

THE LONG GAME

NEWSLETTER OF THE
GOLF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



No 65, FEBRUARY 2019



Peter Senior on Norman, Woods and more.

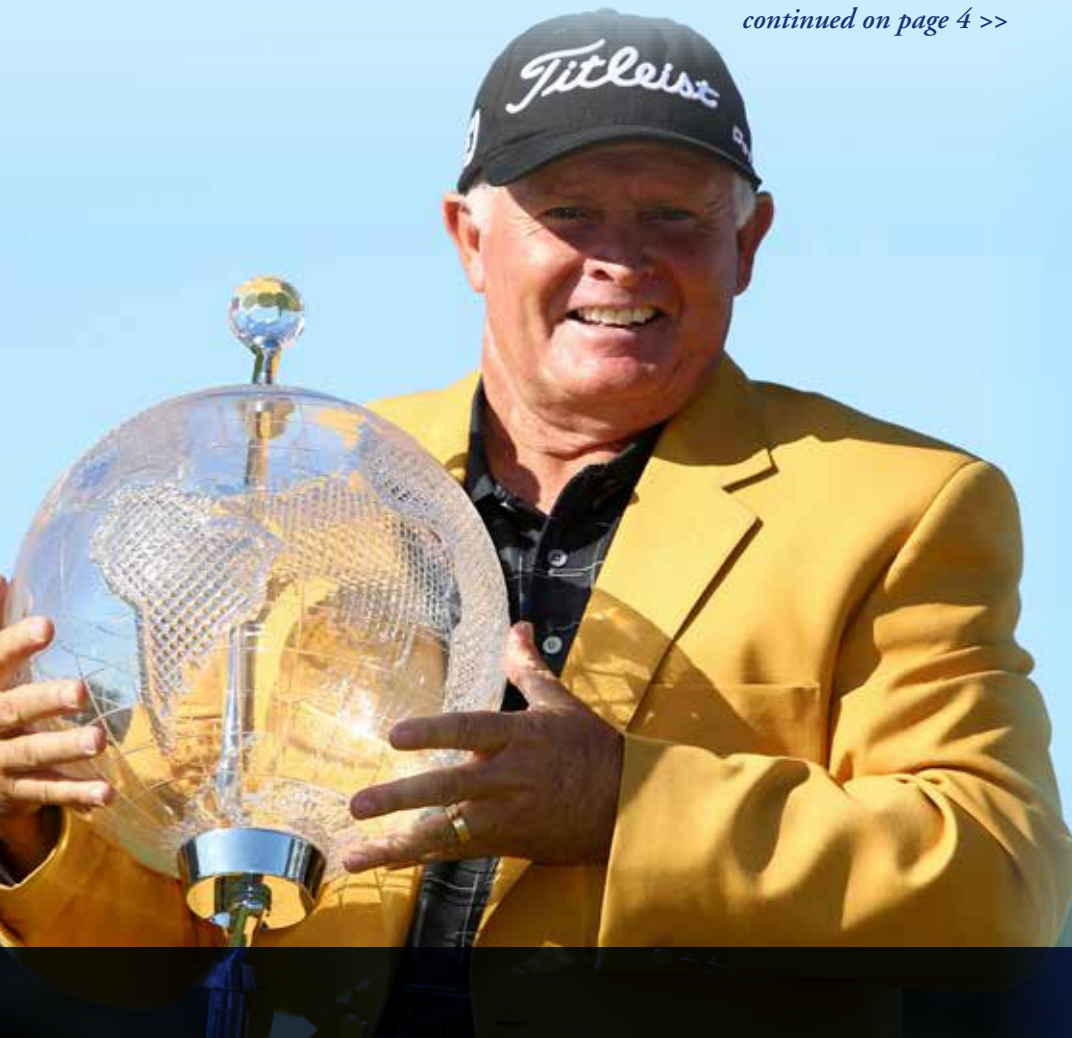
Before the Bruce Green Legends Pro-Am at Royal Melbourne on 1 March 2018, Peter Senior sat down for a chat with Cliff George, Grant Mackay, Tony Rule and Renny Cunnack. The initial subject was the Jack Nicklaus set of clubs, originally donated by Peter and now in the Golf Australia Collection. With characteristic amiability, Peter responded generously to a range of questions.

Renny Cunnack reports:

How did you come by a set of Jack's own clubs?

I had the fortunate experience of playing with Jack in the last round of the Open at St Andrews, 1995 I think, and our relationship went from there. I played in the Memorial tournament quite a few times and got to spend a bit of time with Jack and Barbara, and a tournament called the UBS Classic, with six guys under 50 and six guys over 50, and the rest of the world team played the US.

continued on page 4 >>



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1, 4-5

Peter Senior on Norman, Woods and more.

