



The Long Game

The Official Newsletter of the Golf Society of Australia

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The painting featured on the left is by noted artist Robert Wade OAM, whose Australia Day honor is noted later in this edition of the Long Game. It features the **11th hole at Victoria Golf Club** whose members recently celebrated the club's 75th anniversary (see picture on back page and article page 5)

From the President

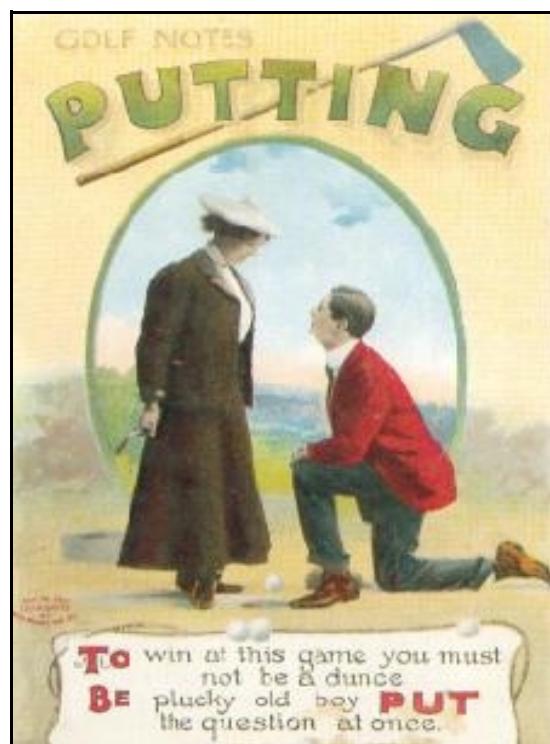
Our 2003 program of events has been most successful to date, with our Hickory Day at Kingston Heath and dinners at Victoria and Yarra Yarra. Guest speakers, Ross Baker talking on evolution of the game and golf clubs, Charles Happell discussing player interviews and media coverage.

The committee is currently researching information on the changed names and locations of metropolitan golf clubs. This information will be recorded on a suitable map.

The cataloguing of the Museum exhibits is nearing completion. This work will ensure true concise recording of all items and make the changing of displays more manageable. Members are encouraged to visit the museum. In this issue the Golf society records the passing of Douglas Blair. Doug was a great friend to the Society and all members. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Loris and family.

I look forward to the continued support of members at our future golf and social events.

Keith H. Wood AM



The Claret Jug

An extract from "The Open" website

When the Open Championship was first played at Prestwick in 1860, the winner was presented with a wide belt of rich red morocco leather embellished with silver buckle and emblems. But the rules of the competition stated quite clearly that the belt "becomes the property of the winner by being won three years in succession". In 1870 Young Tom Morris completed a trio of victories -The championship no longer had a trophy.

At a meeting of the Prestwick club in April 1871 Gilbert Mitchell Innes proposed that "in contemplation of St Andrews, Musselburgh and other clubs joining in the purchase of a belt to be played for over four or more greens, it is not expedient for the club to provide a belt to be played for solely at Prestwick".

The idea was that the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers should co-host the championship with Prestwick, all contributing to the costs of a new trophy and taking regular turns at staging the event. But there was such a lack of urgency about the matter that 1871 passed without the Open being staged.

The first mention of the Open did not appear in R&A minutes until May 1872, when a letter from Prestwick on the "desirability of reviving the Champion Belt competition" was discussed.

The three clubs finally agreed on September 11, 1872, to pay £10 each to provide a new trophy and to jointly host the Open Championship. But that was only two days before eight players contested the Open. There was obviously no time to commission a new trophy and the winner was presented with what appears to be a standard, shop-bought medal. It was the first time that a medal had been presented.

The famous claret jug trophy was made by Mackay Cunningham & Company of Edinburgh and is hall-marked 1873. It was presented to the winner that year and for half a century.

