

THE LONG GAME

NEWSLETTER OF THE
GOLF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



No 67, NOVEMBER 2019



Our latest high flyers

MICHEL ON A MAJOR HIGH

By Mark Hayes, Golf Australia

Australian Lukas Michel will play in the 2020 Masters and US Open.

Michel, 25, pulled off yet another remarkable comeback to become the first international winner of the United States Mid-Amateur Championship at the Colorado Golf Club.

Michel, a member at Metropolitan and a key component of the past three triumphant Victorian Interstate Series teams, toppled Mississippi's Joseph Deraney in a pulsating final.

The 2&1 victory in the 36-hole decider on the rock-hard course south of Denver punched the Aussie's ticket to two of next year's major championships – a prize he's yet to wrap his head around.



Image: Chris Keane (USGA)

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HISTORY FOR RUFFELS AT US WOMEN'S AMATEUR

By Martin Blake

Gabriela Ruffels has created her own little bit of Australian history.

Ruffels, 19, became the first Australian in the 119-year history of the US Women's Amateur to take the title when she beat Switzerland's Albane Valenzuela 1-up in the 36-hole final at Old Waverly Golf Club in Mississippi today.

The win follows her triumph at the North and South amateur in the lead-up, and confirms her status as one of Australia's most promising golfers.

Remarkably, she only took up golf at 15 having been part of the national elite programs of tennis.



Image: USGA

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

See website for details:
www.golfsocietyaust.com/

Monday 18 November 2019

**Doug Bachli Trophy and
38th Annual General Meeting**
(followed by cocktail party)
at Victoria Golf Club

Wednesday 18 December

Annual Hickory Heroes Trophy
(with a BBQ dinner afterwards)
at Woodlands Golf Club

Welcome to New Members

*We warmly welcome the following
new members to the Golf Society*

Bradley Tatnell	Richard Galloway
Ross Bishop	Peter Creswell
Sam Forsyth	Peter Clark
Russell Hunter	Stella Cugley
Robert Sarafov	Craig Shearn
Graeme Mathers	Allan Williams
Graeme Grant	Guenter Oechsle
Tony Blakeley	Marilyn Takle
Hiromi Bum	

President's Report

By Graeme Ryan



Welcome to our final edition of "The Long Game" for 2019

We have had a busy and successful year, with many events, and growth in participation and new members.

A diverse range of activities for the year are covered in this issue, including our competitions, hickory days, historian forums, and social events.

Some of the social highlights include three most successful dinners held at Royal Melbourne, Yarra Yarra and Kingston Heath golf clubs. A packed Royal Melbourne dining room (over 70% women) heard a presentation by Golf Australia's newly appointed National Female Participation Manager, Chyloe Kurdas. We were all inspired at the Yarra Yarra dinner by double amputee Mike Rolls, and Christian Hamilton from Golf Australia unveiled plans for greater inclusion in golf. Our Kingston Heath dinner featured elite golf coach Dale Lynch, who shared some interesting experiences and personal views, about leading professional golfers and the sport in general.

Historian Forums and Hickory Heroes events continue to be well supported and attended. Also, the traditional golf events were competed for the Don Lawrence Trophy, the Walter Travis Hickory Trophy, the President's Trophy, the Doug Bachli Trophy and the Frank Shepherd/Burtta Cheney Hickory Trophy.

Our Collection continues to grow. I encourage members to consider donating Australian Golf memorabilia to this collection so that future generations can learn about Australia's role in the evolution of golf. Plans for a formalised golf museum at the new Golf Australia Headquarters in Sandringham offer an exciting opportunity for us to showcase this wonderful and evolving collection.

Our latest high flyers: History for Ruffels at US Women's Amateur

Continued from page 1...

Both her parents, Ray and Anna Maria, were touring professional tennis players and both Gabriela and Ryan, her elder brother, were born in Florida, where the Ruffels were the tennis pros at the Isleworth community where many professional golfers reside.

They grew up in Australia however, with Ryan ultimately turning professional and going on the PGA Tour's South American swing as well as in Canada, and Gabi has entered the American college system, studying at the University of Southern California.

In an epic final, Ruffels birdied the last two holes to close it out, rolling in a beautiful, curling four-metre putt at the 36th hole to ensure that she won the title. She had broken the tie with a birdie at the 35th hole, but in truth it was an epic final.

Ruffels was 3-up through 11 holes of the morning session, having made three consecutive birdies from the eighth to the 10th, but she lost the advantage by the 17th, and the

Swiss player, two years her senior, was either leading or tied for the lead for most of the afternoon session.

Only two Australians – Anne Marie Knight and Lindy Goggin – had ever reached the US Women's Amateur final before.

Valenzuela is the more experienced player; also in the college system in the US and a finalist in the US Amateur in 2017.

Ruffels is a phenomenon. As a junior at USC, she earned All-American second team and All-Pac-12 first team honors. She has represented both Victoria and Australia at amateur level and having taken up golf after her brother Ryan, she stunned observers with how quickly she picked the game up.

"Tennis did help me," she said this week. "Kind of the athlete mentality, and dealing with pressure. But also kind of watching my brother play, I wasn't too new that I didn't know what was going on. I was always that little sister, watching my brother play. I also work pretty hard I feel like, to play golf. My work ethic has transferred over from my tennis."

Our latest high flyers: Michel on a Major High

Continued from page 1...

"Unbelievable ... almost too good to be true," Michel said when asked how the title sounded.

"I guess it will sink in in the coming hours or days. But, yeah, I mean, I'm looking forward to what comes with it in the future for my golf."

Remarkably, Michel became the second Australian this year to win a USGA event, following fellow Melburnian Gabi Ruffels, who won the US Women's Amateur crown in August. Another Victorian, Sue Wooster, was also runner-up in the recent US Senior Women's Amateur.

