

The Long Game

The Official Newsletter of the Golf Society of Australia

Correspondence: 22 Surf Avenue, Beaumaris Vic 3193 Ph/Fx: 03 9589 5551
www.golfsocietyaust.com Long Game Editor: Moira Drew



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Doug Bachli Trophy, AGM, Cocktail Party: Victoria GC — 13 November, 2006

Melbourne turned on testing weather for the final event for the year – some 36 Members braving cold wind and rain to play an 18 hole stableford competition for the coveted Doug Bachli Trophy.

Results:

Doug Bachli Trophy and Men's Medal - Geoff Cupples

Women's Medal – Bernice Davies

Runner Up – Paula Gompertz

The Annual General Meeting was held following the presentation of trophies. A full transcript of the President's Report appears on pp 5-7.

The election of Officers of the Association and Ordinary Members of the Committee resulted in all current members being re-elected. Committee for 2007 is:

President: Keith Wood AM

Secretary: Janet Hibbins

Treasurer: Ian Rennick

Committee:

Michael Clayton

Daryl Cox

Barry Donaldson

Elizabeth Hodgkins

Noel Terry

Dick Kirby



Above:

Geoff Cupples receiving the Doug Bachli Trophy from President, Keith Wood

The AGM concluded with the presentation of the Certificate of Life Membership awarded to the late John Lindsay to his wife Joy and daughter Kirsten.

Members then enjoyed cocktails and the opportunity for some GSA networking.

Right:

Past President Anne Court admiring the Life Membership Certificate with Joy and Kirsten Lindsay.



Inside this issue:

GSA Activities & Results	1-6
Hartley Mitchell—profile	2
For the Diary	3
President's Report 2006	5-7
P C Anderson— feedback	6
Moonah Links book offer	7
GSA at Australian Open	8



Ross Baker with the club he made during the Australian Open—see p 8

Hartley Mitchell - interviewed October 2006

Hartley was born at Geranium in South Australia in 1916. He won the Victorian Amateur Championship in 1955 and the Australian Foursomes Championship with Doug Bachli in 1949, as well as the Yarra Yarra Golf Club Championship five times. His wife Peggy was also Club Champion, in 1964.

When he was young, Hartley's father farmed at Geranium between Murray Bridge and Pinaroo, before moving to Glenelg.

Some of his recollections were:

"That's how I came to know about playing golf. The paddocks alongside our house were the remnants of the original Adelaide Golf Club. Some of my school friends and I had a couple of old, hickory-shafted clubs each and we used to hit balls around there. The club packed up and went to Seaton and became Royal Adelaide. Then some players from Glenelg went in and formed the Glenelg Golf Club."

"Times were changing. Two big things that happened in 1929 were the economic crash and the St Andrews rule that allowed steel-shafted clubs. With the changing over, the old hickory clubs became available for all the kids starting to play golf. I gradually built up a set of eight or nine clubs of hickory. While I was still going to Thebarton school, I did not get the chance to play a lot but I kept my interest in it. I recall one day at school, there was a day for playing sport. One of the teachers said, 'The football team is over there'. I said I was going out with the English teacher, Harry Kent, who was a member of the Glenelg Golf Club. He said, 'Golf? That's an old man's game. You can't play that.' That was the attitude about golf at the time. Of course, I was reading in newspapers and in magazines about 16-year-old Harry Williams winning the Victorian Amateur and the 16-year-old Jim Ferrier winning the NSW Amateur. I did not take much notice of the teacher."

"I got onto the Glenelg golf course to practise because my oldest brother, Bill, had started work there a few years before. That made it easier for me to get on and have a game. I started playing when I was about 13."



"I did not have much coaching. I had a couple of lessons from Arthur Spence at Yarra, but that was all. It was very different then. Going through the 1930s, young people never thought of becoming a professional, unless they were going to

do the trade of club making. They were happy to play games for fun. Money did not come into it, even for the professionals. My brother told me about a Dunlop Purse played at Glenelg in 1930 for professionals. The 1929 Australian Open champion, Fergus McMahon, won the Purse. His prize money went in two shouts at the bar. Money didn't count. Winning the tournament boosted the professional for his club making and teaching."