Yet three months after Bobby Jones won the championship at St Andrews in 1927, the Championship Committee of the R&A decided that "in future the original Open Championship Cup be retained in possession of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and that a duplicate be obtained for presentation to the winners".

The trophy is returned each year for presentation to the new champion

The Open web Site www.opengolf.com



Book review by Roy Paterson

Golf Architecture— a worldwide perspective. Compiled and edited by Paul Daley

This book provides a compendium of the tenets and comments of a very wide range of modern golf course designers. And there is more!! The book has a rich vein of architect sketches of the various holes discussed. And, there is still more!! Add to the foregoing a selection of top photographs of the world class golf courses covered and you have a great book to enjoy during the winter nights.

Having reread what I have just written I now feel the reader could be excused for thinking that this is an advertisement rather than a review. Not so. I really enjoy this book.

With chapters ranging from Tom Doak attempting to define golf architecture, through Graeme Grant tackling the question of golf architecture being an artistic endeavour or a feat of engineering and Mark Parsinen discussing the sense of place in course design, to Jeff Brauer commenting on the strategic tee shot, the book is an engrossing read and a serious discourse on course design. However, the reader may not agree with everything said in it, but that is as it should be.

"Golf Architecture" is, I understand, the first of a two volume set with volume two to be released later in 2003.

This is a worthy addition to Paul Daley's list of publications

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Roy Paterson

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East? West? Northwest is not Best !

Further to the brief review on the Morcom family in the last issue, I became aware that Ken Macdonald, a fellow member at "The Heath" had collaborated with Vern Morcom in the design of the new course for the Leongatha Golf Club, Ken being the then president of that club.

Macdonald was convinced at the time Leongatha Golf Club was planning to move to a new course (1956) that the best designer for the yet to be built golf course would be Vernon Morcom, whom he had met in company with another Kingston Heath member.

Being so persuaded he invited Vernon to visit and design in situ. Vernon was not very interested until Ken informed him that the land was 130 acres of virgin bush consisting of untouched trees and native scrub. When told of this Vern said, "In that case I could be interested".

On the drive up to Leongatha Ken mentioned an elevated spot on the northwest corner of the land that was considered as suitable for a clubhouse. During the inspection he pointed out this site to Vernon. On the way back for dinner that evening at Bair's Hotel in Leongatha, Morcom stated, "the suggested club house site is not appropriate. The winter sun goes down in the northwest, and players finishing the ninth or eighteenth at the end of the day will have the sun right in their eyes. He continued, "Anyway, once the members are in the clubhouse they won't care whether it's in the north, south, east or western part of the course as long as it's there."

Back at Bair's Hotel Morcom asked for some butcher paper, spread it out over their table in the restaurant and proceeded to set out the course plan there and then. That design with one small modification made on site the next morning, was the layout used to construct the course- a layout which remains to this day.

Morcom's fee for the course design, together with 18 detailed sketches of green and bunker construction, was one hundred and fifty pounds.

Roy Paterson



Site of the 17th green Leongatha Golf club

Henry Cotton's Left Hand Glove

"In 1931, when I went to America, the British Ryder Cup Team went to play in Columbus, Ohio, but following a difference with the P.G.A. committee over the right to remain in the States after the match, which I insisted upon and they refused to grant, I stood down from the side.

It was an unfortunate trip for me because I ran into trouble with my health. It was so hot in the Middle West, that in Toledo where the American Open was being played, the tar ran off the street surfaces and down the slopes to collect in "lakes" at the bottom, and cars had to crawl through inches of liquid tar. I took many cold shower baths a day to try to keep cool, and it seems that I picked up some germ from an unclean towel through drying myself too vigorously and developed boils on my ribs. These spread and when I came to play in the 'Open I was smothered in them. Consequently I played very badly and did not reach the final day's play.

I went to Canada, where I started to play in the Canadian Open with a carbuncle coming on my neck and was obliged to stop half-way through, as it was impossible to swing. I spent three weeks in bed, most of the time with a day-nurse and a night-nurse supplying me with hot compresses to put on my neck to get the blind carbuncle to turn outwards.

