

# THE LONG GAME

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
GOLF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



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*President Geoff Vincent AM and Doug Bachli winners*

## Doug Bachli Trophy and Annual General Meeting

*Thirty members teed it up at Victoria Golf Club for the right to hold the Doug Bachli Trophy for a year.*

Rain had been promised but did not arrive, while a fickle wind made some holes more interesting than usual. The winner, Kim Hastie from Metropolitan, with 39 points and the runner up Russell Fynmore, also from Metropolitan, with 37 points did not find the course as difficult as some. Ladies and Mens' runners up were Ruth Summerfield with 33 points over her home track, and Hon Treasurer Dick Kirby, from Spring Valley, with 36 points. The also rans commiserated with each other over a cool drink before the prizes were presented by President Geoff Vincent AM just before the AGM.

At the AGM attended by 40 members, the Committee was returned nem con, with Trevor Herden succeeding Frances Crampton as the GSA representative. A resolution confirming the introduction of a new class of Special Membership 4a, was passed after a short debate.

The meeting was addressed by David Cheney, nephew of Burtta Cheney, relating some of his memories of her, off and on the golf course. David went on to present to the President the framed Life Membership Certificate originally presented to Burtta.

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### FOR THE DIARY

#### 19th March 2013

Al Howard Trophy at  
Yowni Country Club Canberra

## STOP PRESS

*Just before this edition was to be printed we were advised that Mark Wade, respected golf historian and member of Commonwealth Golf Club passed away on Sunday 2nd December last.*

*'Vale Mark Wade' will appear in the next issue.*

# President's Address to the Annual General Meeting



*President Geoff Vincent AM*

*It is my pleasure to present my report for the past year. We have had some twelve events during this time, including four dinners, at which we have averaged about 60 members and their guests.*

For the past 8 years we have held meetings for golf historians enabling members of various golf clubs to exchange ideas on items of history, and to hear how to best preserve the traditions of our great game.

This year Past President, Ian Rennick, has chaired historian meetings at Ballarat in June and Kew in October. It is this activity that has encouraged a change to our rules which will encourage interested golf clubs to nominate one of their members as a Special Member of our Society to help widen the awareness of the importance of golf history.

Golf events held during the year were well attended, particularly the Hickory Challenge at Tocumwal where a team of GSA members competed against the Australian Golf Heritage Society from Sydney for the Al Howard Trophy. Our opponents were victorious and a return match is scheduled for March next year in Canberra. The National Hickory Challenge was held at Croydon Golf Club in early November which attracted a number of younger golfers keen to take on the traditions of hickory golf.

I commend playing golf with hickory clubs as it can improve your game with modern equipment and can be good fun. The opportunity to play different courses and meet members of the AGHS from New South Wales who have similar interests is very worthwhile.

Society events were held as usual at Kingston Heath, Woodlands, Royal Melbourne and Victoria; I congratulate all the winners and thank all the Clubs for allowing us to play on their wonderful courses. It is a privilege to play over these courses and we are always made to feel welcome.

Our social events were a highlight of the year; starting in February Paul Rak gave a wonderful presentation of the background to the Presidents Cup played at Royal Melbourne; in May, at Kingston Heath, Malcolm Speed gave us an outline of governance in sport and how the international scene has now become so complex and political. In August Richard Forsyth, Greens Superintendant at Royal Melbourne gave us some wonderful insights into the preparation of the course for both the Presidents Cup and The Masters at Augusta and finally in October our own Frances Crampton delighted us with her personal journey through the world of sports administration from gymnastics at Commonwealth and Olympic, to tournament golf with Golf Australia. Our thanks once again to each of our guest speakers who were a highlight of the year.



*Society Members at the AGM*



It was wonderful to see Burtta Cheney join us at dinners early in the year and sad that we lost her just a few weeks ago in September. Burtta was one of our founding members in 1981, a member of the inaugural committee, President for two years and then elected a Life Member.

I would like to pay tribute to members of your Committee; firstly, our immediate Past President, Ian Rennick. Ian is stepping down from the Committee after 7 years hard work and will be missed. We hope, however, to continue to be able to call on his knowledge and advice in the historical area. Paul Burgess is stepping down as Secretary but we will retain his skills as a member of the Committee. Paul has been invaluable to me and will be missed. His successor is Tony Mclean, and we welcome Tony to his new role.