Victory will mean an invitation to play Augusta National in April's Masters, and also a berth in the US Open at famous Winged Foot in New York, the site of Geoff Ogilvy's 2006 major triumph.

"I wore a Winged Foot sweater for the first nine holes today. Played there last year. Just a casual round with a member... so I guess I've got an early look at the course there," Michel said.

"(But it's) unbelievable. I mean, many, many golfers, the best in the world, don't get the opportunity to play a major, let alone the US Open.

"And as a kid growing up in Australia, watching the Masters final round on a Monday morning is pretty much the best morning of the year.

"Yeah, can't wait."

Michel hadn't led the final from the fourth hole and trailed by as many as three holes as late as the 23rd. But five birdies in his final 11 holes enabled him to close out victory on the 35th green with what turned into an awkward par.

Both players had hit the green on the long par-3, with Michel to putt first. A solid, curling lag putt finished about 1m from the cup, narrowly outside what might have been "gimme" range.

Deraney's birdie putt to win the hole and extend the match slipped narrowly by and when he took his hat off in frustration, it was initially thought by observers to be a sign of concession to Michel.

"With the length of it (my second putt), I was like really confused," Michel said.

"That putt is not a conceded putt. But he came up, shook my hand, and I think he said, 'Sorry. That's not good, I thought it was shorter', or something like that.

"I was like, 'OK'. (I was) not sure what was going on with that. I just had to reset and still holed the putt.

"Somehow it lipped in the right edge, and then I went and ran up and hugged Will (American caddie William Davenport) after a huge jump.

"I didn't want to damage the greens, but they were so firm I don't think I could," he joked.

A day earlier, Michel had won the final three holes of his semi-final to beat previous champion Stewart Hagestad 2-up and taken 20 holes to win his quarter-final.

He'd also been 2-down through 10 holes in his round of 32 match and also trailed early in his round of 64 match.

Against Deraney, Michel twice was 1-up early, but found himself 3-down through 10 after the American's mini birdie spree.

Michel found his best late in the morning round and pulled back to square by the 17th, only to lose the 18th and go to lunch 1-down.

A couple of Michel bogeys on the 21st and 23rd holes again had the Aussie 3-down, but that's where the match changed complexion for one last time.

Michel, the 46th seed who'd been spectacular on the par-5s throughout the week, made birdies on the long 25th and 28th holes to pull within one.

He then made a birdie three on the 30th to draw level, halved the par-4 32nd with a birdie, then made it a hat-trick of birdies on the ensuing par-5s to push clear and win at the 35th.

Michel cited great putting as his chief weapon throughout the week, helping his rallies.

"Putting is the last thing you do on a hole, so when you're having a good putting day it's obviously going to look like you're doing everything you can to get back in the hole, which is, I guess, what I did," he said.

"It wasn't my best ball striking day. It was mediocre. Joe hit the ball way better than me. But when you're putting good it always looks like you're sort of coming from behind and making it happen.

"I just had a really good process. The putts had been going in earlier in the week, and just kind of a positive feedback loop when something is going your way.

"If you keep confident, it keeps going your way."



Former Champions Assemble: Past US Open Champions at US Open, Pebble Beach June 2019 including Australians David Graham, Geoff Ogilvy. Image supplied by USGA Museum



Stickley wins the Frank Shepherd and Secretary Kim defends her title

Annual Hickory Day at Kingston Heath Golf Club Sunday August 18th, 2019

By Kim Hastie, Honorary Secretary

The Annual Hickory day was held at its regular venue Kingston Heath Golf Club, with the course still in winter dormancy, it continued to be a great track for hickory play.

Competing for the Frank Shepherd and Burtta Cheney trophies, the field of 22 headed out to play their 9-holes with the threat of heavy rain and thunderstorms due to hit mid-afternoon.

With much radar watching, the darks skies loomed and just



Paula Gompertz

caught the final groups on their closing holes.

Passionate hickory collector and player Peter Stickley scored 18 points and won the Frank Shepherd trophy and Secretary Kim Hastie successfully defended her title winning the Burtta Cheney trophy also with 18 points.



Mango Maguire and Peter Stickley

President Graeme Ryan joined in post golf, to speak to the group and make the presentations with Secretary Kim Hastie.

The Golf Society appreciates the club for their ongoing support and their hospitality ensured another very enjoyable Society event.

Results

Frank Shepherd winner
Burtta Cheney winner
Longest Drive Men
Nearest the Pin Men
Non-member winner

Peter Stickley 18 points
Kim Hastie 18 points
David Hewitt
Marty Maguire
Robert Sarafov 16 points

Hickories and Applied Logic

By GSA Member Grant McKay

As a newcomer to Hickory Golf around mid to late 2017 I was intrigued about how playing hickories compared to playing the steel shafted clubs.

Mr Cliff George, former Curator of the Golf Australia Collection and a man to whom I owe a great deal, generously made available to me his wealth of knowledge about hickories, their origins and how they are (and were) made.

As a result I began my own research into the hickory game and of course spent many hours searching EBAY, Gumtree and other websites so I could eventually compile my own set.

What I discovered was that many sites offered 'matched sets' of hickories and I naturally assumed that by purchasing such a set I would be able to apply the same swing for every club as I do with my steels.

Unfortunately I could not justify the expenditure to purchase a matched set and therefore scoured the various flea markets, Op Shops and garage sales to find enough clubs to make up my own set, which I eventually achieved.

Of course the next challenge was to master the 'hickory swing' which, as anyone familiar with playing hickories knows, differs somewhat from the usual 'robot-like' repetitive swing used to play the current style of club.

No matter how hard I tried I could not duplicate the results I got with my steels when using the conventional swing plane. I have a very slow and easy swing so I could not understand why I was not getting the results I was after.