Page 2

Editor's Note.

President's Report.

Welcome to New Members.

Page 3

GSA Dinner at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

Page 6

Annual Hickory Day at Kingston Heath Golf Club.

Page 7

2018 Australian Hickory Shaft Championship.

Page 8

1860 Open Revisited.
The Doug Bachli and AGM go to Riversdale.

Page 9

The Art of Golf.

Page 10

Preferred Lies Book Review.

Page 11

The Origins of Golf.
Seaside Golf.

Page 12

Hickories Restored – Ready for Play.

FOR THE DIARY

February 19 Tuesday

Dinner at
Yarra Yarra Golf Club
Guest Speakers: Christian Hamilton and Mike Rolls

March 25 Monday

Historians Forum at
Spring Valley Golf Club

May 14 Tuesday

Don Lawrence Trophy at
Woodlands Golf Club



Editor's Note.

Greetings GSA members and welcome to 2019!

I'm excited to bring you the first newsletter for 2019 and my first as editor.

In this issue, we begin to salute legends of the game; this time player Peter Senior and golf watercolourist Robert Wade.

In future issues, we'll explore other legends, from golf course architects and superintendents, to club restorers, volunteers, and promoters of the game.

The GSA's vision is to collect, share and celebrate the history of golf in Australia, and to bring members together through our common interest in the game of golf. We achieve this by organising golf days, dinners, forums, and through this newsletter.

I hope some items in this and future issues inspire you to contribute to a new section where you can have your say, through *Letters to the Editor*.

Email me at:
goldsocietyaust@gmail.com

Greg Bain – Editor

President's Report.

By Graeme Ryan

With the passing of Peter Thomson last year, the committee of the Golf Society of Australia was faced with the responsibility of appointing a new Patron. The unanimous decision was to approach Anne Court who has enjoyed a lifetime of golf as a player, administrator and mentor to many.

Happily, she consented to the committee's request and most graciously assumed the important role.

Although a reluctant golfer at first, Anne Court was encouraged by her mother to start playing at Flinders during school holidays and to take part in Junior Days at Royal Melbourne where she became a member along with Barwon Heads.

Both parents belonged to Royal Melbourne and her mother became Associates Captain after serving as Vice Captain to the legendary Mona MacLeod. Anne remembers her father as a "bad left hander".

Anne quickly rose to prominence as a golfer and began a 30-year career in women's pennant golf at various levels. During that time, she joined the Royal Melbourne Associates Committee and served as Captain. She was appointed to the VLGU/WGV Tournament and Match Committees which she ultimately chaired for several years, acted as Treasurer of the VLGU for 2 years, Chairman of Rules for 6 years and became a National Referee.

In 1991, Royal Melbourne's centenary year, Anne became Associates President and joined the Club's Council. This was followed by her appointment as President of WGV from 1995 to 1998.

Always an active member of the Golf Society of Australia, Anne served as its President from 2000 to 2002 and is now a Life Member.

Anne became a Life Member of Royal Melbourne in 2004 and is still playing with the encouragement of her daughters. She has four children, all golfers and members of Royal Melbourne and Barwon Heads.

Educated at St Catherine's School, Anne has served as President of the St Catherine's Foundation and the Old Girls Association. She is currently a board member of Mecwacare and a former Chair of East African Coffee Plantations Ltd.

Anne Court is a strong supporter of equal opportunity and Golf Australia's Vision 2025 to generate greater female participation, involvement and inclusion in golf at all levels in Australia. Yet, she firmly believes that changes should be introduced gradually by persuasion and skilful negotiations rather than demands. We are confident that her wisdom will be emulated.



Welcome to New Members.

The GSA welcomes the following new members:

Kerry Frew	Kevin Castwood	Geoffrey Roosen
Paul Riley	Philip Jewell	Andrew Clifford
Marcus Dwyer	Darryl Little	Roger Dougan
John Handley	Deirdre Roosen	Bruce Fordham

GSA Dinner at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

By Murray Cropley

Morag North welcomed about 80 members and guests to the GSA dinner, held at Royal Melbourne Golf Club, on 17 September 2018.

Among the guests were several invited Lady Captains and Presidents from many Melbourne clubs, which resulted in a pleasing majority of women as attendees.

Our guest speaker was Chyloe Kurdas, recently appointed as Golf Australia's National Female Participation Manager. Chyloe a former Melbourne University lecturer and currently Associate of the Melbourne Business School, is an authority on leadership and cultural change. Her most recent sport-specific role was as AFL Victoria female football development manager, where she was responsible for leading the growth of female participation that culminated in the establishment of the ground breaking AFLW competition.

