

THE LONG GAME

NEWSLETTER OF THE
GOLF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



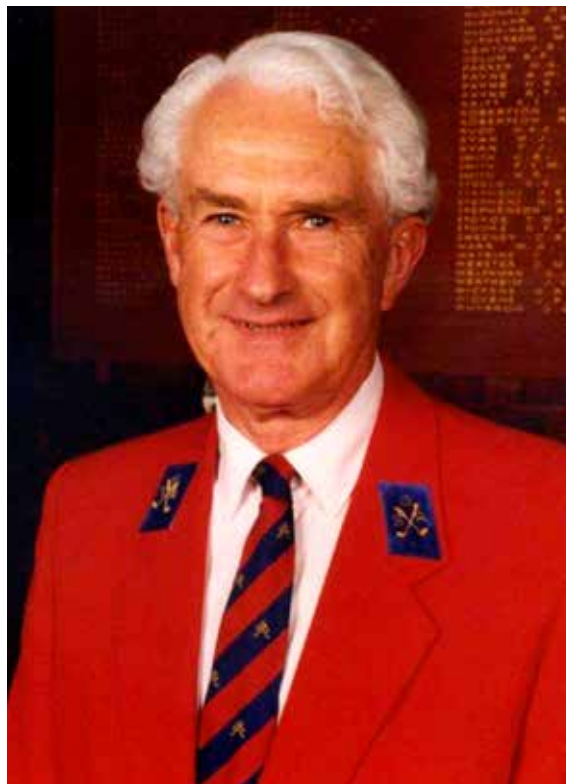
No 50, SEPTEMBER 2014

Vale Daryl Cox

25th September 1928 - 10th July 2014

By Virginia Gorrell

Daryl was born in Coburg in 1928 and educated at Melbourne High School, leaving to take up employment as a Cadet at the Commonwealth Bank in Brunswick; however working Saturday mornings got in the way of his golf so he did a spell selling Electrolux vacuum cleaners, door to door, then graduated to the advertising business where he became a very successful media buyer before setting up his own successful media business, Campaign Planning.



Daryl's parents were members of Yarra Yarra Golf Club, and he joined in 1944, where he reduced his handicap to scratch; he played pennant for nearly twenty years alongside Hartley Mitchell, Laurie Duffy and Alec Rae. Sloan Morpeth and Bill Edgar were playing for Commonwealth and Peter Thomson and Doug Bachli for Victoria, so the standard of competition was very high. In 1953 Daryl was selected for the Victorian team to play the Interstate Series at the New South Wales Golf Club alongside Doug Bachli, Eric Routely and Bill Edgar, which Victoria won.

He had a lifelong interest in golf and joined the Golf Society soon after it started in 1983. For nearly twenty years, in the 50s and 60s, Daryl was correspondent for the US weekly, *GolfWorld*

Daryl, the longest serving President of the Society, from 1994 to 2000, remained on the Committee until 2012. On his retirement he was installed as a Life Member, an honour of which he was very proud.

In Daryl's years as President of the Society he had several projects he was interested in, and really passionate about.

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FOR THE DIARY

21st September

Hickory Heroes at
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9th October

Hickory Heroes at
Kew Golf Club

13th October

Historians Forum at
Commonwealth Golf Club

24th November

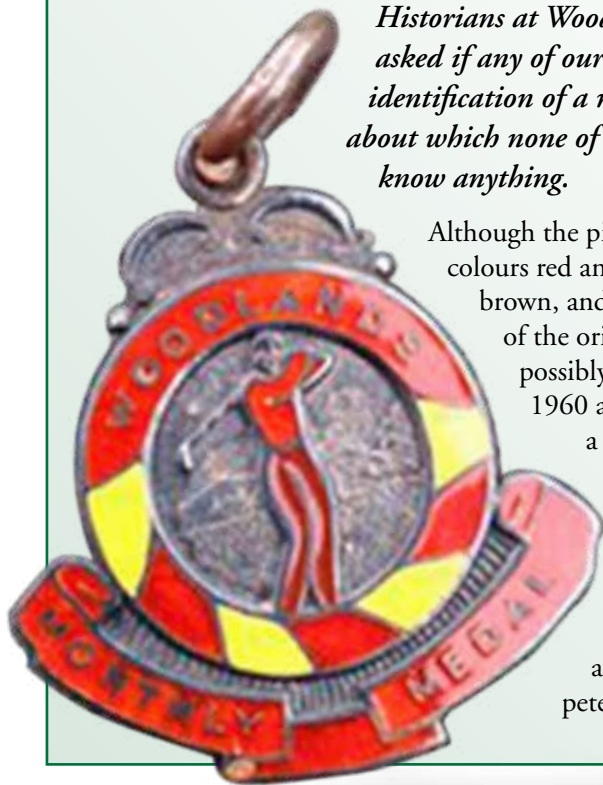
Doug Bachli Trophy,
AGM & Cocktail Party at
Victoria Golf Club

Mystery Medal at Woodlands Golf Club

Historians at Woodlands Golf Club have asked if any of our members can help with the identification of a medal in their possession about which none of the current senior members know anything.