This incessant holding up to my neck of boiling hot compresses so softened the skin of my hands that when I returned to England and began practising again for the tournaments, my left thumb developed a blister on the bone. This painful spot right in the centre of the ball of the thumb stopped me playing for some weeks, and I tried all sorts of alternative grips as I could not bear to press on it.

Finally, as it did not get better, my doctor cut it open and let out the fluid, but by that time the muscle, or whatever the flesh is called in the ball of the thumb, had in some part perished, and this thumb, even now, has much less "padding" than my right thumb. It was through this, experience that I came to wear the left-hand glove which has been a part of my golfing equipment ever since. "

Henry Cotton.. from his book "This game of golf"

Golf Trivia Quiz (answers page 6)

- 1 In the history of the British Women's Amateur Championship how many times has there been a final with no British Player? Never, two, four, six
- 2 In winning the 1977 Open, Tom Watson set a British Open record for 72 holes. At which course?
- 3 What was unusual about the ball used by Alex Smith to win the 1906 US Open?
- 4 A golf course consists of five main areas. Name them
- 5 Who was beaten in play-offs three times in the 1960s for the US Open
- 6 What was relatively new about the clubs Gary Player used in winning the 1966 US Open
- 7 The Ryder Cup is named after Samuel Ryder who started his own business as a youth selling what?
- 8 Golfer Pat Brown shot 88 at St. Andrews in 1985 despite what handicap?

ALISTER MACKENZIE IN AUSTRALIA

Continued

“I think that almost the best golfing ground in Australia is that of the Royal Adelaide Golf course At Seaton. It is of a sand-dune character and they have some magnificent sand-dune craters.

During my visit they were only utilising one of these craters and I set about redesigning the course so as to utilise all four, three of them being utilised twice.

Since my arrival home I have received a letter from the Secretary of the Royal Adelaide Golf Club, saying that with the exception of two of the greens the new work is almost completed, and he adds that it is highly satisfactory. In fact, I have little doubt that if the work has been done as well as I anticipated they will have a golf course at Adelaide that will compare favourably with any of the English Championship courses. The Royal Adelaide course is the only one in Australia which has a complete watering system. On the other courses that I visited in Australia all the greens are watered, but at Adelaide the watering system not only includes the greens but all the teeing grounds and fairways.

On the whole Australian golf courses are good. The various club committees have been impressed with importance of visibility, but they seem so much obsessed with the idea of length that some of the courses are much too long.

On most of them the fairways are too narrow and at Royal Sydney and Australian courses I advised them to convert over a hundred bunkers on each course into grassy hollows.

As it was they were of no interest to anyone, they simply made the game impossible for the old gentlemen and cramped the young dashing player. On the other hand there was very little strategy about the holes and very little real placing of the tee shots was necessary. In my opinion the fact that the Australian golfers have not been able to beat us at golf as they have at cricket, tennis and so on is largely due to the fact that fairways are so narrow that they cramp the longer hitters while there is not a sufficient high standard of golf for the scratch player. He is not constantly stimulated to improve his game by continuously striving to conquer holes he has hitherto been unable to play successfully.

The defects of the courses are not altogether the fault of the green committees as I found that they have studied the subjects of golf course designing and green keeping far more thoroughly than the average British green com-

mittee. Every member, too, seemed well acquainted with all the literature that has been written on the subject

Most of the green committees were already well aware of the faults of their courses and welcomed my suggestions in regard to altering them. As a matter of fact, I am quite confident that in a few years time the, British Open and Amateur Championships will be gained by Australians.

