



The aim of AGHS is to encourage the collection, research, recording and preservation of information and objects connected with the history of golf in Australia, to inform golfers, golf clubs and the community in general..

February 2009

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Patron

Dan Cullen

Management Committee

Bruce Nairn, <i>President & Chairperson</i>
Secretary (to be appointed)
Malcolm McIntosh, <i>Treasurer</i>
Michael Sheret, <i>Captain & Publications,</i>
Tom Moore, <i>Museum</i>
Historians Group (to be appointed)
Jim Glenday, <i>NSWGA Representative</i>
Frances Crampton, <i>WGNSW Representative</i>
Kyle Francis, <i>PGA Representative</i>

President's Message



Two members of our Management Committee have recently resigned. Erwin Huber, Convenor of the Historians Group, has been forced to resign due to ill health. We all wish Erwin well and a speedy recovery. Increased business commitments have made it necessary for our Secretary, Henry Paterson, to resign. We need to fill these positions promptly. We need members to volunteer, someone from the Historians Group and someone, preferably with a relevant background, for the secretary position.

Our membership continues to increase steadily. We now have 97 paid-up members. In a significant development a new category of membership was approved at our AGM in November. This allows golf clubs to join for an annual fee of \$100 and to nominate one voting member and two non-voting members. The main purpose of this new membership category is to encourage golf clubs to record and publish their history. Barry Leithhead has prepared the invitation for golf clubs to join; this is now being printed and will be circulated to NSW golf clubs shortly.

I have great pleasure in congratulating PGA Life Member and our Museum Curator, Tom Moore, on being honoured with the Golden Tee Award at the recent NSW/ACT PGA Awards and Graduation Night. The Golden Tee is an industry-wide award for services to golf and has been bestowed only once in the past five years.



Our Captain, Michael Sheret, ably assisted by Jim Glenday and Tom Moore on the Playing Sub-Committee, has compiled an excellent playing program for 2009. I am particularly pleased to see that the match between ourselves and the Golf Society of Australia has been revived. As you'll see in the coming months we are making serious efforts to publicise our Championship in November to attract larger fields.

The Historians' collection of books had some on golf instruction surplus to its requirements. These have been donated to the PGA to be kept and used at their Sandhurst headquarters.

Michael, with generous assistance from Tom Winter, continues to produce and edit *The Brassie*. Michael and Tom deserve our thanks for what has once again become an excellent publication.

Bruce Nairn

Captain’s Message

A field of twenty five players contested the 2008 Australian Hickory Club Championship at Cronulla GC on 18 November. Our new champion is AGHS member Rex MacKay with a splendid score of 82 gross. Tony Pickrell won the handicap prize with a net score of 73. These were very good scores with the bunkers in play and the ball played as it lies. A special prize for the best net score by a non-AGHS member went to John Garth of Cronulla GC. While there was no prize for best-dressed I thought a photograph in *The Brassie* was in order. For 2009 this event will revert to its original name, the Australian Hickory Shaft Championship.



The extremely elegant Geoff is on the right of the picture

The Society played a match against members of The Lakes on 22 January. All the four-ball matches were close, but the Society won the day by the narrowest of margins, overall four holes up as against three holes up for The Lakes. We played over nine holes, seven of which were holes recently re-designed by Michael Clayton Design. The Lakes is probably the most difficult course ever played by the Society, but that seemed not to hamper the enthusiasm and enjoyment of the players.

In this issue you will see that we have a schedule of events for the year ahead; this may be a first for the Society. I regard the match on 13 May at Thurgoona CC between AGHS and the Golf Society of Australia to be one of our most important events. It’s a chance to exchange news and views with our Melbourne-based colleagues. Please let’s have a big turnout for the AGHS side. GSA are keen and I hear that they think they are going to win this match.

Michael Sheret

Museum Report

We have had three recent successful displays at golf tournaments:

- NSW Open at the Vintage GC,
- Australian Open at the Royal Sydney GC,
- Australian Women’s Open at Metropolitan GC.

The latter two displays were shared with the Golf Society of Australia. At all three events we had prominent positions in the tented village. We had a constant stream of visitors. Star of the show at the Australian Open and the Australian Women’s Open was master craftsman Ross Baker, who, using traditional tools and materials, crafted a longnose, scare-necked putter from the raw materials to the finished article. At the conclusion of the Women’s Open in Melbourne the longnose putter was auctioned with the proceeds going to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.



The longnose scare-necked putter from start to finish.
(Photo reproduced with permission from *The Long Game*, newsletter of The Golf Society of Australia).

The Museum Sub-Committee met on 8 February. Among other items, we discussed greater advertising of the Museum, including brochures in hotels and information centres, organised visits from students at sports-oriented high schools, organised visits for PGA trainees

Tom Moore

Historians Group Report

Unfortunately, Erwin Huber has had to resign from his position as Convenor of the Historians Group and the AGHS Management Committee for reasons of ill-health. Erwin has done a sterling job for the Group. We hope he regains his health and he has our best wishes for a speedy recovery. At this stage there is no replacement to take over as History Group Convenor. If you would like to join the Historian’s leaders group please contact me at; barry.leithhead@bigpond.com or (02) 9652 1430.

Golf Club History

After an extended period of preparation and planning, AGHS is about to launch its new membership category for golf clubs. With NSWGA and WGNSW support, we are approaching all 400+ affiliated golf clubs in NSW to 1) set up a history group, 2) join AGHS and 3) complete a survey of their club’s history that will start an update of David Innes’s *Story of Golf in New South Wales*.