Although the picture appears to show the colours red and yellow, they are in fact red and brown, and are believed to be the colours of the original Mordialloc Golf Club; it possibly dates from between 1920 and 1960 and may have been a one off for a particular event.

If you can help please contact Karen Kay, Convenor of the Heritage Group at Woodlands, on kdkay@bigpond.com and copy me in peter@antiquebroker.com.au



*Continued from page 1:
Vale Daryl Cox*

He and the late John Lindsay, were keen to have a club magazine which they started in July 1998. They considered the magazine important as they felt it was the main contact with a large number of the members. The magazine was originally named *The Recollections*, and was later changed to *The Long Game*.

Two other objectives Daryl had were to start GSA Chapters in all the other states of Australia, and to open a Golf Museum here in Melbourne. To date there are two small golf displays, at the MCG and Moonah Links, and there is a plan to open a large display when Golf Australia, and other golfing bodies, open a headquarters in the future.

Daryl has donated many items of his golfing memorabilia to the Golf Society for inclusion in these displays.

In 1998 Daryl instigated a new Golf Society golf day called The President's Trophy and he donated a perpetual trophy. This event is played annually at Royal Melbourne.

Daryl became a member of Commonwealth Golf Club in 1959 where he served on the Board and was an early member of The National Golf Club, where he supported the 'Friday Foozlers' every week, impeccably turned out, in collar and tie, wearing plus fours. He was also a keen competitor with 'The Murray Cods and Yabbies' golfing group at Yarrawonga, where he was known as Dazza.

Daryl was a driving force of the Society for many years; the pleasure of his company, knowledge, and advice, will be missed.

Mystery Tee

At the inaugural 'Hickory Heroes' meeting at Woodlands in May one of the participants produced a white plastic 'tee' from his canvas golf bag but none of us could identify it. The 'cup' on top of the plastic is only one quarter of a cup and there is no writing on the 'tee'. Answers on a postcard please.



Have you missed a dinner but would like to hear the speech?

In most cases, when the speaker agrees, we record the after-dinner speeches at Golf Society functions. If you have missed a dinner and would like to hear any of the presentations, they can be made available on cd for playing on computer or cd player.

Contact: The Secretary

Pennant Golf in Victoria – Methods of Scoring (1899-2014)

By Ian Rowell

Since the commencement of Pennant in 1899, there have been three methods of scoring used to determine the winning team. These methods were:

1. *Holes won*
2. *Aces won*
3. *Individual player wins*

Holes Won

With the commencement of formalised inter-club matches in 1899 (Pennant), it was decided that the aggregate number of holes won by each club would be the measure of success. Each individual match would be played over 18 holes and at the conclusion there would either be a winner by a number of holes, or there would be a tie. With six players in each team, the aggregate number of holes won would determine the winning team.

In the first year, there was a view that this system of measurement was flawed as a team could have less individuals winning by a large margin, and still win the match. A good example was in the first match between Royal Melbourne and Surrey Hills where Royal Melbourne won 12 holes to 7, but had two players contributing to the 12 holes, with Surrey Hills having four players contributing to their 7 holes.

During the 16 matches played in 1899, 3 of the matches were completed this way, so it was decided to change the scoring method in 1900.

Aces Won

This was introduced primarily to increase the value of the close wins, (and address the issue relating to the number of individuals winning), and to temper the value of the extremely large wins. That being the case, essentially, the number of holes won for each individual match was used to allocate “aces”, and the aggregate number of aces determined the winning team.

The table below outlines the holes won/aces alignment.