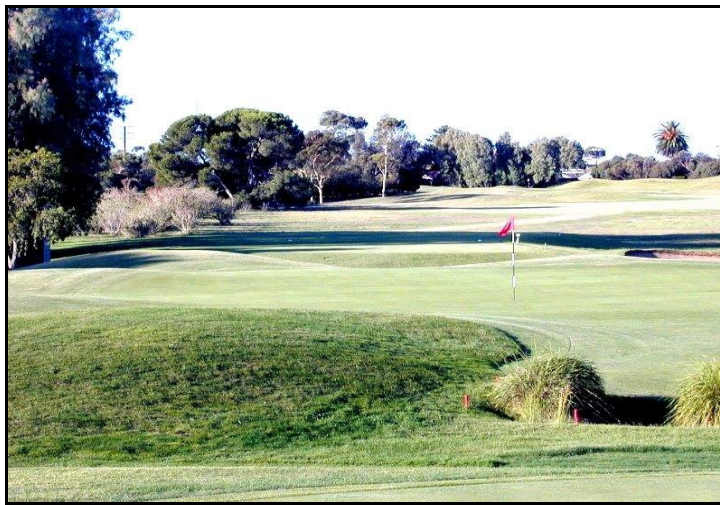
One of the difficulties confronting me in Australia was to make reasonably sure that my advice would be carried out according to my ideas during my absence. For that reason I looked out for an Australian partner and was

fortunate enough to secure Mr. Alec Russell an ex-Open Champion of Australia and Secretary to Mr. Bruce, the Prime Minister.

Mr. Russell has already a very sound knowledge of golf course architecture and has studied it a good deal, not only in Australia but also in Britain. He accompanied me and gave me very valuable suggestions during my visits to Australian courses.

It had been Mr. Russell's intention to go into parliament, and his name was actually up as a candidate but he said he would much prefer golf architecture, and I think: it possible that in providing attractive golf courses he may do more good for the health and the happiness of the community.

I have little doubt that Mr. Russell, with the help of Morcom the excellent green keeper of the Royal Melbourne Golf Club, will be able to supervise most successfully any works that is entrusted to him. I was interested to find in Australia that the green committees have made many similar mistakes to those in this country. For example, most of the greens were planted with fescue grasses, and experience has shown that fescues always disappear with mowing and are replaced by the finer bent (agrostis) grasses. America now realises this, and in consequence they have much better greens on the whole than in either Australia or Britain. In America they get the best results by seeding their greens with agrostis maritima (cocoos bent), or by the vegetative method of planting Metropolitan, Washington, or a somewhat similar fine strain of bent grass. We would get much better results both in Britain and in Australia if we adapted similar methods. In Australia they have also made the mistake of attempting to sweeten their grasses



18th Green Royal Adelaide Golf Club

Alister Mackenzie in Australia (Continued)

with lime, bone meal, kainit, or other alkaline fertilisers, whereas it has been conclusively proved that the finer golfing grasses, unlike agricultural grasses, will only flourish in sour or acid soil

There are few clubs, even in Britain, that have realised the fundamental principles of green keeping, and the consequence is that during the last three or four years in America (where the greens section of the United States Golf Association has insisted on the importance of acidity.) the greens on the whole are vastly superior to any others in the world.

In further proof of the importance of acidity I would point out that my home greens at Alwoodley are equal, if not superior, to any in Britain, and this is due to the fact that from the commencement of the club twenty years ago, we have been opposed to the use of alkaline fertilisers of any description and have been convinced that the best golfing grasses will only grow in sour soil.

Sour acid soil not only encourages the growth of the finer golfing grasses, but is inimical to worms, plantains, daisies, and similar weeds. The Alwoodley greens are free from fescues and consist entirely of the finer bent (*agrostis* grasses). (To be continued).

Opening of Victoria Golf Club -May 1927

It was blowing a gale on the afternoon of May 14, 1927 when the Prime Minister of the day, Mr Stanley Bruce, later Lord Bruce Viscount of Melbourne, strode to the first tee at Victoria Golf Club.

Mr Bruce was keeping a promise he had made to the club that he would drive the first ball and officially open Victoria Golf Club's new course and clubhouse at Cheltenham. There were nearly 1000 people gathered around the first tee as the Prime Minister and Mrs Bruce, club president, Mr W.L. Baillieu and the reigning Australian ladies champion, Miss Mona MacLeod, prepared to play their part in an historic moment in Australian golf.