Dick Kirby as Treasurer has done a great job, as has Peter Gompertz who produces *The Long Game* which involves enduring the frustration of organising your President which is akin to herding cats. Ex *Long Game* Editor, Moira Drew does a great job maintaining our website, and archival material, while I am indebted to Virginia Gorrell for her help organising our dinners. My thanks also go to Peter Swann for taking on the responsibility for merchandising GSA merchandise. Thanks also to Norie McLeod and Des Tobin as well as Cliff George for their wise counsel. All have contributed their time and efforts which is greatly appreciated.

We are sorry to be saying farewell to Frances Crampton, our Golf Australia representative. We wish her well in her new challenges on the northern New South Wales coast.

As president I have enjoyed the past year and look forward to further developing our Society in the coming year.

*Geoff Vincent AM*  
**President**

## The golfers 'If'

If you can play one day with skill and science  
And find the next your game has gone to pot  
And yet plod on with sturdy self-reliance  
And play to win with every single shot:

If you can take the turf and open air-way  
To clear the cobwebs from a worried brain;  
If, with the a lie in rough or on the fairway,  
You simply do your best and don't complain:

If you can see your faults and toil to mend them,  
Knowing the only mender must be you,  
If you can take the wrong ways and transcend them  
And when you've found the right one – follow through.

In short, if head and hands do all the ruling  
With temper left discarded on the shelf,  
You've got the basis of a golfers' schooling  
And not so bad a stance for Life itself.

*A.G.W, with apologies to Rudyard Kipling*

## Society Merchandise

*Society ties, visors, ball markers and pins are available for purchase at all Society functions.*

*If you would like to obtain any of our logo items between functions please contact Peter Swan, whose number is in the members handbook.*



# Historians at Kew Golf Club

by Ian Rennick

*Ian Rennick, the Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to Kew Golf Club. He mentioned that the first meeting of Golf Club Historians was held at Kew eight years ago and six people present today were at that first meeting. He explained that similar meetings are held regularly so that historians from all Clubs can meet, exchange ideas, and share knowledge about collecting and storing golf history.*

Dick Kirby, the Treasurer of the Golf Society also welcomed the people attending and stated that these meetings were an important aspect of the Society's aim to encourage all golf clubs to save and display the histories of their golf clubs.

## History of Kew Golf Club

Peter Birrell, the Captain of Kew Golf Club related the history of his Club. Kew is the third oldest golf club in Melbourne, being formed in 1894. The first meeting was held on 4th August 1894. R A A Balfour-Melville and Richard Taylor from Melbourne Golf Club were in attendance. Richard Taylor was asked to lay out a course, and the opening day was held eight days later. Ten men and ten women played. A quick start to the club by any measure. The first course consisted of nine holes and was on rented land between High Street Kew and the outer Circle Railway line.

## David Graham

### *From Ridicule to Acclaim*

Graeme Ryan spoke about a book he has recently published which traces the life and career of David Graham. It is the first book he has produced by POD (Print on Demand). This new method of printing is becoming popular because it reduces the cost of an initial print run, and a book can be delivered within a few days.



*Peter Birrell*

Russell James, the author and friend of Graeme, showed him the initial concept of the book, and they agreed to complete it together. Russell is the nephew of George Naismith and when George died in 1983, his widow gave Russell a large box of golf memorabilia, which included a detailed diary of David Graham's early life. David was known as an arrogant and abrasive person who did not make friends easily, and much of this could be traced to a lonely and sad childhood. The book takes you through the highs and lows of David's career, and leaves you with the impression that his achievements have never been properly recognised because of his personality. The book is available at [www.ryanpub.com.au](http://www.ryanpub.com.au).

Golf Clubs were asked to comment on how they informed members about their history. Mark Wade spoke of what Commonwealth Golf Club had done over the last nine years to increase members' interest in the Heritage of CGC. The Club acquired a number of aerial photos of its course and displayed them in the passage to the golf shop. The Club has other interesting displays which includes a set of Eric Routley's clubs from when he was the Captain of the 1960 Australia's Eisenhower Cup team and photos of the course from the 1920's.



*Russell James*

The regular Club newsletters have featured a series of some 20 articles relating to the Club's history over this time, and these can also be found on the Club's website.

Dick Curtis, a member of the Kew Heritage Foundation, spoke about a project the Club planned in December to celebrate the building of the Clubhouse 40 years ago. A dinner will be held and Alan Day, a life member, will be the guest speaker.

John Boundy from Riversdale Golf Club spoke on what his Club has recently done. The Club published a history in 1992, and last year brought out a brief update mainly for new members.

Michael Church, the Captain of Northern Golf Club mentioned that his Club is celebrating its centenary this year and is producing a book written by Brendan Moloney. The Club was formed and the land purchased in 1912, but the course was not opened until 1913. Michael invited the Golf Society to have a hickory day on the course to mark the occasion.