I taught myself how to play a soft, sweeping style of swing; make the leather wrap grips and learnt how to repair clubs including doing my own bindings all of which I might say gives one a great deal of satisfaction.

During the learning process I practised and practised and gave a great deal of thought about why there was such a marked difference between hickories and conventional clubs.

I watched other hickory players who were extremely good and noticed many modified their clubs to some extent by adding lead weight which appeared to give them remarkable results. But then these were players who already had single figure and in some instances, plus handicaps!

I was not in their league and as a player who can generally manage a handicap of around 11, I felt there must be another way to get around the problem.

I looked at my hickories and asked myself what differences there were between them and my steels. Some of my hickories I could hit quite well but others were proving far more difficult. For example my hickory driver would slice no matter how much I closed my stance and aimed left!

Then I realised something and it was not anything I had come across before in all my discussions with other, more experienced hickory devotees. The difference between hickories and steels is that hickories were once LIVING PLANTS! It therefore follows that they have the one ingredient steel does not possess, DNA!

Cliff had kindly lent me a book comprising about 325 pages. It is a book devoted exclusively to Bobby Jones' clubs and written by Sidney L. Matthew. In the book Mr J. Victor East (of East Bros) explains how Bobby Jones asked him to duplicate one of his Drivers, the original having been made by Mr Jack White.

Mr East had to examine over five thousand (yes five thousand) 'pieces of hickory' before determining that there were four which might be a reasonable match. Of those and after much testing he eventually decided that:

'Of the four, two proved to meet the deflection curve of the original and, since they also matched the torsion requirements, were processed into finished clubs. They were checked under various atmospheric conditions and one proved to be the exact duplicate of the original in every respect'.

This narrative by Mr East tended to support my current view that, even though matched sets are offered for sale, I doubt these sets were subjected to the same exacting process applied by Mr East.

The logic I applied is that if hickory has DNA, it makes sense to think that every hickory is an individual piece that cannot be matched without undergoing a 'cloning' process. As far as I am aware cloning has not been applied to the growing of hickory to make golf club shafts.

What came from this thought process? I realised that each of my hickories has its own 'personality' if you will. Therefore I decided I would have to come to understand what each of my clubs could and couldn't do so I could make the necessary swing adjustments.

As a result and after much testing and adjustment, I find I can now generally hit fairways and greens in far less shots than before. I feel much more confident standing over each shot and if it doesn't come off it's because I did not apply the right swing for the club played.

Now I'm not saying this is the answer to everyone's dilemma playing hickories. Yet for me, applying this method has made the game much more enjoyable and has allowed me to develop a modicum of consistency. And isn't this what we all try to achieve no matter whether we play hickories or steels?

Kew Forum

By Tony Rule

The Society's second forum of the year was held at Kew Golf Club. It coincided with the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the club, thus making it the third oldest golf club in Victoria.

The forum was held a week after the club's members celebrated the occasion with a lunch. Fortunately for our members the work put together by the Club's Heritage Committee was still on display.

This included historic clubs, photos and other memorabilia. Not surprisingly the forum was well attended with over 30 people present.

The Society was warmly welcomed by the Kew President Tim Pitt and we enjoyed excellent presentations by the Chair of the Heritage Committee Peter Cairns and former Captain, President and recently appointed Life Member Frank Davis. We thank them for their contribution to what was a very interesting day.

For those interested to learn more about the history of the club's courses and clubhouses over the years the club has prepared a 36 page document which is available to members.







GSA's Tony Rule interviews Geoff Ogilvy

Geoff Ogilvy Dinner at The Royal Melbourne Golf Club

By Tony Rule

Our final dinner of the year welcomed 2006 US Open Champion and now Melbourne resident Geoff Ogilvy. In his capacity as Assistant Captain to Ernie Els for the Internationals Geoff spoke about the upcoming Presidents Cup.

With a 7–6–1 record in three Presidents Cups, and two World Match Play Championship victories, Geoff is one of the most accomplished match play golfers of his generation. A number of topics were covered in the course of the evening such as will Tiger play? Will the real Brooks Koepka turn up? Will Jason Day be a Captain's pick? Who will make up the US Team? What are the dynamics for a successful International Team? Geoff provided well considered and thoughtful replies to all of the questions.

Leading golf journalist, Jamie Diaz, once wrote of Geoff, "He's an intensely curious, fully engaged lover of the game with a gift for the aphoristic that is about four decades beyond his year." This observation was clearly evidenced in the responses that Geoff gave to an engaged audience of over 100 members and their guests.

In another highlight of the evening Andrew Thomson, son of 1998 Captain Peter Thomson, reminisced on the reason behind the one and only success by the Internationals. In essence, the secret was "keep the wives and girlfriends happy and this will keep the players happy."



Ian Rennick, GSA Patron Anne Court and Graeme Ryan



Guest of honour Geoff Ogilvy with GSA Morag North



Walter Travis Trophy

By Justin Ryan

What is believed to be the strongest field in a Victorian hickory event outside the 2018 Australian Hickory Championship at Royal Melbourne assembled at Maldon on July 28 for the fourth annual Walter Travis Trophy.



Shane Gurnett playing to the famous par three 4th hole



2019 champion Mango Maguire with the trophy. Tony Woolley on his left and Simon Sheedy to his right



Richard Macafee playing to the 5th green, with Mt Tarrengower in the background

The 17 participants were greeted with a clear brisk winter's day, and with an average handicap of 5.5 and a number of players wielding newly restored sets, scoring was expected to be hot.

Displaying a rich vein of form coming into the event, local scratch marker Tony Woolley enjoyed early favouritism, but a 77 left him in a tie for 5th, alongside Maldon Club Captain (and current holder of the GSA Don Lawrence Trophy) Simon Sheedy and Shane Gurnett from the Port Fairy Golf Club (combined handicap of one!).