Mr Bruce teed up and then tugged firmly on the brim of his hat as he stood and faced the gale howling into his face up the first fairway. His hickory-shafted driving club sent the ball boring unerringly into the wind and arrow straight for a distance of 160 yards. In the large gallery around the first tee stood the club's proud founder, Mr Billy Meader, surrounded by a group of club stalwarts and they, more than anybody, appreciated the symbolism of the Prime Minister's opening shot. They and their predecessors had worked for years for this moment.

Their dream had come to fruition and Victoria Golf Club, Cheltenham, was "in play". Mr Bruce's shot into that sand-laden gale was roundly applauded by the gallery and as the four players walked down the fairway with the crowd behind them, Mr Meader watched with a happy smile on his face, and with moist eyes. We wonder if he recalled the moment he stood alone in the old Scotts Hotel downcast and discouraged at the lack of response his first attempt to form the club had met.

Unfortunately the score of the Prime Minister and Mrs Bruce was not recorded, but the day's winners were Mr and Mrs R.D. Dosseter and Mr and Mrs R. Ramsay with nett returns of 41. The best gross score was 45 by Mrs F.H. Wood and Northern member J.M. English with 45. Our president, Mr W.L. Baillieu and Miss Macleod returned a nett 47 from their four handicap. In A Section the results were: 41 Mr and Mrs R.D. Dosseter (10), Mr and Mrs R. Ramsay (11); 42 Mrs F.H. Wood, J.M. English (3), Mrs and N.R. Hart (11); 44 Miss V. Leggo and J.T. Neighbour (11); 47 W.L. Baillieu, Miss Mona Macleod (4); 49 A.F. and Mrs Brash (7). B Section: 40 Miss V. Burgess, E.D. Barden (6); 43 Miss S. and L. Doyle (9), Mrs Bidstrup, H. Lyall (10).

Before the Prime Minister performed the official opening ceremony with his excellent tee shot from the first hole he was entertained at lunch by the club's directors. Mr Bruce and his party arrived promptly at noon where he was met by Mr Meader and the club's hierarchy and conducted on a tour of the spacious new clubhouse. After Mr Bruce had completed his clubhouse inspection the official party moved into the entrance foyer where a "surprise" was sprung on the unsuspecting Mr Meader. On the wall opposite the entrance doors hung a curtain and after Mr Baillieu had eloquently outlined the huge contribution Mr Meader had made towards the Victoria Golf Club he drew aside the curtain to reveal a striking photographic enlargement of the club's founder.

The portrait of Mr Meader still hangs there as a constant reminder to us all of his single minded determination. Mr Baillieu declared that it would hang there for all time.

With the unveiling ceremony over, Mr and Mrs Bruce were then entertained at luncheon by the board and after Mr Baillieu had proposed the toast of the Prime Minister, Mr Bruce explained how he had come to Australia with his father in 1889. On board the ship were hundreds of golf clubs in the care of Hoylake professional Dick Taylor, who Mr Bruce Snr had encouraged to make the trip to Australia. On his arrival Mr Bruce senior immediately set about helping form the Royal Melbourne Golf Club and the Prime Minister said he was delighted to see the game expanding because the qualities necessary for success in golf were identical to those needed to build a nation. He heaped more praise on Mr Meader, who, it was well known, was the dynamic force behind the ambitious enterprise and who had seen his efforts crowned with complete success.

Extract from "Victoria Golf Club" by Don Lawrence

Part of Bobby Jones acceptance speech on receiving the grant of Burgess of St. Andrews October 9th 1958

“Then I have another great memory. In 1936 I set out with my wife to go to the Olympic Games in Berlin. Of course, I took my clubs along with me because in those days they were very necessary impediments (sic). We met some friends and planned to spend two days at Gleneagles. West. Well we played two rounds there. Then I told my friends I could not be this close to St. Andrews without making a pilgrimage to it. We got here before noon and had lunch. I had been playing perfectly dreadful golf too, I can tell you. Anyhow, we finished lunch and walked over to the first tee--and there were waiting about 2000 people!