"I've had five holes-in-one. My son Walter had one before I did, when he was 14 and playing as a junior at Long Island. My first one was in a competition at Leongatha when I was going on for 40. And Peggy had one on the 15th at Yarra. We've won a few mixed foursomes events and are the only husband and wife to have won Yarra's championship"

Hartley and Peggy are keen bird observers and have been all over the world to pursue this and golf. *"We've had our round at St Andrews. I scored 75 there in 1965. We turned up and the fellow said he'd get us a game in the afternoon. We weren't held up and did not notice people behind us. The green fees were 7/6 each. A friend at Yarra played there at the beginning of this year and he paid 104 pounds. Another could not even get a game on the Old Course. Things have changed."*

The interview was conducted as part of the GSA Oral History project — see p3 opposite

Dale Richardson:

A different side of life on the tour

Dale Richardson is a Chiropractor whose first involvement with golf was at the 1989 Australian Open. He quickly recognised the need for sports medicine coverage and established a multi-disciplinary team of practitioners.

He implements a holistic approach in developing his 'player performance package' and has an impressive array of professional golfers under his care. Dale was part of the sports medicine teams for the European Ryder Cup Team and the International President's Cup Team.

For the Diary:

Dinner—

Royal Melbourne GC

Speaker: Dale Richardson

Monday March 5, 2007

Hickory Day— Kingston Heath GC

Sunday March 25, 2007

NB: Changed from the 18th

Contact: The Secretary

GSA Sub-Committee activities:

There are a number of on-going projects:

History of Golf Sub-Committee:

The GSA's History sub committee is researching the location and dates golf was first played prior to the establishment of clubs we know of now. In Victoria the key date is 1891 when the Melbourne Golf Club was established. It is now Royal Melbourne GC.

Members of the Committee have spent many hours researching newspapers, manuscripts, maps, plans and photographs and other archival material — with the result that they are able to identify links between and inaccuracies in much of the published material, and have made good progress identifying reliable sources.

It is now thought that the first golf was played at Dudley Flats, but ceased on account of the gold rushes. At various stages between 1853 and 1891 it has been reported that golf was played at The Red Bluff, Elwood, Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) and at Westgarth.

If any member can assist the committee with information about the location of these courses it will be most appreciated.

Presentations on some of the material gathered have been given at recent functions, and a report of the Committee's initial findings should be available in the near future.

Convenor: Daryl Cox

Oral History:

Interviews are being recorded with a number of leading amateur golfers of the 1940's and 1950's not already represented in the Museum Collection. Recent subjects include Hartley Mitchell and Kevin Hartley. Interviews are being conducted with the assistance of golf journalist Brendan Moloney.

Part of an interview with Hartley Mitchell appears on p 2 — opposite

Convenor: Elizabeth Hodgkins

Course / Club Locations:

In an attempt to record details of changes of location of golf clubs throughout Victoria, a questionnaire has been developed and circulated to Clubs through the VGA. It is designed to be filled in by a Club or individual—anyone who has information of any sort on the subject, such as a local or family historian finding evidence of a Club laid out on private land.

Responses are being collated—with the idea that a list will be made available on the website. The manner in which the detail of response will be made available is still being considered.

Should you have any information about the location of a Club in the past, please consider completing a form.

At the same time, a request is being made for copies of Club history publications not already held in the GSA / Golf Australia Library.

Convenor Barry Donaldson

Meetings for Golf Club Historians:

The first meeting of the GSA Golf Club Historians was held in May 2004 — in an attempt to bring together people with an interest in the history of their Club, and to provide a forum to share ideas.

One of the aims of the Golf Society of Australia is to preserve the history of golf in Australia, and a primary source of information is the history of the golf clubs. Many Australian Clubs have by now written histories, either to celebrate their centenary or other milestones. In talking to people involved, their first comment is usually *"I didn't know how to go about it and had no one to guide me but I got there."*

There is no set method to collect memorabilia and to store it, and each Club will have different aims and circumstances, but it is essential that there is someone with the desire to start a collection and keep it going. All Clubs have records, minute books and photos and it is primarily a matter of keeping them stored safely. At the meetings speakers relate their experiences in hunting out records.

Moirá Drew, a professional archivist, attends and is available to advise on keeping and storing historical records and artefacts. She has presented several papers, such as "Simple steps to minimize risk to your collection without a budget" !

Meetings feature a guest speaker (often more than one), a segment on valuing golf clubs and memorabilia, reviews of golf books, and updates from Clubs regarding their history collections.

A practical outcome of the meetings is the selection of a software program suited to small 'historical' collections called Mosaic Plus, which six Melbourne clubs are now using. Golf Club Historians meetings often include an item relating to experiences with the database and other systems of recording. A database 'users group' meets on an occasional basis.