The 2017 Walter Travis winner Richard Macafee played solidly to finish second, with a 74. Richard was to be denied a second title however, being narrowly edged out by Mango Maguire with an exceptional round of 73. In the process he set a new tournament record and joined Pete Shaw, Richard Macafee and Luke Eipper on the trophy.

In the net event, applying the recently adopted hickory handicapping method, Justin Ryan came out in front, with a net 66. Runner up was another local, Chris Walker with a net 70. It was unsurprising to see Chris feature among the winners, being, along with Tony Woolley, a member of the local Tatt family golfing dynasty.

Among the day's highlights was Tim Maxwell being utterly resplendent stepping out in his new Maxwell tartan plus fours. The post round catering was once again a highlight, and the club and sponsors were once more enthusiastic in their support. All this combined with a course that, being relatively short, fun and quirky, is perfect for hickory play, makes this an essential event on the hickory golfing calendar.

JUNIOR GOLF WEEK AT THE BARWON HEADS GOLF CLUB

By Sue Reilly

The Barwon Heads Golf Club was established in 1907. Later, when the clubhouse was opened in 1924, it was described as Australia's first country club, on the nation's first links course. Barwon Heads at the time was a quiet farming and fishing village but holiday times, particularly at Easter and over the summer, saw an influx of families from Geelong, Melbourne and country Victoria, many of whom stayed in cottages along the Barwon River.



In an era well before television, mobile phones and social media, some of the golf club members, during the long summer school holidays, posed the question "What will we do with our children?" At the time, even children who were keen and competent young golfers were not permitted to play in the members' competitions.

In 1928, Mr J. Alston Wallace from the Riverina, who had three young sons, answered the question by presenting a cup, as the trophy for a nine-hole handicap junior golf event for boys and girls 18 years and under. The Wallace Cup, originally a single event, attracted interest and soon became the multi-event Wallace Cup Week. The Ramsay Cup for junior members was introduced in 1946 for those under 21 years of age. In more recent years, with the addition of many more trophies for both girls and boys, it is referred to as Junior Golf Week.

In a photo album of Wallace Cup Week during the 1950s, cuttings from local newspapers reveal its popularity with a record number of 153 entrants in 1957.

Acknowledgment is given to the women members, then known as Associates, who were the main organisers of the week. The women ensured that the children were introduced to the etiquette and rules of the game while the golf professional provided valuable instruction of golf skills.

Social activities were also reported with descriptions of who had house guests and where the dinner parties were being held during the Wallace Cup Week! There was always an evening at the golf club for the young people. In 1958 under the newspaper heading of *People and Parties* it was reported "Over 200 young guests attended and danced in the oak-beamed club house, massed with gladioli and hydrangea."

Except for the war years Junior Golf Week, in its evolving form, has been taking place annually at The Barwon Heads Golf Club since 1928.

There are opportunities for boys and girls of all ages to enter events on the main course as well as the popular par-3 course. There are four varieties of foursome events for children to play with a member or a parent or grandparent. Named trophies are numerous and on many occasions the original presenter of a trophy, or a family member, attends to speak about the history of the event and to present the trophy to the young winner.

Times have changed and young people these days have many competing interests to tempt them during their holiday time at Barwon Heads.





Susan Hayne 1953 Wallace cup day BHGC



Numbers coming to the Junior Golf Week have waxed and waned. Sometimes another day in the surf calls.

No matter how many competitors enter the events, there is always an atmosphere of excitement among the young people, learning new skills and making new friends.

On the social side, dancing among the gladioli has not been offered in recent years! A Monday evening family barbeque however has been a very popular start to Junior Golf Week in the past three years. Babies, toddlers, children and teenagers, along with their parents and grandparents have enjoyed an evening beneath the clubhouse verandah, spilling out onto the 18th fairway.

Entertainment and activities have been organised by the Club staff and a good time has been had by everyone – albeit, in the style of the present era.

Junior Golf Week at The Barwon Heads Golf Club is here to stay!



Clayton's Corner - From the Swamp to the Dunes

By Mike Clayton

The Port Fairy Golf Club is one of the oldest in Victoria. Formed in 1899 the Club produced a centenary history in 1999 titled 'From the Swamp to the Dunes'. Since then the course has continued to evolve and is now one of the most photographed and written about courses in regional Australia. GSA member Mike Clayton has been instrumental in the development of the course. Mike kindly agreed to write this article about the most recent developments at the Club.

The best of Australian golf, by nature of our geography, is almost exclusively found on the sand based coastal land of the biggest cities.

The Mornington Peninsula too has been an important area of high-quality golf architecture – by far the best collection of courses outside a major city.

Ellerston, Royal Canberra and Cathedral Lodge are three excellent inland courses. This trio aside, circumstances have conspired in leaving the country with few inland and country courses able to match the levels of the best of the big cities.

This is the most marked difference between our golf and the game in both the United States and Britain.

One course far from Melbourne and worthy of notice is Port Fairy, a beautiful seaside links that has evolved over time largely through the efforts of passionate members and with a little advice along the way from Bruce Grant and me.

The original course, presumably not a very good one, was close to the centre of the town but the members, chasing better golf, headed out and onto some classic links land. As all the great sandbelt clubs had done, the members wanted more interesting golf on land better suited to the purpose.



The front nine came first in 1963 and in the 1980s the second half of the course evolved three holes at a time until there was a full 18 holes, including the world-class trio of holes from the 14th, in 1985.

In 1990 the club decided to use the last remaining area of the leasehold to build three more holes. These became holes 10, 11 and 12 and three existing holes were dropped. These new holes were opened in 1992.

The long 12th too is a spectacular hole, a description earned from the world-class view back to the town and across the bordering dunes to the ocean beyond. The hole itself is straightaway, somewhat missing strategically, but one saved (and made) by the views and the experience of playing it.