"I said to myself, 'This is an awful thing to do to my friends if they have come to see me golf with the dreadful stuff I am playing.' Anyway, Willie Auchterlornie and Gordon Lockhart started off with me, but Gordon stopped after two holes. By that time the crowd was about 4,000. Such a spontaneous show of warmth and affection I have never known in my life. It was such a splendid welcome you people gave me that I played the best golf I had played for four years, and certainly never since. I had a three at the second - I'm not bragging. (Loud laughter and applause.) Then I got to the sixth - in those days we were playing the old tee and I still think it's the better tee. I say so for this reason, that the second shot you have to play then is the old St. Andrews run-up shot. I said to myself - 'Look, Jones, these people are all expecting you to play that run-up, so don't you funk it.'

1

"I can tell you it was with considerable misgivings that I played the shot, but that ball ran up and on the green and it finished six feet from the flag. I holed it for a three. That, and my score, were just nothing but the inspiration of playing at St. Andrews. I went out in 32 and had a two at the 8th. I was so happy and in a transport almost that when I reached the 11th I went over Strath going for the green and landed in a bunker that no longer exists. It was about 15 feet from the hole and I went out looking for that bunker the other day and the green keeper told me it had never been there. I said to him - 'You can't tell me that, because I played two shots in it in 1936.' (Laughter.)

"That was a great day for me - and now I have this. I could take out of my life everything except my experiences at St. Andrews and I would still have had a rich and full life". (Tremendous applause.)

Among those attending the ceremony were Henry Longhurst and Herbert Warren Wind. Longhurst said the ceremony "was one of the most moving occasions in the memory of those of us who were lucky enough to be there".

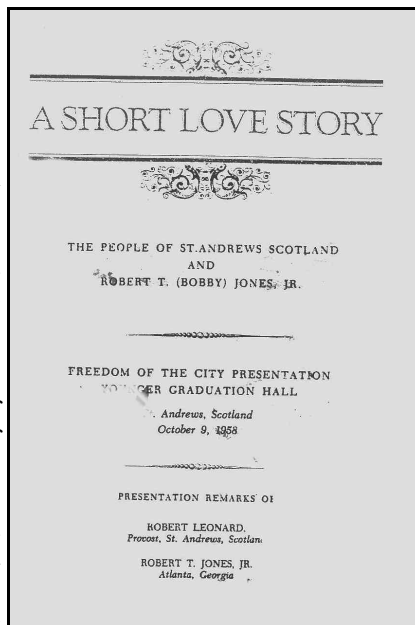
Herbert Warren Wind wrote:

"Bobby spoke for about ten minutes, beautifully and movingly ... He said near the end of his speech 'I could take out of my life everything except my experiences at St. Andrews and I'd still have had a rich and full life.'

He left the stage and got into his electric golf cart. As he directed it down the aisle to leave, the whole hall spontaneously burst into the old Scottish song 'Will Ye No' Come Back Again?'

So honestly heartfelt was this reunion for Bobby Jones and the people of St. Andrews (and for everyone) that it was ten minutes before many who attended were able to speak again in a tranquil voice."

Commenting on Wind's last remark, Longhurst added: "I know. I certainly was"



Golf Trivia Answers (see page 3)

- 1 Four
- 2 Turnberry (Scotland)
- 3 It was filled with compressed air
- 4 Fairways, Greens, Hazards, Tees, Rough
- 5 Arnold Palmer
- 6 They were fibreglass
- 7 Flower seeds in penny packets
- 8 He is Blind

Dinner at Victoria Golf Club

Some sixty members enjoyed a fine evening, a good meal and excellent fellowship at Victoria Golf Club on 17th February.

Ross Baker gave a bright summation of the history and origins of the game of golf and discussed the evolution of the golf club and golf club makers from wood craftsmen through metal journeymen and iron forgers with the consequent changes and improvements manifested.