The meetings target Golf Club historians but anyone interested in golf history is welcome to attend. Membership of the GSA is NOT a pre-requisite and there is no cost involved.

The last meeting was held in December 2006 at Ballarat Golf Club and the next meeting will be held at **Woodlands on 19 March 2007.**

Meetings generally begin at 1.30, after a light luncheon.

Speakers / presentations have included:

John Brice, Yarra Yarra Golf Club— experience collecting and recording material
Professor Weston Bate, Metropolitan GC— writing the Club history and history generally
Professor Weston Bate, historian—on writing the history of Barwon Heads GC
Paul Mogford, Crafter + Mogford Golf Solutions— changes to Barwon Heads course
Neil Crafter— involvement in course architecture
Noel Terry, RMGC— research into David Conacher, Australia's first club-maker
Doug Fox, VGA— overview of club membership and discussed current & future expectations
John Gale, Eastwood GC— on 50th anniversary
Gary Youdell, Technological Micro— scanning and digital storage of documents etc
Dr John Green, Royal Melbourne GC— researching the development of the courses
Brendan Moloney, journalist— researching club histories and golf books
Mark Wade, Commonwealth GC— the course

Overviews of Club's histories have been given by
Robert Rowe, Kingston Heath GC
Pam Millikan, Rosanna GC
Con Sheehan, La Trobe GC
Peter Dane, Eastern GC
Dick Sanders, Riversdale GC
Bryan Marra, Queenscliff GC
Phil Rogers, Ballarat GC

Other presentations have been given by:

Keith Wood, GSA President—on GSA aims and objectives and updates of current projects
Barry Donaldson, GSA Committee—on project detailing course location changes
Daryl Cox, GSA Committee—on project to verify the history of golf in Victoria before 1890
Hedley Ham, GSA Sub-Committee—summary of evidence gathered into early golf in Victoria
Don Dunne, GSA member — report on activities in Sydney.

Clubs hosting meetings, often including an inspection of their collections, include Kew, Riversdale, Victoria, Ballarat, Green Acres,

Chairman: Ian Rennick

Phone (03) 9890 4430

or email ian@rennick.com

President's Report to AGM 2006

This year has been one of change and challenge. The Museum closed; the AGU became 'Golf Australia' and moved. A headstone on the Strath grave was dedicated. The website was completely reworked, with a link to Golf Australia. **The Long Game** has come alive again.

With the move of Golf Australia, the Museum in Cecil Street was closed with most items going to storage. A minor display is in the foyer of Golf Australia's new office in Coventry Street, South Melbourne. The Moonah display is being maintained with continued upgrades.

An invitation from the National Sporting Museum Trust was issued to Golf Australia together with the Society to submit a proposal to participate in the new purpose built Museum underneath the Members Stand at the MCG. This is an exciting location with anticipated visitor numbers of 150,000 per year. If successful this is an excellent opportunity to display our memorabilia in a Museum with very public access. Other options are also being explored.

Golf Australia is continuing to be very supportive of the Golf Society in providing secretarial assistance together with meeting facilities. Golf Australia acknowledges the Museum is the responsibility of the Society. We thank Golf Australia for their continuing partnership with the Society.

Dinners have again been a highlight throughout the year, with excellent speakers which members have appreciated.

The most memorable dinner was at Royal Melbourne in January where Dr David Malcolm of the R & A addressed us on the history of David Strath. The dinner followed several days after the dedication of a head stone on Strath's unmarked grave at the Melbourne General Cemetery. Our Historian Noel Terry had spent considerable time researching the mystery of the disappearance of David Strath a renowned golfer in the 1840's after his disappearance following his arrival in Melbourne.

Speakers at the other three dinners were Trevor Herden, Bill Richardson and Tony Hallam. Our thanks to them for their excellent presentations.

Golfing events received excellent support from members playing the traditional Hickory Day at Kingston Heath, President's Day at Royal Melbourne together with the Don Lawrence at Kew. Results have been published in the recent editions of **The Long Game**.

Membership has continued to grow particularly from the Golf Club Historians Group. Membership now stands at 205. New members this year are listed in the recent issues of **The Long Game**. I extend to them a very warm welcome.

It is with a great deal of sadness that we record the passing of Life Member John Lindsay and Member Michael Webb. Later in the evening a Life Members Certificate will be presented to Mrs Joy Lindsay on behalf of John who was elected to Life Membership at the last Annual General Meeting.

