

Historians at Sorrento Golf Club June 19 2017

This years 'Country' meeting was held down on the Mornington Peninsula at the Sorrento Golf Club with 28 members making the effort to be there, overlooking a course which every 'links' golfer should have on their 'to play' list if they appreciate natural golf.

President Graeme Ryan gave the welcome and an update on the Societies recent activities and devolvment's then opened the meeting.

Our first speaker for the day was Brendan Moloney who delivered a potted history of the golf course and, particularly, its founders most of whom played their golf on sandbelt courses close to Melbourne for most of the year but took their summer holidays at a holiday home down on the Peninsula and who, tiring of the daily chore of taking their children to the beach, looked at the 'country', visualised a golf course and then courses, to which they escaped leaving their wives and/or nannies to the child minding duties.

Brendan then introduced David Worley who I had met when playing one of my top ten golf courses, Burnham & Berrow in Somerset. I was playing with a Burnham member and we met up on a piece of ground where the 3rd and the 17th shared a tee. We got chatting and I 'heard' the Aussie accent and asked where he played his golf in Australia. He told me he was a member at Commonwealth and I mentioned Daryl Cox, our late President, who was one of the first golfers I contacted when we returned to settle in Melbourne in 2004. During the Womens Friday Pennant in 2008 I was caddying for my wife and we were fogged in at Yarra Yarra and spent a lot of the morning in the Pro Shop where I saw a copy of Davids' book *Journey Through the Links*. I suggested to her that it would make a wonderful birthday present for our children to give for my next birthday and it duly turned up!

David delivered a wonderful slide show story of the research for this book, which if his audience were only slightly interested in before, they would be salivating at the prospect of buying, or being given, his next book, *Another Journey Through the Links* which covered the balance of the remaining 65 links courses in the UK not previously featured.

The third part of his trilogy "Fairways in Heaven Bunkers from Hell" was on display and available for purchase. Anyone who loves links golf as much as I do (I would be surprised if there is anyone who loves links golf more than me!) will not hesitate to buy a copy of Davids' latest opus. With a Foreward by '5 times Thommo' it is more than just a golfing, and travel, guide to 90 courses from Lands End to John O'Groats; it is a paean to the best kind of golf available to its devotees.

On display was some Sorrento GC memorabilia, Davids beautiful books and we were also treated to a few special items from the society's collection.

There were some historically valuable albums produced by Women's Golf Australia. They were full of newspaper clippings, photos, score cards and team sheets and gave a wonderful pictorial account of the Australian Ladies Amateur Championships, Womens Australian Open and representative events such as the Interstate series and the Queen Sirikit Cup.

Also on display were the Australian Men's and Womens Amateur Championship trophies. We were very fortunate to have them on show and the Society thanks Golf Australia for allowing us to have these very old and much coveted trophies.

Next Historians Forum: Monday October 23rd Riversdale Golf Club

Peter Gompertz

Historians Convenor