Chyloe spoke about GA's Vision 2025, promoting women's and girls' golf. She spoke about cultural leadership and role models for female participation in golf. She reflected on her experience as a women's AFL player for about 15 years and as a staff member at the AFL. She emphasised the point that 'attitude reflects leadership', and that had been a strong feature of her recent experience at GA.

She took up golf just as something to do while she was playing football and found that it 'got under her skin', so began to take a stronger interest. Later, while working at the AFL, she spent a brief time in the USA with the LPGA. Chyloe noted the way the LPGA headquarters recognised and venerated the organisation's history and the people who were involved in this; values that the GSA stood for. This experience also further sparked her interest in golf, which she put to good use when she left the AFL in 2016, and started to 'hack around' Royal Park. Playing there reinforced her view about the importance of grass roots involvement by those trying to promote the game. It is also an appropriate way for many people to enjoy the game without the demands of club membership.



Dinner speaker Chyloe Kurdas (centre) with Morag North and Graeme Ryan

This grass roots involvement is an important component of the Vision 2025 program.

Another important pillar of Vision 2025 is about high performance and coaching, and the value in providing these for young people who aspire to high levels in the game. It is also important to market the game more, particularly to women and girls. Currently, participation by females is about 20% of that for males, as reflected by club memberships, and that percentage is probably going backwards. Why don't more women play golf? There are a number of reasons.

- The values that females face in relation to sport are different from those faced by males. Professional sport, in particular, is generally closed to women.
- Girls feel they need to be invited to play, rather than take the initiative themselves to play.
- Sport is not seen as a birthright for girls. Historically, it has been seen as a male domain.
- Women can't afford the time to play golf because of the time it takes to play a traditional round of 18 holes.

The game and its culture need to be structured better to cater for and appeal to women and girls, such as providing better physical spaces, resources and facilities that suit women better. Moreover, the time requirements and costs need to be reconsidered.

How does Chyloe see her role at GA? She considers herself a conductor; she is not the expert, just there to help the experts do their work. So GA is rethinking how it will operate. Everyone there is building female participation into their workplans. She also recognises the unique history and traditions of golf, which are part of its strengths. But this should not interfere with achieving greater female participation. Moreover, those of us who have positions or roles within golfing communities should use our experience as a platform to cultivate change and encourage more females to play golf.

GA is trying to set up the foundations to effect change. There probably won't be much change in participation levels in the first 1 or 2 years but, provided the foundations are right, and those in positions to contribute can do so, positive change will occur over time.

Tony Rule thanked Chyloe for her talk, and a Q&A session followed. Many of the themes Chyloe had spoken about were reflected and expanded upon.

President Graeme Ryan then spoke about the recent sad losses to Australian golf with the deaths of Peter Thomson, Ian Stanley and Jarrod Lyle, and the contributions they had made to golf in Australia and the rest of the world. He then stated that, following the loss of Peter Thomson as the Golf Society's Patron, he was very pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Anne Court as our new Patron. This was greeted with acclamation by all.

Peter Senior on Norman, Woods and more.

Continued from page 1...

Jack and Gary Player were the captains. Afterwards, I was in the locker room and Jack had a heap of stuff to take home, including this set of clubs, and he said, "I'm just going to leave them here, I haven't got enough room." So I said, "Do you mind if I take them?" I'm kicking myself that I didn't get a bit of their history. I was going to hang on to them myself - you don't often get a set of golf clubs from Jack Nicklaus - but I know there are better places than in my garage, so that's how you guys got to have them.

You got pretty close in an Open one year, didn't you?

I finished fourth at St Georges, sixth at Lytham & St Annes and ninth at St Andrews. I never really had a chance to win a major. St Georges was the closest I got, in 1993, the one that Greg Norman won. I was one shot off the lead with three holes to go and I birdied 14, 15 and 16, and I was about ten feet at 17. I figured if I holed that and made par at 18, I would have a show, but I missed that putt and bogeyed the last. Then the holes that I birdied, the other guys birdied coming in.

How does it feel when you're in contention in a tournament?

There's no better feeling. You get to a stage where money doesn't matter. Tournament wins are all that matters. Money doesn't mean anything to guys in America now, playing for \$6-10 million a week. If a guy has an opportunity to win a tournament, he'll

have a go for it. When you've got your house and you know you're financially comfortable, winning a tournament is the only thing that you want to do. Nobody remembers second places. That's why whenever I had a chance to win, I usually hung around. I might not have won every time, but bugger me - I wasn't going anywhere. At the Australian Masters one year, Greg Norman said to me, "You're a stubborn little prick! Of all the guys that won't go away, you're the most persistent!" That was the biggest compliment he could ever give me.