## Early Golf in Melbourne

Peter Gompertz read to the meeting, on John Lovell's behalf, a paper offering evidence on the early playing of golf in the Port Philip District, of the then colony of New South Wales, circa 1845/1850.





Mark Wade

A copy of the paper is available by contacting the Golf Society at [golfsocietyaust@gmail.com](mailto:golfsocietyaust@gmail.com)

Moira Drew explained that as result of a request for details of early womens' pennant results from Karen Kay of Woodlands Golf Club, she began investigating what records were held by clubs. Woodlands are preparing for their centenary in 2013, and are compiling a list of all players who have represented the Club.

A number of clubs have records and Golf Victoria have current figures but early results are still being collected. Murray Cropley has developed a computer software package to record results and this currently includes records back to 1989.

### Show and Tell

Once again Cliff George had a display of hickory clubs and people were interested in how Cliff had restored and maintained his clubs. Cliff has received requests from several golf clubs to inspect clubs so they can be displayed in their clubhouses.

## RMGC Life Member - Margaret Reid

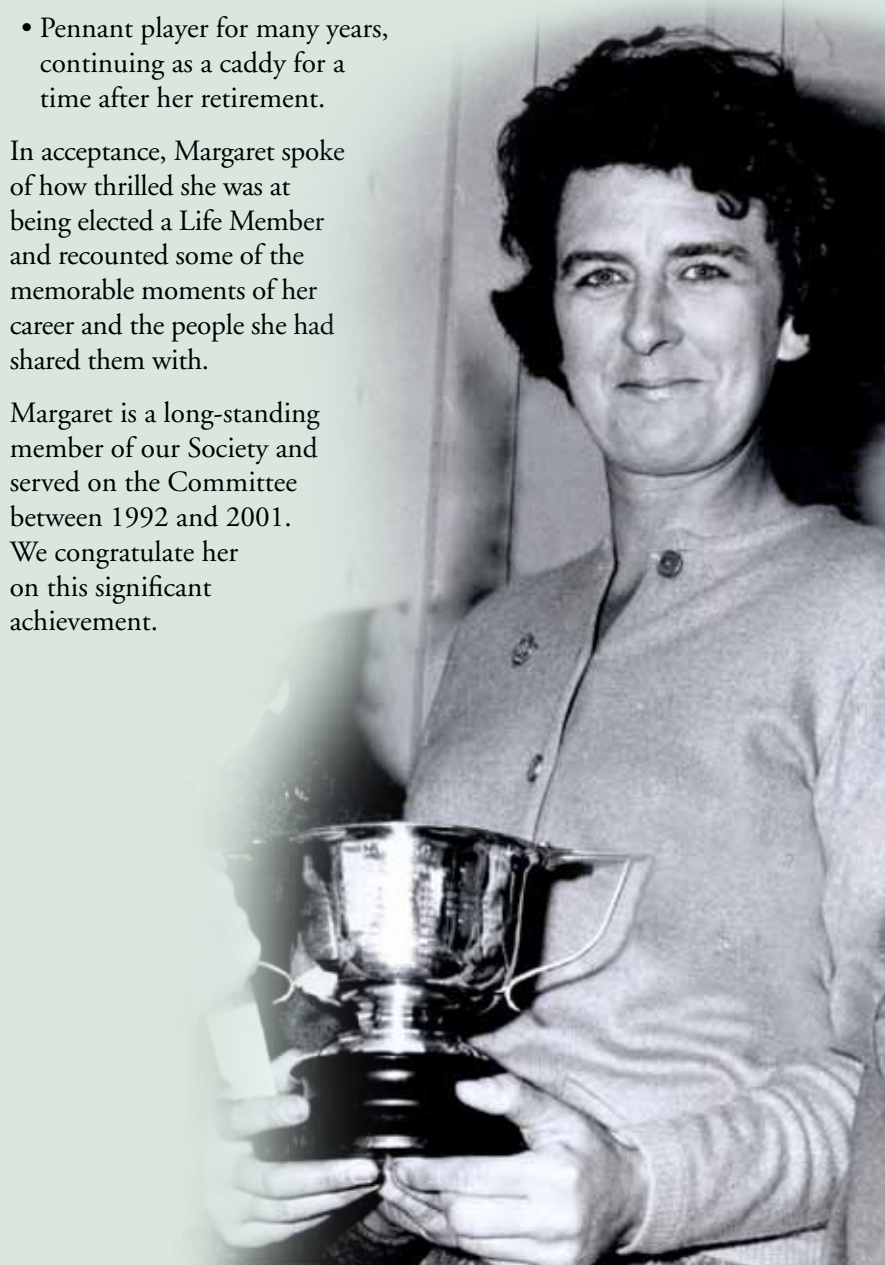
*At the Royal Melbourne Golf Club Annual General Meeting held in June, Margaret Reid (nee Wallace) was elected a Life Member of the Club.*