Rex Grady is what everyone would identify a 'club stalwart', a long-time pennant player and someone involved in the building of both the second nine and the course advancements from there. He once told me as we walked the 12th fairway, 'This land used to be undulating – a bit like the 3rd and 5th are now – but while the course superintendent was attending to other areas of the course, the bulldozer operator flattened it! He didn't really have a clue what he was doing. We ruined it really!'

It's still a good hole but it could have been great and once you lose the natural movement it's impossible to get it back.

Much of what Bruce and I did was encourage the club to remove the introduced tee-tree blocking beautiful long views and the most egregious example was where it lined the right edge of the great 14th hole. Some advanced the argument it was some sort of windbreak, but it barely made any difference on what is probably the windiest course in the state.

The tee at the par 3, 15th was about a hundred meters from the 14th green but there was an even better spot to play from only ten meters from the back of the 14th green – a green working perfectly from either the old tee or the one we were proposing. We assumed the original tee would be retained to offer a completely different shot but on our next visit we were shocked to find the members had abandoned the original tee.

"We thought you meant for us to get rid of it!"

It didn't really matter because the new tee proved so popular few would have ever wanted to make the much longer walk to play a lesser shot – albeit still a very good one.

The 5th is a terrific par five playing uphill and over tumbling ground but when we first saw it there was a copse of small trees on the inside corner of the dogleg. On a links, (on any course really) ground hazards (bunkers usually) are always better than aerial ones (trees) and the replacement of one with the other significantly improved the hole and it stands with the best long holes in the state. The same thing happened on the inside (left) side of the 7th hole and the right side of the 1st.

One lesson of Port Fairy is the oft-heard criticism of the final two holes.

'I really like Port Fairy... but the last two holes aren't very good.'

If I've heard it once I've heard it a hundred times.

The classic definition of a links is a course built on the narrow strip of dune lane separating the beach from the farmland beyond. Port Fairy and Barnbougle are two of very few true links in Australia and it is onto the farmland the final two holes encroach.

The 17th and 18th holes are both worthy holes and on the other side of the course with views of the ocean the same critics would be raving about them. The 17th is far from flat, the boundary fence on the right is a nagging presence forcing the timid to the left and all it really needs to make it a first-class hole is something at the front left of the green making the approach more problematic from the left.

It's the exact same strategy employed at The Road Hole at St Andrews.

The 18th now features a burn forty metres short of the green (think Carnoustie's 18th) and cutting across the line of the long second shot. It make a choice for players going for the green in two (or three) shots and whilst the tee shot isn't 'liable to induce attacks of hysteria' (A.W Tillinghast) there is a chance to build an alternate tee on the 'other' side of the 17th green. The tee shot would play across the edge of the practice fairway and the longer the carry across the out of bounds line the shorter the second.

One noticeable, and admirable, feature of British links is judicious use of boundaries as hazards (e.g. Carnoustie 6, Royal St Georges 14, St Andrews 14, 16 and 17, the first holes at Hoylake and Prestwick, North Berwick's 18th and Troon's 11th) but it's hardly ever a feature of the best holes in Australia.

Shorter hitters would be allowed a safe line left without ever having to negotiate the boundary line and while it would be a simple change and ensure the 18th's place amongst the collection of more strategically interesting holes.

Those who haven't visited Port Fairy will find a club, frugally but wisely, run. It's not in 'perfect' condition. How much can you expect with only three on the ground staff? Yet the conditions are perfect for golf. The clubhouse is tiny, yet the atmosphere reminds of the small second-tier courses of Scotland and as a friend of mine once said of Scottish golf, "Give me the second-tier courses any day with no pretention, some great holes and a reasonable price. It's all I can ever ask for."

He's right.

Jim Ferrier's 14 Stroke Australian Open Triumph

By Bernard Whimpress

There have been some big wins in the Australian Open's 114-year history: an 11 stroke margin by Carnegie Clark at Royal Adelaide in 1910; and three by 10 strokes, all at Royal Melbourne – Greg Norman (his third win in 1987), Arthur Le Fevre (1921) and Dan Soutar (1905). However, none could match Jim Ferrier's victory by 14 strokes at Royal Adelaide in 1938.

In examining the 1938 Australian Open in detail it is interesting to discover that it was not simply a four-day event – in fact, play was over three days from 18 to 20 August with 36 holes on the final Saturday. Instead, it was the centrepiece of nearly a fortnight's sequence of golf events which incorporated a couple of professional purses, the Australian Amateur Foursomes title, amateur and professional interstate team events, and the Australian Amateur and Professional Golfers Association championships.

Jim Ferrier was an amateur hot-shot in the 1930s, finishing thrice runner-up in the Australian Open, in 1931 (remarkably, at the age of sixteen), 1933 and 1935; winning the Australian Amateur title in 1935 and 1936; and finishing runner-up in the British Amateur Championship in 1936. Leading into the 1938 Australian Open he was regarded as one of the main contenders along with New South Wales professional von Nida; fellow amateur prodigy Harry Williams, who had won the 1931 and 1937 Australian Amateur titles; five-time Open winner Ivo Whitton; other Open winners – Rufus Stewart (1927), Fergus McMahon (1935) and current champion George Naismith; and PGA title-holder Eric Cremin.

Preliminaries

Saturday 13 August

The players assembled early and the favourites were in top form in separate professional and amateur events. At Kooyonga, Norman von Nida equalled the course record of 67 and following it with 71 to win a professional purse by eight strokes while Ferrier in an amateur scratch event at Royal Adelaide was round in 71. All attention now turned to the Royal Adelaide course at Seaton.

Monday 15 August

Among the amateurs, South Australian pair Bill Rymill and Bill Ackland-Horman won the Australian Foursomes title for the second time, while Eric Cremin scored a brilliant win in a second professional purse.