Holes Won	Aces
1	3
2	3
3	4
4	4
5	5
>5	5

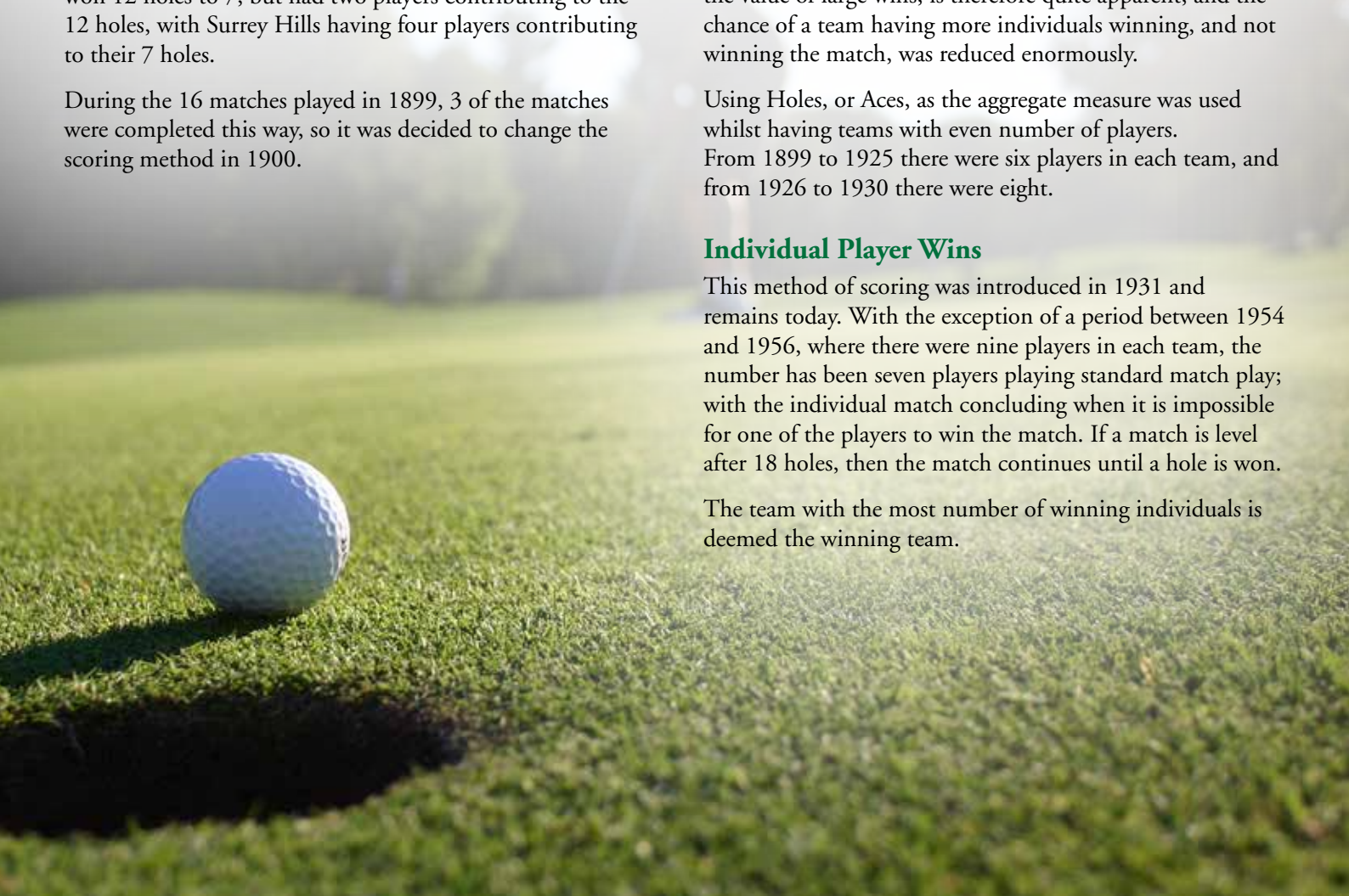
The increase in the value of close wins, and the decrease in the value of large wins, is therefore quite apparent, and the chance of a team having more individuals winning, and not winning the match, was reduced enormously.

Using Holes, or Aces, as the aggregate measure was used whilst having teams with even number of players. From 1899 to 1925 there were six players in each team, and from 1926 to 1930 there were eight.

Individual Player Wins

This method of scoring was introduced in 1931 and remains today. With the exception of a period between 1954 and 1956, where there were nine players in each team, the number has been seven players playing standard match play; with the individual match concluding when it is impossible for one of the players to win the match. If a match is level after 18 holes, then the match continues until a hole is won.

The team with the most number of winning individuals is deemed the winning team.





