

# *The Brassie*

*The Golf Collectors Society of Australia News Vol 5 Issue 3*

## "To the Fore"- Captain's Report

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July, the "Hickory Experience" was played out over 18 holes in a 4 ball ambrose at Royal Sydney with a regular Thursday group of some 24 RSGC members courtesy of GCSA member David Williams. Tom, Peter Read, Michael Skeret and myself were in attendance as the "experts" with hickories to help the members enjoy the experience. Players entered into the spirit of the event with adventurous outfits, one sporting a kilt and red-haired wig! Our own group shot a commendable 75 (39/36) on a shortened par 70 course, winning the event with 64.5 nett. At the 19<sup>th</sup> it was decided to make the day a fixture to be played each year on the Thursday of British Open week. The "Hickory Experience" has not only claimed a new group of enthusiasts but one was heard to ask "why do I use 460cc graphite drivers when I can hit a little hickory just as far?" Tom – there may be a market at RSGC for hickory drivers!

Tom and my dad are off to the Gold Coast in early Sept. (6-9) to wave the flag at Stand #2516 of the PGA Golf Show- drop in if you are in the vicinity. Volunteers will be needed to assist manning the "tent" at the Australian GC 13-16 Dec. during the Australian Open. Pop it in your diary now to come for at least a day – we could be on T.V. as the Howard family was represented in 1931 at the "Ozzie" when dad aged 18 made the first of a number of appearances in the Open. Also in the field was T.E. Howard (dad's father), who won in 1923. On that occasion son did not beat father and it also took me many years to finally beat "the old man".

Following positive comments on the books mentioned last edition, can I suggest two that I have just finished that are a great read about the "Wee Ice Mon". The first, written by James Dodson (author of Final Rounds – another good read) is "Ben Hogan, an American Life" and second "Hogan" written by Curt Sampson. Just loved one quip from Hogan's wife when Ben was lamenting privately on not winning due to his putting letting him down. She said "Just hit it closer dear".

And that ladies and gentlemen is my Thought of the month.

Best Regards,

Ross Howard.

MUSEUM REPORT – A grant of \$900 was received from Museums and Galleries N.S.W.. Roxanne Fea has been engaged to produce an interpretive display which will make our museum much more attractive to visitors.

HICKORY DAYS – Avalon, postponed due to wet weather, is now on Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. All members invited – cost \$50-58 including lunch – proceeds to the Cheshire Foundation. Entries to John Ayliffe on 9974 4341.

– Cammeray – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. – 9.00A.M. shotgun start – All members welcome to play and stay for lunch – a fun day at the friendliest club in Sydney. Entries to Tom – 98712798.

OUR NEW NAME – The merger between the Aust. Historic Golf Trust and the Golf Collectors is nearing completion. The new name chosen is N.S.W. GOLF HERITAGE TRUST INC. which has been registered. A new constitution will be collaboratively written with members input. Following the completion of the draft a general meeting will be called for ratification.

PEOPLE – Ian Alexander was in Scotland helping Peter Fowler at the British Open. After qualifying Pete had 73,74 failing by a shot to make the cut.

– Mal and wife Judy just returned from a cruise – Darwin to Broome – calling in at the most spectacular coastal scenery – perfect golf country except for the rocks, weather and remoteness! (also the water hazards are full of BIG lizards)

EVENTS – We are having a display at the P.G.A. Golf Show on the Gold Coast Sept. 6-9.

– We hope to have a display at the Australian Open – at the Australian Golf Club Dec.13-16 – to be confirmed.

We encourage you to visit us at these displays – records of visitation help us with our grants.

No word yet about when we will feature on the A.B.C. Collectors show.

– Don't forget PERTH 2008 – Prepare now!

BUY/SWAP/SELL/DONATE – This is a free service to members only. Any items that you'd like listed, please contact Mal at 1 Kelvin Court, Oatlands, 2117 Ph/Fax 02 96832969 or email (PLEASE NOTE MY NEW ADDRESS) [mbray4@bigpond.com](mailto:mbray4@bigpond.com)

NEW MEMBERS – Welcome Doug Sadler Dubbo Golf Club historian. Doug is keen to research and write on golf and other sports – especially the effects of technology on sport. Contact Doug at 80 Sterling St., Dubbo, 2830, Ph. (02)68829146. Doug has sent us a great story about the Dubbo caddies strike. If you'd like a copy contact Doug or Mal.

FEATURE ARTICLE - Contributed by President Tom.

RUST REMOVAL FROM IRON GOLF CLUB HEADS

1. Mix 50 gms Citric Acid with 10 gms Thiourea and 500mls warm water. \*
2. Ensure the head is thoroughly de-greased with petroleum spirits.
3. Place the head in the mixture – Never place heads with different metals in the “bath” as electrolytic coating may occur.
4. Brush with cotton bud or soft brush every 5 mins. To remove surface deposits.
5. Leave for 1-24 hours (dep on extent of rust penetration) then rinse under running water for about 5 mins till neutral pH is reached (ie. No more acid)
6. De-water in Ethanol or Acetone.
7. Coat the head with microcrystalline wax (any furniture wax with a Turpentine base will do)
8. Now only handle the head with cotton gloves.

\*The amount of water is not critical – you can make a stronger or weaker solution.

Collectors at Play – Dan Cullen Trophy Day – Long Reef 2/3/07



R- L Dan Cullen jnr, Tom Moore, Dan Cullen, Geoff Martin, Roger Weik, Jim Boots, And Al Howard, A great day was had by all.

VALE - NORMAN VON NIDA

*Sadly we said farewell to "The Von" on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Von died at his retirement village on the Gold Coast. He was one of Australia's finest golfers. Astute judges have told me in the years leading up to WW2 he was unbeatable. The 5 war years robbed him of what should have been his best years.*

*In 1946 he set sail for Britain and arrived with 17 pounds in his pocket, but he had an unshakeable confidence in his ability. That he set the golfing scene in Britain alight is the stuff of legends.*

*Von went on then to encourage our young guns to try their luck overseas and helped Bruce Crampton, Bruce Devlin, David Graham, Frank Phillips, Peter Thompson and Jack Newton.*

*Von was a keen supporter of our society and donated several items from his collection to our museum.*

*Dan Cullen Trophy Competitors in full Regalia  
Long Reef G.C. 2/3/07*



*L to R Henry Paterson, Des Froneman, Ross Howard and John Fletcher*