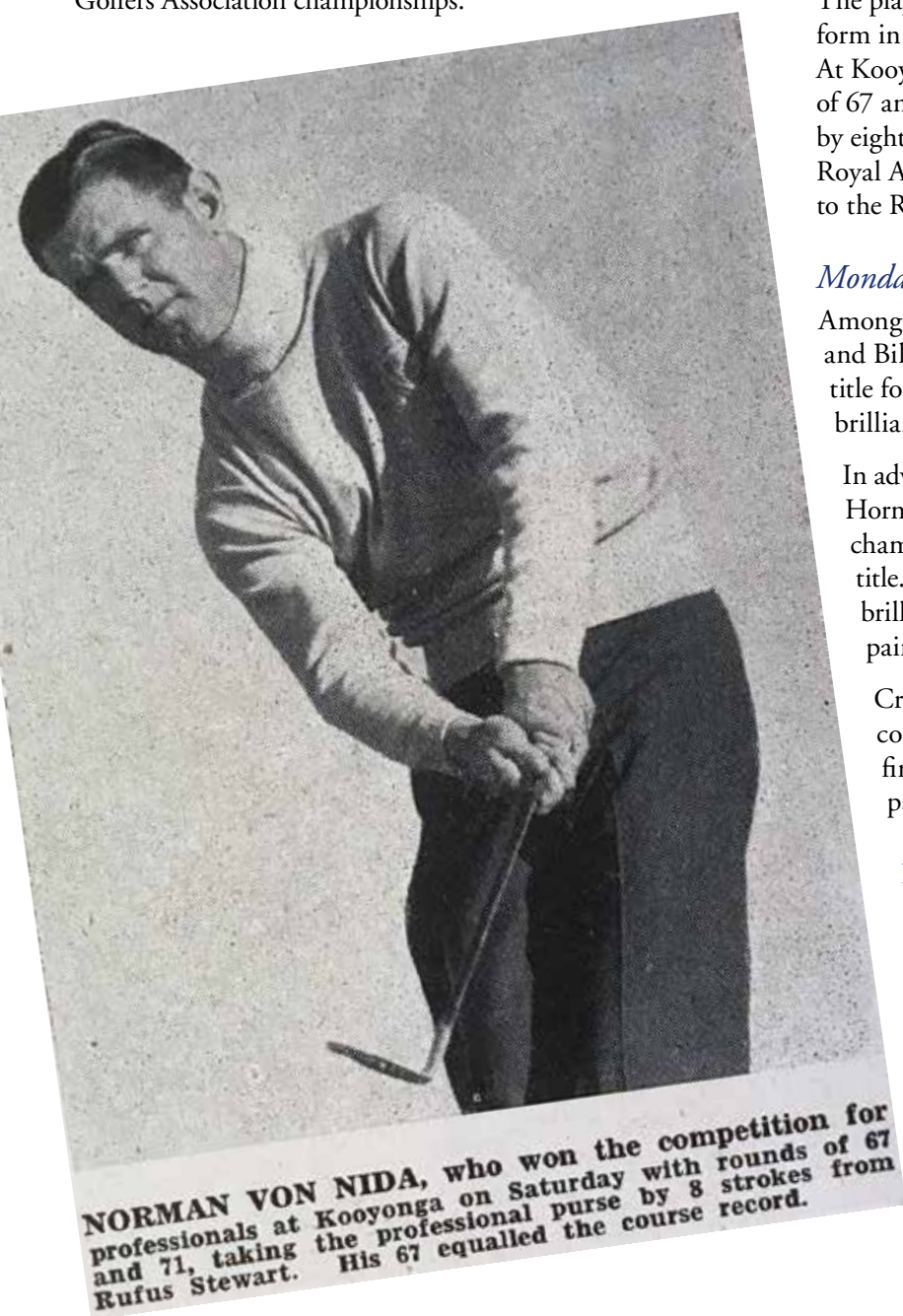
In adverse weather conditions Rymill and Ackland-Horman, the finalists in the South Australian amateur championship, combined to win their second national title. Their two rounds of 75 and 78 had few flashes of brilliance but they played steadily to defeat the Victorian pair of Harry Williams and H Payne by two shots.

Cremin was in brilliant form in the professional competition with two rounds of 71 which gave him first place by two strokes from von Nida who had a pair of 72s.

Tuesday 16 August

In an amateur competition between the states, South Australia won by defeating Victoria four matches to three, and New South Wales by five matches to two.

The Vicars Shield, awarded for a professional teams competition, saw New South Wales victorious over South Australia and Victoria. Among the highlights of the day's play were the defeats of leading professionals von Nida by South Australian Willie Harvey, and Cremin by Ted Naismith.



The Open

Day 1, Thursday 18 August

Ferrier was at work as a journalist and in the Adelaide Advertiser on the morning preceding play he predicted a winning score of between 286 and 290. Furthermore, he commented that the Seaton layout offered a challenge to leading players, and that the winner would have to prove his adaptability because he would find a collection of holes that would be found on a dozen different courses. Perhaps he was attempting to lead his opponents into a false sense of security because he did not mention himself among the contenders. Instead, he suggested Cremin, von Nida, Fergus McMahon and Sam Richardson as the four players who stood out as likely winners.

As it eventuated, however, Ferrier, after avoiding an early disaster, gave a masterly exhibition of golf to finish with 71 and hold a one stroke lead. von Nida, needing a birdie and par over the last two holes to share the lead, crashed at the seventeenth with a disastrous seven and finished with a 75. In second place was Grange professional W Robertson with 72 along with New South Welshmen Cremin and J Petersen, and Queenslander W Anderson.

Day 2, Friday 19 August

A magnificent record-breaking second round of 68 enabled Ferrier to open up a six stroke lead on a day when 18 South Australians were represented in the top 60 players.