There were quite a few tournaments coming down the stretch when I had to make par on the last to win, like here at Royal Melbourne at the Greg Norman. What impressed me about Greg was that, if he had 236 or 240 yards over water and he knew that he could hit 241, he'd have a go at it if he had a chance to win.

Did you get on well with Norman?

I got on great with Greg. When I was on the Champions' Tour, he was commentating and I said, "Why don't you play a little bit? Everybody would love to see you play". He said, "Mate, I hate the game". He said that it had got to a stage where he didn't enjoy it. I can understand when guys get to a level and they can't stay at that level without putting the work in, they just don't want to play. I'm even feeling it now, where I love the game and I could play every day, but since I've retired, I don't play as much and my game's suffered. And the less I play, the more I don't want to play - you don't enjoy playing badly.

Who are the golfers who have influenced you most?

My favourite player of all time was Tom Watson. I got to play with him quite a bit over the last seven years on the Champions' Tour. At the beginning of his career, he couldn't close a tournament and they used to call him "Second-hand Rose". Then suddenly he started to win, and all the time that I ever watched him, nothing ever fazed him. I just wanted to be a bit like him.

What was your most memorable victory in golf?

The Australian Open at the Lakes in 2012, where I had my son on the bag. I've never seen him as happy. He hated school, and I know what it was like because I got expelled from school for not going. Eight years ago, I said to him, "You either go to boarding school or you're going to caddy for me in America." He said, "Hang on a minute, Dad, let me see if I can decide!" He was never going to boarding school, but he'd never caddied before, so every afternoon for about six weeks, we'd go for nine holes. The first year on the tour, he was a little bit nervous about doing the wrong thing, but by the end of the second year (my best year, when he was on my bag) we started to talk on the course, and he started to give me clubs. We were at The Insuperity about four years ago, I had 236 yards to get over the water onto an island green, and I said, "What do you think, Mitch, can I carry the water with a 3 iron?" He said, "Dad, as long as your asshole points to the ground, you ain't getting there", and I said, "Well, give us a 5 iron!" He had a great knack of seeing when things were bothering me. I'd have to chip out of a fairway bunker and be a little bit hot, and he'd come up the fairway, take his time, and go, "See how well I raked that bunker back there, Dad?", and I'd be ready to kill him, but all of a sudden it lightened the mood. He had that ability, and those last seven years were the best seven that I've ever had.



Peter Senior on Norman, Woods and more.

Continued from page 1...

What's your advice to a young man just starting out as a pro?

The hardest thing is for these guys to get on a tour. There are three or four qualifying events just to be eligible, and it's so difficult for them, so they play in pro-ams. That's all well and good to put a score together but very difficult for them to improve their game. So they need to play in everything they can that's more than one round, and my advice would be to play as many four-round tournaments as possible: get tournament tough.

Practice versus playing rounds of golf – which benefits more?

I think you've got to do both. It's no good practising all day if you can't put it into practice on the course, and you get more variety on a golf course. When I was growing up, I would do two hours in the morning, then play 18 holes, and then go and practise what was wrong. The short game is most important – spend a lot of time on your short game. If you're not a good putter, you may as well pack your clubs up. In this day and age, they bin them from everywhere. It's not so much the guy who makes the most birdies now – it's the guy who makes the least bogeys, and gets it up and down. See the stats on TV – they can miss seven greens and shoot five under.

You've won twice here at Royal Melbourne. Does the course just suit you?

I just loved playing here. I played at least six tournaments where I never shot a round over par around here.

When I started playing, the fairways were pretty generous and at that stage I was a pretty good iron player – and of course, to putt on these greens, as fast as they are, you've got to have imagination and good touch. I just love putting on good greens and I think that's why I won so many times in Victoria, because the greens suited me. I didn't have to smack it, and once I got a feel for them, I could bin them from anywhere. I agree with Mike Clayton, that Royal Melbourne is way ahead of Augusta as a championship course. Golf courses are very personal: a lot depends on how you play, and how it looks to you, and I don't think there's a better-looking course than RM. The way they cut the bunkers – whenever you're hitting into a green, it's defined. You go to some other courses, there are ragged edges to bunkers and it's not aesthetically pleasing. You come here (especially in the tournaments we play), and everything is so manicured. You know where to miss it and where not to miss it. It's a really good challenge. It's in my top three courses.

Have you played much with Tiger Woods?

I was fortunate because Steve Williams was a very good friend of mine, so whenever Tiger and I were at a tournament, he would organise a practice round. I got to play with him in three WGC events.

Is he that intimidating?

