Complete interviews with significant club members to ensure their knowledge, experience and insights of the club are captured and documented for future reference
3. Support the Centenary sub-committee.
4. Continue input of data into the Mosaic software program to enhance the ability to search and retrieve archived information.
5. Ongoing projects are identified and Group members contribute time at their convenience in connection with specific project(s) of their choice e.g. Filing, Interviews, Library, Minutes, copying, digitizing and précising, Mosaic, data input etc.

Hickory Clubs, Care and Maintenance.

Golf Society member, Cliff George demonstrated certain aspects on how to care for and restore hickory clubs recommending particular attention needs to be placed on whipping (binding) at the hosel where the shaft meets the club head and also each end of the grip. Cliff also set up a display of old clubs,



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some that he has made, and advised on the repair and maintenance of some clubs brought along by attendees

Show and Tell.

Peter Gompertz displayed a wooden walking stick with similar features to a hickory club. Peter referred to the ancient laws of Scotland forbidding the playing of golf on the Sabbath. It was designed as a means for disguising a stroll over the links swinging a “walking” stick to what was really a practice session for one’s short game. The “walking” stick was simply reversed and gripped from the bottom to become an efficient club to practise chip and run shots. Evidently they were quite popular in their day and now a rare and very collectible item of golfing memorabilia.

Col White, Keysborough G.C. member brought along an old bag of clubs that Cliff examined and provided information upon their heritage and suitability for restoration.

General Discussion. Tad Woznica from Moe G. C. circulated copies of extracts from the original minute book of his club and discussion centred on the ability of the present generation to read the hand written pages. Transcriptions were important when such extracts are displayed to assist readers and retain their interest.

Next meeting. Shepparton Golf Club, 3rd June 2013.

Closure, GSA President, Geoff Vincent thanked the Convenor and moved a vote of thanks to Northern Golf Club for providing the venue and catering for lunch which was carried with acclamation.