Ferrier's two-round total of 139 put him well clear of his nearest rival Cremin, who partnered him and whose score of 73 gave him second place in the field. Winner had a brilliant outward nine of 33 (matching Ferrier) but a homeward 39 left him with 72 and third spot with 146, while George Naismith's masterly 71 moved him up to fourth position.

Friday's play was marked by glorious sunshine, a morning breeze blew slightly from the east but later changed to a brisk southerly. Ferrier's score was convincing proof of his ability. In this championship his last 27 holes had totalled 102 and it was felt he would only have to stand upright to win on the final day when 36 holes would be played.

Day 3, Saturday 20 August

As it turned out Ferrier had a massive victory. He made no mistake with a four round total of 283. By shooting 72 in the morning he extended his lead over Cremin to nine strokes and he wanted a 70 in his final round to beat American star Gene Sarazen's 282 at Metropolitan in 1936 but had to settle for another 72.



von Nida finished in second place with 297. After opening with 75 and 77 he showed better form with 71 in the third round and 74 in the fourth to close one stroke clear of George Naismith and Ron Harris.

National amateur champion Williams, the brilliant Victorian left-hander, at last revealed his sublime skills with a scintillating 68 in his morning round (34 each way) but was troubled by a nose bleed from the thirteenth hole in the afternoon to post a 78.

Ferrier had drawn further away from the field with every round played but it remained to be seen whether he could achieve the rare double of winning the Open and the Amateur Championship in the same year.

J Ferrier (a)	71, 68, 72, 72	283
N von Nida	75, 77, 71, 74	297
G Naismith	76, 71, 76, 75	298
R Harris	75, 73, 73, 77	298
H Williams (a)	80, 73, 68, 78	299
A Toogood	76, 76, 74, 73	299
E Cremin	72, 73, 75, 79	299
S Richardson	75, 79, 75, 70	299

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From the first 16 professionals in the Open (qualifying score, 307) and the first 16 amateurs (qualifying score, 313) would now begin a second week of play for their respective championships with 36 holes of match play contested each day.

Aftermath – Amateur and PGA Championships

Monday 22 August

The headlines after the first day were accorded to Willie Harvey's win on the last green after a remarkable recovery in the professional match, and Winner's shock win over amateur champion Williams.

Fighting back from an almost impossible position of five down with seven to play Harvey snatched victory from Martin Smith one up. Although Winsor was six up on Williams at the end of 18 holes he had to produce brilliant golf to stave off a wonderful attack by his opponent before winning six and four. AP McLachlan did well to hold Ferrier for 24 holes but was defeated six and five.

Tuesday 23 August

Three big wins marked the quarter-finals among the amateurs but Cremin fought a nail-biting finish against Harvey to win one up.

Ferrier and Rymill smashed veterans Whitton and Winsor by margins of 14 and 13, and 12 and 11, but as the matches were played in steady driving rain Whitton and Winsor were handicapped by wearing spectacles. Although Harvey figured in another dramatic recovery he was defeated on the last green when Cremin laid a long second shot against the pin. George Naismith and von Nida were both in good form and achieved comfortable seven and six wins.

Wednesday 24 August

After the semi-final stage Ferrier had the chance to win the double of Open and Amateur championships, and Cremin would defend his PGA title against fellow Sydney professional C Booth who had won the 1933 NSW Open but thereafter spent most of his time at his Moore Park club.

Defeating Rymill six and five, Ferrier could accomplish a feat which had only been achieved twice previously. The upset at the professional's semi-final stage was Booth's win over von Nida on the last green.

Thursday 25 August

Ferrier duly won the double by defeating H Payne eight and six while Cremin retained his PGA title.

Both Ferrier and Cremin finished under par and Booth was only one over. Payne missed an eighteen inch putt on the first hole but after that five holes were halved.



Ferrier took three putts from the edge of the sixth, but in doing so stymied¹ Payne after he had chipped to within three feet of the hole. Ferrier went two up when he sank a ten foot putt for two on the seventh, and the next two holes were halved, but he gained control of the match on the back nine.

Ferrier repeated the Australian double in 1939, left for the United States the following year, and turned professional in March 1941. He won 18 times on the PGA tour and was the first Australian to win a major championship when he gathered the 1947 US PGA Championship. Ferrier might also have won the 1950 Masters when he led Jimmy Demaret by three strokes with six holes to play but crumbled and fell into second place.

Ferrier's Australian Open wins in 1938 and 1939 marked the end of an era when amateur golfers might expect to attain success. Bruce Devlin defeated fellow amateur Ted Ball to win the 1960 title, and Aaron Baddeley's first win in 1999 have been the only exceptions to professional dominance since the Second World War.

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¹ A stymie is an archaic rule in golf. In match play a player could sometimes block his opponent by hitting his ball between that of his opponent and the cup. The blocked player would sometimes then attempt to chip his ball over the obstacle ball and into the hole. Stymies were removed from the Rules of Golf in 1952.



Kingarrock Clubhouse



2nd Hole



9th Hole



David Worley with David Anderson at Kingarrock

A Scottish Treat – Kingarrock Golf Club

By David Worley, GSA Member

If you want to go back in time in respect of both clubs and balls then Kingarrock should be your destination. I'm not sure how I first heard of Kingarrock but once I was aware of it then it was a must experience golfing destination. It is located about 10 miles west of St Andrews just off the A91 at Hill of Tarvit near the town of Cupar.

My wife and I visited in the Scottish summer of 2014.

A 9 hole course that first existed around 1924 on this magnificent estate of the Sharp family was recently restored with the help of the National Trust and the R&A.

The house is open to visitors and includes a lovely little café that I can recommend for lunch or afternoon tea. The pretty grounds include croquet lawns, one of which was once a beautifully manicured grass tennis court.