She was for many years a top player and has maintained a keen interest in Club activities and in golf generally since. Her achievements include:

- South Australian Amateur Champion in 1967.
- VLGU Laurel Wreath Brooch in 1966.
- Victorian State team representative (Gladys Hay Interstate Teams Matches).
- Co-opted member of the VLGU as a players' representative.
- Club Champion on 9 occasions between 1964 and 1977.
- Course Record 71 on the West Course in July 1966.
- Captain of Associates (Women Members) 1978-1980.
- Pennant player for many years, continuing as a caddy for a time after her retirement.

In acceptance, Margaret spoke of how thrilled she was at being elected a Life Member and recounted some of the memorable moments of her career and the people she had shared them with.

Margaret is a long-standing member of our Society and served on the Committee between 1992 and 2001. We congratulate her on this significant achievement.





*National Hickory Challenge contenders*

## National Hickory Challenge at Croydon Golf Club

*by Paul Burgess*

*The winner of the first National Hickory Challenge was Mark Brasher from Kew Golf Club who shot a creditable 90 in extremely cold and windy conditions at Croydon Golf Club recently. Runner up was Doug Francis of Metropolitan Golf Club also with a good score of 92. Luke McDonald won the Stableford event, on a countback, from Martin Maguire of Commonwealth Golf Club. Both had 26 points which reflects the extreme weather conditions of the day.*

Prior to lunch, competitors gathered in the clubhouse where Society and local member, Max Findlay had set up a magnificent display of at least 100 hickories. Max was the instigator of the Challenge and presented a beautiful mounted hickory driver for presentation to the winner of the event. Well done Max.

The field of 15 was a little disappointing but at the end of the day all agreed it was a lot of fun even though the weather did spoil the pleasure of playing on such a challenging and picturesque course. Reports also emerged of some frighteningly high scores on some holes but we will neither document the numbers, nor the perpetrators.

A most pleasing aspect of the day was the appearance of a number of non Society competitors, some of whom had never handled a hickory and much less played with the old clubs. Thanks again to Max Findlay who provided sets of hickories from his collection for these players. Two of the newcomers were teenagers, Luke McDonald and Jordan Rutherford of Croydon G C, who entered into the day with gusto, Luke of course winning the Stableford event. Both were dressed in 1920's style outfits. At the end of the day they agreed that they had a "blast" and would be back next year.



*Ian Rennick, Doug Francis, Mark Brasher and Max Findlay*

**Note from the Editor:** I am indebted to geoffshackelford.com for drawing my attention to the following quote from John Kim, an official at the US PGA, after he had played with hickory clubs courtesy of Stirling Hickory Golf, for the first time as part of the 100th anniversary celebrations of Ansley Golf Club, Atlanta, Georgia.

*"As a student of golf history to play with hickory clubs was not only a great education in golf equipment and the advantages of today's technology, but it enhanced my appreciation of the skill and talent that the greats of yesterday possessed. Nothing against Tiger or Rory, or even Jack and Arnie but I don't see how they could put up the numbers that Bobby Jones and company did using similar equipment.*

*At the end of the day it was like any other golf outing. Food and drink were enjoyed, stories were shared about putts that should have dropped and promises were made to get together soon. However, every golfer walked away with a little more passion and love for the game. If you are looking for a different perspective and a great way to love golf even more, going 'old school' will give you a whole new appreciation for the greatest game we know."*



# Claude Felstead's Clubs – Pingelly Golf Club

By Kay Briggs

*In 1911 two young men in their early twenties left the comfort of their homes, crossed the Australian continent from the east, and came to a small town in Western Australia, buying a property in partnership to farm wheat and sheep. Claude Felstead and Clyde Pearce brought with them outstanding golfing credentials from the national scene.*

Claude Fay Felstead was born in Melbourne, and was a member of the Victorian and Royal Melbourne Golf Clubs. In 1909 he won the Australian Open championship at Royal Melbourne by two shots (316) from Dan Soutar (318). He reached the semi-finals of the Australian Amateur where he was defeated by the eventual winner, the Hon Michael Scott.