He used to be. He was one of the only guys I used to watch practise. At the Open, I used to sit on the range and just watch him hit long irons. The young guys of today like Rory McIlroy really don't know how good Tiger was. In that 10 year period, 1997 on, when he was winning everything, he used to drive it on the course, great irons, and chip and putt like nobody else. He was the best putter in the world by far. He was the only guy that hit the ball the same height all the time. He and Bernard Langer were pretty close. So when the ball goes the same height with each club, it pretty much goes the same distance, and that's why Tiger was so good. He hit it flag-high so often, because he could control the distance of every shot he was going to hit.

Will he win again do you think?

I dearly hope so. I'd like to see him play a bit more. The only way you are going to improve your game is to play tournaments. Tiger played one at the beginning of the year then had five weeks off. If I were him, I would be trying to get my game in shape so that it felt more comfortable.

If you could choose, who are the greats you would pick to play with?

I never saw Peter Thomson play at his best. I never played with Arnold Palmer, even though I know Arnold pretty well. Tom Watson's got to be one of them, and to tell you the truth, the only guy that really inspired me, and I loved watching him, is Greg Norman. I never got to see Jack play at his best – but Norman at his best: I've never seen a person hit shots like he hit. Everybody knew you had to beat him to win the tournament, and it actually lifted my game when I played with him, but I just enjoyed watching so it took my mind off my game, and I got more enthralled with what he was doing than what I was doing. I think sub-consciously you learn a lot from those sort of guys. If I had to pick the three for a foursome, it would be Tom Watson, Greg Norman, and Jack, just for what he has done.

Postscript: After this interview, Peter played Royal Melbourne West in a three-under 68 to win the Bruce Green Legends Pro-Am by two shots. He hit 18 greens in regulation and had 36 putts! Six days later, he won the Portsea Legends Pro-Am with a two-under 69. His interviewers think it couldn't happen to a nicer guy.



Playing field at Kingston Heath

Annual Hickory Day at Kingston Heath Golf Club, Sunday 9 September 2018.

By Kim Hastie, GSA Honorary Secretary

The 2018 Annual Hickory day was held at Kingston Heath Golf Club. With the course in great condition it once again proved to be a superb track for playing hickories.

Playing for the Frank Shepherd and Burtta Cheney trophies, a field of 22 played the 9-hole competition with many wearing clothes of the era.

New member Jeffrey Anderson scored 17 points off a 6 handicap and won the Frank Shepherd. Secretary Kim Hastie successfully defended her title winning the Burtta Cheney trophy.

A most enjoyable day closed with refreshments and snacks as Secretary Kim Hastie and President Graeme Ryan made the presentations.

The Golf Society appreciates and thanks Kingston Heath Golf Club for their ongoing support and hospitality with this event.

It is worth noting that several players in the field took the opportunity to 'warm up' for the 2018 Australian Hickory Shaft Championships at

Royal Melbourne Golf Club the following week - the first time this event has been played in Victoria.



Frank Shepherd Winner Jeffrey Anderson with President Graeme Ryan



Burtta Cheney winner Kim Hastie

2018 Australian Hickory Shaft Championship, Tuesday 11 September 2018.

Royal Melbourne Golf Club was the host of the 24th Australian Hickory Shaft Championship, 18 holes of stroke play in conjunction with a handicap section.

This was the first time the event has been held in Victoria. The enthusiastic field with many wearing attires from the era, were up for a tough day with the predicted strong winds not letting up.

The men's event drew a field of 57 with 16 of the players off a handicap of 5 or less and more than half of the total field off 10 or less. This was the strongest field the Championship had seen in its 24 years since starting in 1995.

A sunny day with a maximum of 23 degrees and a stiff northerly breeze for the afternoon created a set of playing conditions that were testing to say the least. The course had been set up for hickory play to resemble the 1931 scorecard. Players were presented with a copy of the original 'bogey' 1931 card as a memento of the occasion.

The winner and Australian Hickory Shaft Champion for 2018 was Alex Sutherland from Eastlake (NSW) who shot 81 with 3 birdies in his round. Peter Shaw from Royal Hobart was the runner up on 84 with 2 birdies. Both were fine scores considering the breeze and difficulty stopping the ball on the greens.

In the handicap division, Scott Hendry from Queensland was the winner with a fine net score of 77. Congratulations to Scott who had a very commendable gross score of 87.

The women's event was conducted for the first time in some years, with GSA member Paula Gompertz from The National (VIC) emerging the victor on 111.

Congratulations to Australian Golf Heritage Society, lead by their Captain Ross Howard, for organising a wonderful event. This sentiment was echoed by all the players.