The house overlooks the pretty 9 hole course that is maintained by a staff of just one – by chance an Australian expat who did his apprenticeship 20 years ago at Kingston Heath.

As an experiment, they have not been using any artificial fertilisers or weed killers.

You can only play Kingarrock with the old hickory clubs that you select there. Balls and 'reddy tees' are provided. Here's the difference – the golf balls have been specifically made so as to approximate the distance you would achieve with a ball circa 1924 or 1898 – your choice. In 1898 was the Haskell ball was patented as the first rubber wound golf ball.

Our host was the charming David Anderson who took great pleasure in explaining the history of Kingarrock. If you play your cards right then your round will be rewarded with a wee nip at the conclusion. Make sure he shows you a copy of the original rules of golf as set out on the 7th March 1744.

The holes are relatively undulating and the greens are understandably quite small. There are only a few shallow bunkers but all are made a bit more difficult by the long grassy 'eyebrows'.

You will enjoy the fun and relative solitude of Kingarrock and its unique ambience – but don't take the golf too seriously.



Woodlands Golf Club 3rd Hole

Woodlands Brush work

Woodlands Golf Club watercolours by renowned GSA Member, Robert A. Wade OAM

I had my first game on this fine course way back in 1956 with fellow artist Wes Walters, and over the next 50 years or so I enjoyed return games on many social occasions.

I have always regarded it as one of our most underrated tracks, if you don't believe me, have a round there yourself!

These sketches are 7"x10" and were produced for the Woodlands Committee to choose one as the subject of a large watercolour painting for their clubhouse. The holes chosen were to be my choice initially and final selection to be approved by the Woodland's sub-committee. The two holes I selected were the 3rd and the 7th. My choice was based on the superb bunkering of each green and my memories of a few horrible missed putts.

The Woodland's Committee then made their choice; it was the 7th hole. The finished painting now hangs in their Clubhouse.

The 3rd, a short par-4 turning to the right, asks for a tee shot placed safely at the corner of the dogleg with a fairway wood or a long iron. From there the pitch is probably the single most difficult short wedge shot in Australia. The small green sits well above the natural grade of the fairway and is protected both front and to the left by fearsome bunkers. Saving a par here if you miss the green is extraordinarily difficult – as it should be on a drive and pitch hole. – Mike Clayton



7th Hole



Winner Steve Ellis and President Graeme Ryan

Insert: David Worley and Steve Ellis



2019 Presidents Trophy

Monday 15 July at Metropolitan Golf Club

By Kim Hastie, Secretary

Metropolitan Golf Club was the host for this year's Presidents Trophy, as the event's most regular venue Royal Melbourne Golf Club is deep in Presidents Cup preparations.

This 9-hole fun event allows the players only 7 clubs and the four best nett scores qualify for sudden death matchplay. The predicted wintry weather stayed away, and the players completed their 9 holes of qualifying in fine conditions.

This year the golf shop processed the cards and determined the top four scores, allowing the Secretary a more relaxing lunch and relieving her of that important task.

At lunch, President Graeme Ryan welcomed the group and facilitated something extra for us. Graeme's guest for the day was Dean Sullivan, a member at Blackwood Golf Club, and he kindly ran a short film of the 1932 Australian Amateur at Royal Adelaide Golf Club.

To give some background Graeme spoke before the film about the notable players we were about to see, such as Mick Ryan and gave an insight into the sad story of the young and very talented Harry Williams.

This wonderful and thoroughly enjoyable footage didn't contain any audio. The film quality was very good and gave us great images of the players, the course and conditions of this tournament in 1932.

After lunch, the top four nett scores were determined with several players in a countback for the 4th spot. Secretary Kim read out the players for the matches, noting she had just missed on qualifying in the fourth spot.

Steve Ellis was the top qualifier (38) and was to play David Worley (40) with Grant McKay 2nd qualifier (39) playing Peter Stickley (39). Following lunch several groups followed the two matches from the 10th tee.

Top qualifier Steve won his match on the first hole against regular Society event participator and last year's winner David Worley. In the second match Grant defeated Peter on their first hole.

The final pair moved to their first hole the Par 3 11th. Steve made the green but some metres past the hole and Grant replied with a flushed iron to the pin, giving himself a good chance for birdie and the win. Steve made a great two putt for his par and Grant agonisingly missed his putt for a 2 so the match continued to the Par 4 12th.

With both in good positions off the tee, Grant hit a greenside pot for two, but Metro's famed bunkers gave him some trouble. After taking several to get out, a super one putt secured his 7. It was one too many as Steve made his 6, claiming the Presidents Trophy win for 2019.

Following the golf, players and gallery returned to the clubhouse for refreshments and presentations. The Golf Society thanks Metropolitan and the staff for their hospitality ensuring another successful day.



Hickory Heroes and Heroines Report

By Claire Walker

Since the last edition, Golf Society members and their guests have attended three Hickory Heroes & Heroines Happenings. These 9 hole events are organised every month.

The first event was held on Friday 5 July at Heidelberg Golf Club. A group of six attended. Even though small in numbers, the weather was fabulous, which matched the course, even more fabulously and so was the company. Neil Walker came 1st and me 2nd – home ground advantage helps!!

Kew Golf Club was the next event, held on Monday 19 August. The occasion coincided with the Historians Forum and so many hickory enthusiasts attended both. An excellent and entertaining day was had by all.

The beautiful and challenging golf course was played and the clubhouse facilities at Metropolitan enjoyed by 15 golfers on Tuesday 17 September.

Our next Happening is on Sunday 3rd November at Sandhurst.

The end of year function is being held at Woodlands on Wednesday 19 December with a BBQ dinner afterwards. This event includes the Annual Hickory Heroes Trophy.

Look forward to seeing you at these Happenings. We play off the women's tees if that's some consolation. Heed the challenge and play golf with beautifully restored hickory clubs.

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.

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