Heather Scales & Dick Kirby shake hands on the 4th

Presidents Trophy at Royal Melbourne

By Peter Gompertz



On a fine and sunny day, with enough breeze to make some shots interesting, 20 members faced the starter, in a mini shotgun start, for 9 holes over Royal Melbourne's West Course. During luncheon in the clubhouse the mornings results were announced with David Hewitt from Kingston Heath leading the qualifiers with a nett 38.5, in second place was Dick Kirby from Spring Valley on 39. David Ryan, Royal Melbourne on 40 and Heather Scales, Commonwealth also with a nett 40 won the battle of the countback.

A small but knowledgeable gallery greeted the match-play contestants on the first tee of the East Course while they posed for photographs. First away were Heather Scales and David Hewitt the match lasting only one hole as David found the right hand fairway bunkers with his drive. Dick Kirby hit a good drive down the middle but David Ryan, who had played soundly all morning had a bit of pull/hook with his drive, while his provisional was almost a carbon copy drive. Approximately five minutes later, with neither of his drives deigning to be found, David conceded defeat without Dick having to play to the green.

The final pair then set off up the difficult second with good drives, and adequate second shots. For some reason Heather blocked her next shot into a fairway bunker on the right hand side, now known to some of the gallery as 'McLeans Folly'. Heather was still away and played a delightful bunker shot to the front of the green. Dick now played (sclaffed) his third shot through the greenside bunker on to the front of the green, but was still 'away'. With the pin at the back of the green he then banged his putt past the pin into the back bunker. All the betting money was then on Heather coming up short with her approach putt and she duly obliged. With very little green to work with Dick managed to hit his bunker shot well short of the pin, just on the green and took two putts to get down as did Heather; halved in 7?

Clearly the two contestants were evenly matched with Heather making up for lack of distance off the tee with reasonable accuracy so the third hole was halved with sixes. We then turned to face the long uphill par 3. Dick's drive found the front left bunker and Heathers didn't quite manage to escape the rough below the green.

Inevitably, the tangly grass caught the hosel of Heathers recovery shot pulling it into the same bunker. Heather was away and got out slightly too well, ending up in the light rough above the green, 1 plays 3. Dick then played a bunker shot which was the shot of the day; it landed slightly short of the pin and spun to a stop a couple of feet away. Heather trundled her putt on to the green and conceded.

By way of celebration Dick then casually knocked the putt in left, and one, handed. For the first time, in his words, Dick will be able to return home and to the inevitable question from his dearly beloved will be able to respond "yes I did".

President Geoff Vincent presented the prizes while the gallery, and losing contestants, sipped Dick's champagne.



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.



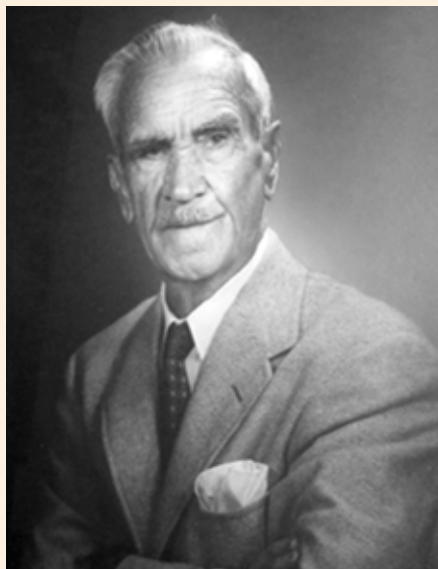
Fred Findlay (1872 – 1966)

a golfer who led an interesting and varied life

By Steve Doorey and Michael Sheret

The following article has not been verified, or endorsed, by the GSA.

*This is a summary of a research article by Steve Doorey and Michael Sheret in the September 2013 issue of **Through the Green**, magazine of the **British Golf Collectors Society**. The full article, which describes the research processes and references to the sources of evidence, may be obtained by contacting SheretMA@bigpond.com or steve_doorey@bigpond.com.*



Fred Findlay

Fred Findlay, like his father, was a professional soldier and served in the British army for 22 years. He was an accomplished musician, skilled exponent of the cornet. He rose to the rank of Sergeant-Bandmaster.

He played his early golf at Montrose, a classic old links on the east coast of Scotland. He was good enough to break the course record in 1898 with a score of 71 on a course measuring 5609 yards, long by the standards of the guttie era. Towards the end of his time in Scotland he spent 18 months as the professional at the Royal Albert Golf Club, now known as Royal Montrose. Near the end of 1909 he migrated to Australia mainly for the health of his son Freddie, who probably had tuberculosis, a disease rife in the cold damp industrial towns of Scotland.