At the presentation Ross gave thanks to Tony Rule and the Match Committee of the Royal Melbourne Club for making the course available and recognised the assistance, support and cooperation of Aaron Newnham (RMGC Director of Golf) and his staff. GSA President Graeme Ryan spoke about the Society's work and vision and the strengthening relationship between the two societies.

With growing interest in the event, we all look forward to the next Championship in 2019.



Women's winner GSA member Paula Gompertz with AGHS Ross Howard and Graeme Ryan



Winner Alex Sutherland



The Field of Hickory Players at Royal Melbourne Golf Club



Players at first Regional Qualifying Event held at Lang Lang

1860 Open Revisited.

By Peter Stickley

In March 2018 a trial was carried out on the PGA Legends Tour. Six players equipped with their hickory sets played with four leading professionals at the top of the draw. The Australasian 12 Hole Hickory Cup was the much sought-after trophy.

The tournament replicated the first Open Golf Championship held at the 12-hole Prestwick course (Scotland) in 1860.

This year the event will be played over 3 days (March 2-4) at The Dunes, Portsea and Eagle Ridge courses on the Mornington Peninsula. There is a gross Individual and a nett Teams of 3 event. The 3 x 12 hole format replicates the original Prestwick event.

The PGA has confirmed 12 Professionals will play in the event with hickories. Four have already qualified.

Qualifying events have taken place and 12 places remain.

Those interested in playing should contact Peter Stickley 0409210274 member GSA or Tim Sayers 0404877697 member AGHS and PGA.

Peter and Tim are grateful for all the support received and look forward to continued growth and interest.

Pictured below: Brian Twite Patron of The Australasian 12-hole Hickory Cup with tour organiser, Peter Stickley



The Doug Bachli and AGM go to Riversdale.

By Kim Hastie, GSA Honorary Secretary

2018 Doug Bachli Trophy Report, Monday 19 November.

The Society's final golf event, the Doug Bachli Trophy, was played this year at Riversdale Golf Club.

A good field of 30 played 18 holes of stableford, and enjoyed the challenging Riversdale hills in very warm conditions. Despite the hot weather, many good scores were returned.

Results:

The Men's and Doug Bachli winner was Max Findlay with 37 points in a countback from Paul Bray.

The Women's winner was Kim Hastie with 35 points. Runner-up was Virginia Gorrell with 33 points.

The AGM was held after the golf, the meeting was chaired by President Graeme Ryan, who presented his Annual Report followed by Treasurer Neil Walker who presented the Financial report for 2017-2018.

Secretary Kim Hastie read out the Committee Elections:

Retiring committee members were David Hewitt and Mango Maguire both stepping down due to work commitments.

The Secretary acknowledged Mango for his wonderful contribution as editor of The Long Game for past two years.

The two newly elected committee members were Peter Vlahandreas and Greg Bain who has agreed to take on the role as Editor of The Long Game.

After the AGM the 40 attendees enjoyed a Cocktail Party to close out the night.

President Graeme Ryan and the Committee expressed their appreciation to Riversdale Golf for their generous hospitality ensuring another successful day for our members.



Men's Winner Max Findlay and Women's Winner Kim Hastie with President Graeme Ryan



The Art of Golf.

By Greg Bain

In this issue we begin a series to salute the artists of the game with perhaps the most famous, distinguished Australian artist, Robert Wade OAM.

Bob has long been regarded as one of the world's leading watercolourists, and foremost golf course painters. With his works hanging in hundreds of private collections and clubhouses, Bob Wade has captured the mood of these unique landscapes with skill and style. Over coming issues, we will showcase some of Bob's best watercolours of courses near and far.

The first work (above) is one of Australia's most revered holes - Royal Melbourne's 6th West.

Bob recounts meeting our first US Masters winner Adam Scott, at a Royal Melbourne dinner where he was presented with one of Bob's RM paintings to celebrate that victory:



"There were 360 for dinner. I presented the painting to Adam, shook hands with him and said 'now Adam, make this a long, slow, lingering handshake, just on the off-chance that some of your ability might flow through to me.' Adam looked at the painting and said 'I wouldn't worry, you're already a master of the greens.'

Society Merchandise.

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

If you would like to obtain any of our logo items between functions please contact Kim Hastie, whose number is in the Members' Handbook.



Preferred Lies Book Review.

By *Mango Maguire*

'Preferred Lies and Other True Golf Stories' has been written and compiled by Charles Happell and Mike Clayton. Both of these writers have come together with other authors such as Peter Thomson, GSA members Richard Allen and Andrew Thomson, comedian Rob Sitch, writer John Huggan, media centre director Kathy Shearer, caddy Steve Williams, commentator Peter Alliss and Cambridge golfer Mark Nelson.

The book is divided into five sections containing players, tours and tournaments, courses, caddies, and other things. There are many stories within these sections, and the diversity is quite amazing.