Ross was able to provide a precis of his speech which will feature in a future edition of the Long Game

Society Member Honoured

Robert A. Wade receives the Order of Australia Medal

Robert Wade OAM AWI, FVAS (Aus.), FRSA (Lon), AWS (USA); KA(USA), ISMP(USA), MHSMA(Mex), a member of the Golf Society of long standing and distinguished Australian artist was honoured in the Australia Day honours list. Robert has long been regarded as one of the leading water-colour artists in the world. He is also generally recognised as one of the world's foremost golf course painters.

His watercolours have received 12 Major overseas awards, in England, France and USA, plus over 100 awards in Australia.

A member of the Metropolitan G.C. for 50 years, playing from a single figure handicap for 40 of those years and a Member of The National since its inception, he has a deep knowledge and love for the game, which is translated into the paintings that he produces of many of the great courses of the world.

Robert's work appears in Golf Clubs in many countries, including the R&A. St. Andrews; The Ryder Cup Room, Wentworth Golf Club, U.K.; World Golf Hall of Fame USA (2); Wellington G.C. N.Z.; Royal Melbourne, Royal Sydney (2), The Australian (4), Commonwealth (4), Kingston Heath (3), Metropolitan (9), Huntingdale, Riversdale (2), Peninsula (2), Yarra Yarra (6), The Dunes, Victoria (3), The National (7), and many more. His work is included in the book "Golf in Art", a survey of 300 years of golf paintings.

Robert kindly granted permission to reproduce the painting on page 1.

Golf Society Pullovers

The Society has available navy blue pullovers in either V-neck or Crew-neck. These are a fine fashion item with a choice of the Society logo on the chest or sleeve.

There is a full range of sizes.

These are being made available to members at a special price of \$100 per garment.

Contact Ann Reynolds, Hon Secretary at 9589 3863 to place an order.

Acknowledgements

The Golf Society of Australia wishes to acknowledge the use of material in this publication.

The Society is grateful to The R & A, The Golf Collectors' Society of USA, publishers of the "Bulletin", Golf Collectors of Great Britain, The British Broadcasting Corporation, Robert Wade, Roy Paterson and others whose material has been used.

The Society also acknowledges the use of material from various websites.

Douglas Noel Stuart Blair

Members of The Golf Society of Australia were saddened to note the death of Douglas Blair, who was an enthusiastic member and supporter of the Society for fifteen years.

Doug was a member of the executive committee of the AGU from 1987 to 1992. He was President of the AGU in 1989 and he also served as Chairman of Junior Golf Australia.



Doug also served golf administration at the state level, as a member of the VGA Council from 1978 to 1992, treasurer 1984-87 and President 1987-92.

Doug was educated at Wesley College and gained a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Melbourne University in 1948. He joined Kingswood Golf Club in 1953 and

his worth was quickly recognised. He became Treasurer in 1958, Vice President in 1966 and President in 1969. He was a recipient of the Australia Sports Medal in 2000. Doug joined the Golf Society in April 1988.

New Members

The following new members are welcomed to the Society.

Mr. Andrew Jamison

Dr. Jill Spargo

Mr. Stephen Spargo

Dates for 2003

Dinners

14th July — Royal Melbourne Golf Club

13th October — Kingston Heath Golf Club

? Australian Open at Moonah Links — end November

Golf Events

Friday 30th May - Don Lawrence Trophy Peninsula
Mon. 4th August - Presidents Trophy— Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

17th November Doug Bachli Trophy—Victoria Golf club

AGM and Cocktail Party

17th November— Victoria Golf Club

The Picture Gallery



- 1 Victoria's celebration party
- 2 Hickory Luncheon
- 3 Men's Hickory Winner- Daryl Cox
- 4 Women's Hickory Winner- Jean Gilbert
- 5 A Hickory fourball
- 6 New Members Jill and Stephen Spargo
- 7 Our new life member Rosemary Wakeham