The various committees have worked tirelessly during the year to progress the aims of the Society.

The History Committee led by Daryl Cox has researched and identified the location of the first golf course in Melbourne.

Club locations under the guidance of Barry Donaldson are proving to be very interesting with almost every metropolitan club now identified to their several locations. This information will soon be published.

The Club Historians Group under the guidance of Ian Rennick is now taking their group meetings into the Country Districts. This group will assist in making sure that clubs are aware of their history and its importance to future generations. These meetings are presented with information on why and how history can be preserved and recorded. They also give an opportunity for Club Historians to discuss and exchange information.

The Museum is in the capable hands of Moira Drew a very dedicated archivist who has overseen the move of AGU and WGA golfing memorabilia to safe storage following the sale by Golf Australia of both the offices of the AGU and WGA. Every item is now catalogued and easily identified for future display. I thank Moira and the Committee Members who assisted in the packing of all items for storage. A delicate and time consuming task.

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President's Report - continued

Following a decision to interview and record the careers and memories of leading amateur golfers in the early 40's and 50's Elizabeth Hodgkins has so far arranged and interviewed with the assistance of Brendon Moloney, Kevin Hartley and Hartley Mitchell. It is proposed that articles on these players and other will be published in **The Long Game**. Copies of the interviews together with photos are to be stored in the Museum Archives.

The Long Game is now being published on a regular basis throughout the year. Our Editor, Moira Drew would welcome input from the members. I again thank Moira for her dedication to the task.

A reformatted website which is very easy to negotiate is now up and running with a link to the Golf Australia new site. The site is continually updated with news together with **The Long Game** which has been included for easy reading - www.golfsocietyaust.com.

Our relationship with the Golf Collectors Society of Australia is continuing to mature with collaboration in respect to both Societies objectives. The Hickory Challenge with the GCSA which was to be played this year in Sydney has been cancelled due to the altered timing of the Australian Open.

At the request of Golf Australia the Golf Society will again be mounting a display in a marquee in Tent City at the Australian Open, being held at Royal Sydney Golf Club later this week. We are working with The Golf Collectors Society on a joint display where Ross Baker will again be making a wooden club during the four days of the tournament. Society members are being rostered to assist with the display.

The Committee this year have worked long and hard at the many projects currently being undertaken to further the aims and objectives of the Society. My sincere thanks go to all the Committee Members for a job well done.

Lindsay Gitsham has retired from the committee and I thank him for his contributions over the last three years.

Our Secretary, Janet Hibbins and Treasurer Ian Rennick have worked tirelessly through the year with an ever increasing activity level of the committee and subcommittees. Thank you, Janet and Ian.

Our thanks also go to the Clubs that have allowed us the privilege of playing golf and enjoying hospitality at our various events. Particular thanks to Royal Melbourne, Kingston Heath, Victoria, Kew and Commonwealth. —>

P C Anderson—feedback:

It is always good to receive positive feedback—Barry Leithhead reports:

Frank Gregg (former Champion of Kew GC), after reading the PCA article in '**The Long Game**' October 2006, referenced Kew's book **Birdies and Billabongs** in recalling:

"The player PCA beat 16 up in a 36 hole match was JC Anderson, Kew GC's first Captain (1894-95, 1899-1901) – JC was no relation of PCA. However, PCA's son EH (Ned) was a member of Kew and Champion in 1938, 1940 and 1948. Ned was born in WA and learned his golf from his father on the Sea View course, the original Cottesloe GC that PCA helped to establish. True to Scottish form, Ned was a

very good player of the half shot, even with a 3-iron instead of a 7-iron, to keep the ball under the wind.

Ned was employed for many years by McIlwraith & McEachern, as was his Uncle Mark, initially in Albany at the time PCA came to Australia, then in Melbourne, returning in about 1913 to live the rest of his life in Albany."

Correction:

The article on P C Anderson on p 1 Issue No 24 mentioned that the Museum holds a mid-iron used by him in winning the British Amateur Championship in 1893 — at St Andrews. The venue was actually Prestwick.

A gold star to Barry Leithhead!

GSA display tent at Australian Open:



Ross Baker in action in the GSA tent during the Australian Open.

Right: Dick Kirby, Ian Rennick and Daryl Cox are keen observers as Ross 'stirs the pot'.



The club made by Ross Baker during the Australian Open - presented to the President of Royal Sydney Golf Club at the conclusion of the event