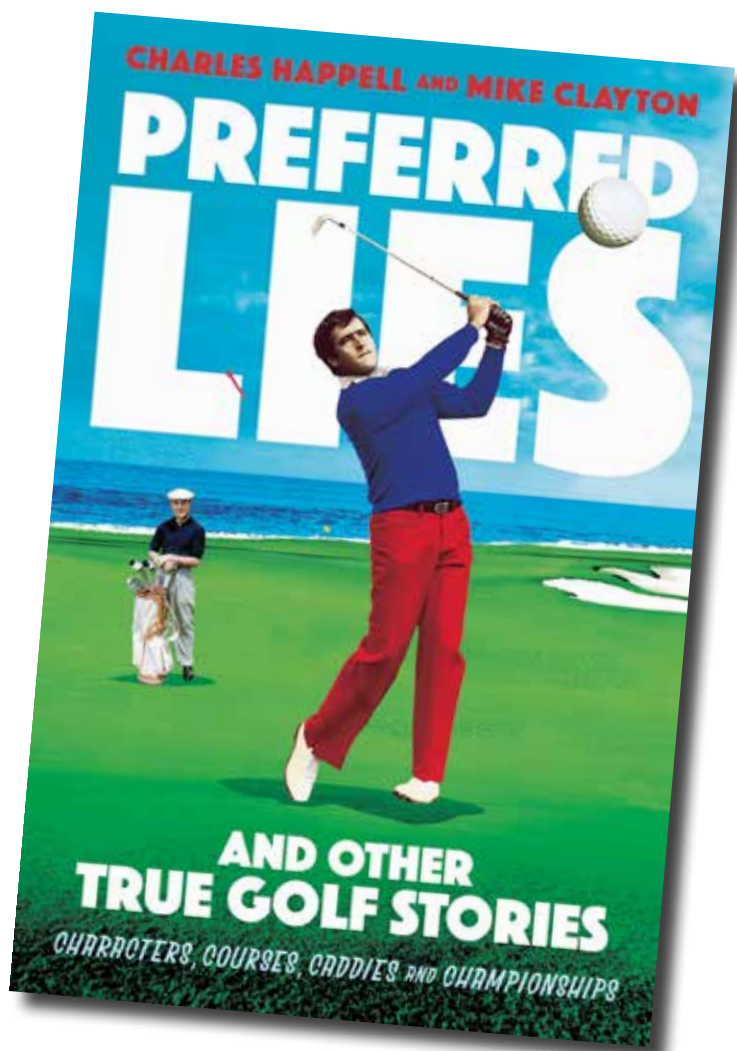
As both authors are slightly older than me, many of the stories recounted occurred as I was growing up. Persimmon woods and small-headed blades ruled together with the British 1.62 inch golf ball. Jack Nicklaus and then Norman and Seve were the heroes. What gallant times they were. We had Nicklaus winning the Stonehaven Cup in Hobart, the Shark's accurate and long driving before the age of titanium 460cc drivers, and the charisma and majesty of Seve in Scotland and at Augusta. He was, in fact, the only golfer who earned the trifecta winning at St Andrews, Royal Melbourne and Augusta, MacKenzie's inspiration and two of his greatest designs.

Many others are included, such as Karrie Webb, Adam Scott, Bob Shearer, Ben Hogan, Geoff Ogilvy, Ian Baker-Finch, Lydia Ko, Su Oh, and Jason Day. Richard Sattler also is given great praise for his contribution to Australian golf, with his two developments at Barnbougle designed by Doak & Clayton, and Coore & Crenshaw. A fine legacy to leave.

For golf course enthusiasts and travellers, Clayton lists a dozen of his favourites, courses he reckons we should all see, and no doubt play. They include six exclusive and difficult courses to access, from the beauty of Cypress Point to Colt's masterpiece at Swinley Forest, and the elegance of Simpson's Morfontaine near Paris with its stone clubhouse and no pro shop. The other courses of note include little known Notts near Sherwood Forest, and Arrowtown in NZ, which I played in my youth. I can still remember the incredibly rugged mountainous landscape, the like of which we never see in Australia.

The integrity of the game and the issue of cheating is brought into focus by Clayton with his chapter on *what would Bob Shearer do?* He begins with the events of 2017 with Lexi Thompson mis-marking her ball, the question of putter anchoring on the Champions Tour, and a few others.

He then recalls 1982 when Shearer called a two-shot penalty on himself in the bunker at the Australian Golf Club whilst playing with Nicklaus, because he didn't want anyone to question his integrity.