In January 1910 he was appointed professional at the Metropolitan Golf Club in Melbourne. Like professionals of his day Fred was, apart from teaching duties and running a shop, also the starter, caddie-master, curator of the green and club maker. He made his mark in many ways. The History of Metropolitan praises him particularly in his starter role. With a firm hand and a courteous manner, Fred brought much needed discipline and order to the competition days. Playing opportunities for professionals were interrupted by World War I. Fred's tournament record was unremarkable but his scorecard for his round in December 1918 is preserved in the Metropolitan archives: 68 strokes, 11 under bogey, on a course measuring 6079 yards.

Then in 1922 he resigned amicably from his position at Metropolitan and in the following year took himself off to America. There, at the age of 51, he quickly established himself as a successful golf architect working in the Virginia area. He is credited with being responsible for the design of 41 courses. His masterpiece is undoubtedly the north/south course at the Farmington Country Club. In his twilight years Fred lived in a cottage on the Farmington property. In his nineties Fred was still scoring below his age around Farmington, but he probably devoted more time to poetry and painting, two of his abiding passions.

Our research solved two mysteries about Fred's career. Golf historians generally thought that Fred had no experience in golf architecture before going to America. This was not the case. In 1914 he designed a course at Ararat in Victoria. Very little is known about this course. It has not survived. In 1911/12 Fred laid out a 7-hole course in a public park in Healesville Victoria. This was abandoned in 1919. On a larger property and with better financial backing Fred built his second course at Healesville. Originally a 9-hole course, it has undergone many changes since Fred's time. It is now owned by the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria and in 2012 was ranked a creditable 55th in Australia's best courses.

The second mystery was what inspired Fred at 51 years of age to give up a secure position at Metropolitan and move to America. Prior to our research the conventional wisdom was that he was influenced by his older brother, Alex Findlay, well established in America as a top class golfer, golf architect and all-round golf entrepreneur. While Alex may have had some influence on Fred's career in America we do not think he was the major influence. All the evidence points to his son-in-law, Raymond "Ben" Franklin Loving, as the main influence on Fred's move, and subsequent career in America. We don't know what brought Ben to Australia originally, but he married Fred's daughter Ruth in Australia in 1924 and took her to Virginia, where Fred, Ben and Ruth were very close. At the beginning of his golf architecture career in America Fred and Ben were partners in the business. Later Ben became the General Manager at Farmington and stayed in that position for 44 years.

Acknowledgements:

Beverley Aberline, great granddaughter of James Findlay, Fred's brother, for sharing her family scrapbook with us.

Richard Tweddle, RACV Corporate Solicitor, for sharing his research notes on Healesville golf course with us.

Neil Crafter gave us extracts from *The Architects of Golf* by Cornish & Whitten (1993). This was important in sorting out courses designed by Fred alone, those in partnership with Ben Loving, those in partnership with his grandson Buddy Loving and those designed independently by Buddy.



Dinner at Royal Melbourne Golf Club

by Geoff Vincent

More than 50 members attended Royal Melbourne Golf Club on September 1 to hear Trevor Herden, Director of Championships for Golf Australia. Among those present were Golf Australia Board member Jill Spargo, and Past Presidents, Ann Court and Ian Rennick.

Our guest speaker, Trevor Herden, spoke about the Australian Open and the Australian Women's Open, including the differences in organising players and sponsors for each event. This year the Australian Open will be played at The Australian Golf Club in Sydney (27th – 30th November) and will attract Rory McIlroy, Jason Day, Adam Scott and Jordan Speith. Attracting top players at this time of year is difficult as Australia has to compete with Japan and South Africa, who also run events at this time. Also getting sponsors and raising the prize money is always a challenge to attract players to make up a quality field.

The Women's Open will be held in Melbourne, 19 – 22 February 2015, at Royal Melbourne Golf Club. It will be a world event with 15 of the best women players attending. ABC TV will cover the event and the TV ratings are expected to be exceptional, which will be great for tourism and for Australian golf. It was observed that among the top LPGA players, women from Korea are highly represented. Trevor indicated that work ethic and strong family support all added to player focus.

We thank Trevor for his insights into professional golf and wish him well with the forthcoming events.

Special thanks goes to Royal Melbourne Golf Club who once again organised an excellent menu and provided a wonderful venue for the evening. The support from the Chief Executive, Paul Rak and his staff is greatly appreciated.

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.