Clyde Bowman Pearce was born in Tasmania. He was a prodigious young talent, becoming runner-up in the Australian Amateur in 1906 and 1907 and partnering William Meader to win the Australian Foursomes also in 1907. Aged only twenty he won both the Australian Open and Amateur titles in 1908 beating past champions Dan Soutar, the Hon Michael Scott and Carnegie Clark along the way.

Claude and Clyde became foundation members of the Pingelly Golf Club in 1911 and helped to set a high standard of golf which was in its infancy in the country towns of Western Australia. The two young men also helped to lay out its course, a lovely nine holes of which survive today, winding their way around a wide creek.

In April 1911, Clyde and his brother Bruce, who was also a talented golfer, visited Great Britain where they both had success in many tournaments.

Clyde returned to the farm in Pingelly. In 1913 he won the West Australian Open and Amateur titles defeating Norman Fowlie 2&1 in the latter. The match was refereed by the legendary P C Anderson who had won the 1893 Amateur championship at Prestwick. In 1914 Clyde was runner-up to Fowlie in both the WA Open and Amateur.

Claude appears to have played his golf only locally at this time but was having a great influence on the young golfers of the town.

In 1915, Clyde enlisted in the military forces, joining the 10th Regiment at Gallipoli in November. In early 1917, as part of the 52nd Battalion at Etaples in France he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. Clyde paid the ultimate sacrifice in June 1917 on the battlefield in France.

In 1915 Claude married Ethel Hart, a Melbourne girl and enlisted in the forces in 1916, embarking in Fremantle for England in December. Joining the Australian Flying Corps in June 1917, he graduated as a Flying Officer in December. In March 1918 he was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and sent to Boulogne in France as a member of the 2nd Squadron. After the War, Claude returned to Western Australia and his farm in early 1919.



*Claude Felstead's Clubs at Pingelly Golf Club*

The Western Australian championship resumed in 1919 and Claude was runner-up to Eric Springthorpe. In 1924 he was successful in the WA Country championship. Claude's wife Ethel died in 1924 and he married Jessie Hastings in 1925.

Claude continued a long and valued association with the Pingelly Golf Club in administration and mentoring the youth of the area, and was rewarded with Life Membership of the Club in the Club's silver jubilee year of 1936. Claude retired from the farm in 1946 and moved to Perth where he died in 1964 aged 74. Shortly after his death his wife Jessie presented the clubs that he had used to win the 1909 Australian Open championship to the Pingelly Golf Club where they are currently on display commemorating an outstanding golfer and role model.

*Pictured Below:*

*Claude Felstead & Norman Fowlie with referee P C Anderson*



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# Dinner at Victoria Golf with guest speaker, Frances Crampton

by Paul Burgess

*It is hard to find the right words but 'pocket dynamo' come to mind to describe Frances Crampton AM after hearing about the various posts she has occupied, and some of the highs and lows of her remarkable career in sport.*

President Geoff Vincent said when introducing Frances that being aware she was relinquishing her position on the Committee, he believed members should hear directly from her, some details of the many roles in which she has been involved in sport generally, and women's sport particularly.

Sixty members and guests were not disappointed, and thoroughly enjoyed listening to Frances at another successful Society dinner at Victoria Golf Club recently.

Frances has announced she is to retire from her role as National Director of Golf Development at Golf Australia at the end of this year. She and husband, John, plan to move to the mid-north coast of New South Wales. It will not be a withdrawal from working life really as Frances has indicated she will remain involved with a couple of her favourite organisations.

I vividly recall reading Frances' CV when she was appointed by Golf Australia as its representative on the committee of our Society. It was, and still is, a most impressive one of a very energetic lady who decided early in her career to get to the top of whatever she might become involved in.

Gymnastics was her first love and everything else seems to have evolved from her successful stint in that demanding sport.

Not content with being a top competitor at Olympic level, Frances went on to hold positions such as venue, TV and radio commentator at the highest level of a number of Olympics. She then became involved in judging and administration, again at international and Olympic level.



Frances referred especially to how she has developed a keen interest in encouraging sporting clubs to embrace incapacitated players, including ex-service personnel.

This is a field in which she will continue to foster in her "retirement". As mentioned earlier we are not convinced Frances will play golf twice a week, and garden on other days.

Those of us in the Society who have been involved with her will miss her quiet charm, guidance and advice and wish her well in retirement, which we predict may well only last for a couple of months!!!!!!

*The Golf Society of Australia was formed in 1982 to research and preserve the history of golf in Australia. As part of this role, the Society manages the Museum and Library for Golf Australia. Golf Australia supports the Society by providing office space and administrative assistance.*