This despite Nicklaus and rules officials claiming no infringement had occurred. By the end of Sunday, those two extra shots amounted to nothing as he won by four shots, but the 75 he shot with the penalty made it a far more difficult proposition.

We are fortunate in Australia to have so many top golf courses with easy access for most; a tradition of world-class players in both the men's and women's game, and a history that dates back to the 1830s. *'Preferred Lies'* gives credit to all this and more.

I witnessed Mike Clayton caddying for Julianne Su at Royal Melbourne in the *Master of the Amateurs* recently. He cleaned up the bunker with the hand of an artisan after Su blasted out on the 17th. I commend him for helping to guide the upcoming generation, and his contribution to golf through his design work, playing and writing,

Happell and Clayton have brought these aspects of our golfing culture and much more together in one readable and enjoyable volume.

The Origins of Golf.

By Graeme Ryan

Did you know that, while Scotland is known as the cradle of golf, a number of other European stick-and-ball games lay claim to being its antecedent?

The word golf is probably derived from the German *kolb* meaning club, but some historians suggest that the sport dates back to ancient Rome and a game played with a bent stick and a leather ball stuffed with feathers. During the first century BC, the Romans occupied regions that later formed France, Belgium and Holland where games now considered to be possible originators of golf were played.

A game similar to golf was played in Holland. Called *kolf* or *kolven* and sometimes played on ice, it was essentially an indoor game similar to billiards or croquet, and a more likely antecedent to hockey and ice hockey.



Gloucester Cathedral Golfer



Other games in France and Belgium involved the use of clubs and wooden balls over a designated cross-country course to a fixed spot or landmark. Strokes were counted and the winner was whoever took the least.

A similar game, *Pell Mell* was introduced to England and Scotland from France in the 16th century. Mary, Queen of Scots is known to have played and Charles I was a devotee. *Pall Mall* was the name given to the original course in London which is now the busy thoroughfare from Trafalgar Square to Buckingham Palace.

An earlier game played in England called *cambuca* became so popular that it was banned from feast day activities in 1363 to encourage the able-bodied men to practise their archery. In Gloucester Cathedral, a stained-glass window dating back to this time, shows a figure swinging a curved club. Although often referred to as 'the golfer' it is more likely to be *cambuca*.

But what of the Scots? It is believed that *kolf* was introduced to the east coast of Scotland from Holland through trading links that had existed since medieval times. However, this overlooks one key aspect of golf, the use of a hole in the ground.

While the early European stick-and-ball games have similarities with golf, all the targets used were above the ground. It was in Scotland that the hole made its first appearance in the game, surely proving that Scotland is indeed the home of golf.

Seaside Golf.

Sir John Betjeman

How straight it flew, how long it flew,

It clear'd the rutty track

And soaring, disappeared from view

Beyond the bunker's back -

A glorious, sailing, bounding drive

That made me glad I was alive.

And down the fairway, far along

It glowed a lonely white;

I played an iron sure and strong

And clipp'd it out of sight,

And spite of grassy banks between

I knew I'd find it on the green.

And so I did. It lay content

Two paces from the pin;

A steady putt and then it went

Oh, most surely in.

The very turf rejoiced to see

That quite unprecedented three.

Ah! Seaweed smells from sandy caves

And thyme and mist in whiffs,

In-coming tide, Atlantic waves

Slapping the sunny cliffs,

Lark song and sea sounds in the air

And splendour, splendour everywhere.

High on the grassy cape I stood

Calmly addressed the ball

And with what power I swung the wood

For the greatest drive of all

And saw it topple off the tee

And tumble down into the sea.

A small figure, whose face is barely discernible, plays a stick and ball game in a fourteenth-century roundel at the bottom of the Great East window in Gloucester Cathedral. The player is controversially called the golfer, although the game of golf is not known to have existed before the fifteenth century. If the name is correct, this stained glass may well be the earliest evidence of golf.



One of the newly restored Hickory sets available for hire

Hickories Restored – Ready for Play.

By Greg Bain

Thanks to a band of enthusiastic members, the Golf Society of Australia can now boast four sets of beautifully restored hickories, with more to come, for the use of members.

Claire Walker, who co-ordinates our 'Hickory Heroes' program, said: "These clubs have been faithfully restored and now look as new by members of the Golf Society. Special thanks and gratitude to Ross Baker, Cliff George and Max Findlay for the work they have done in preserving this important part of our history".

The Golf Society's 'Hickory Heroes' program is well established through regular gatherings and competitions throughout the year. These restored sets are now available for hire at these events for members at a very modest \$10.00. They are in sets of seven clubs, and we have both right and left-handed sets.

Keep an eye on the diary and email alerts for 'Hickory Heroes' events. If you've never played hickory golf, you're in for a wonderful surprise!

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.