Historians Activities

Our first seminar for 2009 will feature Australia’s best known golf writer, Terry Smith, who has written four very popular books – Australian Golf - The First 100 years, The Complete Book of Australian Golf, Aussie Golf Trivia and The (Australian Open) Champions and the courses they played.

We expect the rescheduled Search the Archives seminar to be held in late June at Women’s Golf office at Homebush. Other activities in August and October will be on topics such as:

- Making History – a golf club starts on the process of finding its hidden history.
- How much research is enough? – Golf club historians search and research until ... enough is enough and there’s an urge to write, or is it a lack of further progress in the research?
- Beyond the writing – the steps and stages of getting a good manuscript to be a worthwhile book.

Barry Leithhead

News of Members

New members are:

Len Brandon (*The Lakes GC, Mount Broughton G&CC*).

David Collinson (*The Lakes GC*).

Richard Doyle (*Glenmore CC*).
President of the Sydney Veterans' Golf Association.

Paul Gladwin (*Avondale GC*).

Ian Pemberton (*Willesley Park GC, UK*).

We’re not perfect at *The Brassie*. If we’ve missed out any new members in this or the previous issue, please let the editor know.

There was a nice article about Tom Moore and the Museum published in the February issue of *Inside Social Golf*. The article was on Tom’s search for a Slazenger H.T golf ball, an Australian ball no longer manufactured.



Editor’s Note

Greg Ramsay, the author of Clyde Pearce, Golf Champion, is a member of our Society and a member of Royal Hobart GC, Bothwell GC and Bridport GC. Greg dreamed up and co-developed Barnbogle Links and is currently restoring and extending Ratho Farm Golf Links in Bothwell, Tasmania. Greg also runs the Australian Golf Heritage Festival.

Work has started on developing an AGHS website. Tom Winter is doing the design & development work with input, initially, from myself. If any member with the necessary technical and editorial skills would like to volunteer to be the webmaster, please get in touch with me.

Michael Sheret

Coming Events in 2009 (for your diary)

Friday, 13 March: Dan Cullen Trophy at Long Reef GC. 10 hole 2-ball ambrose. 2 pm start. (*Details in inserted page*)

Saturday, 28 March: Hickory day at Kurri Kurri GC for Kurri Kurri members. AGHS members welcome to play.
(*Tom Moore would like volunteers to help him on the day*)

Thursday, 9 April: 18-hole 4BBB match play, AGHS v. Windsor Country GC Vets. 9 am to 10:30 am. (*Details in inserted page*)

Thursday, 30 April: Seminar *Writing About Golf*. Speaker Terry Smith. 10 am. NSWGA Arncliffe office. (*Details in inserted page*)

Wednesday, 13 May: AGHS v The Golf Society of Australia. Thurgoona CC. Singles match play. (*Details in inserted page*)

Late June: Seminar. *Search the Archives*. Women’s Golf, Homebush office. (*Date and time to be confirmed*)

August: 9-hole Stableford followed by show-and-tell. Rosnay GC. (*Date and tee-times to be booked*)

Thursday, 15 October: Port Kembla. 13-hole singles. PKGC members invited to join in.

Tuesday, 10 November: 18-hole Australian Hickory Shaft Championship. Georges River GC. 12 noon start.
Pre-registration for this event, the most important on our calendar, will be trialled.

Clyde Pearce, Golf Champion

It is just over 100 years since the first Australian born golfer won both our national championships. After several earlier heartbreaking defeats, Tasmanian sheep farmer Clyde Pearce won both the Australian Open and Amateur in 1908, defeating two of his long-time nemeses, expatriate Brits Dan Soutar in the Open and Michael Scott in the Amateur. Pearce had been runner-up twice previously. His 1908 victories at the Australian Golf Club finally demonstrated that the colonial boys could match it with, and defeat, the mother country's finest golfers.



The 2008 Australian Open at Royal Sydney was the centenary of Clyde Pearce's Open victory. How fitting would it have been if only fellow Tasmanian Mat Goggin had been able to win the play-off to see a second Tasmanian victory, 100 years since the first!

Pearce's golfing record is often forgotten despite further national success after 1908, and a barnstorming tour with his brother Bruce to the British major championships in 1911. On this 1911 tour Clyde won the Medal in the Irish Amateur, and Bruce won the North of Scotland Open at Cruden Bay. Bruce was proclaimed "the finest left-hander golf has ever known" after he reached the

quarter-finals of the British Amateur, defeating Chick Evans, future US Open and Amateur Champion, along the way.

In 1915 Clyde volunteered to serve in World War I from his new Western Australian estate, where he was farming with fellow Australian Open champion Claude Felstead. Clyde started as a private and reached the rank of lieutenant. He survived the hell of Gallipoli and being sunk in his troop ship by a U-Boat off Crete. He survived injuries in the western trenches of France. In the end Clyde Pearce gave his life trying to extract a fallen colleague from a shell crater during the Battle of Lightning Ridge.



Clyde Pearce in action 1909.

It was a thrill for me to reconstruct Clyde Pearce's swing from a series of still pictures. The full sequence will be shown during the 2009 Australian Golf Heritage Festival being staged across Tasmania from May 21-26. During the festival the Pearce Trophy will be contested as part of the National Hickory Championships at Ratho Farm Golf Links, Australia's oldest golf course. To find out more about these events e-mail: lynette@rathogolf.com or visit: www.rathogolf.com.

Greg Ramsay

The Golf Museum at Granville is proudly sponsored by Golf Mart and supported by the NSW Golf Association, Women's Golf Australia and Museums & Galleries New South Wales.