

the Brassie

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.

April 2016

Vale Dan Cullen (1914 - 2016)

Contents

Vale Dan Cullen
President's Report
Free Talk: Early Golfers in
Ireland, America, India and
Australia
Tribute to Dan (Denzil) John
Cullen
Schenectady putter
Coming Hickory Events
AGHS Museum Report
History Report
Dan Cullen Trophy

Patrons

Margery McWilliam OAM
Frank Phillips
Charlie Earp
(Queensland Chapter)

Management Committee

John Buckley,
President and Chairperson
Ross Howard, Captain
Steve Doorey,
Secretary and Treasurer
Tom Moore, PGA
Gerry Bush, Golf NSW
Tony Doggett
Norm Richardson
Phil Baird

Editors of The Brassie

Vicki Stanton
Steve Doorey

Collection Manager

Vicki Stanton



The Society lost a great friend and supporter with the passing on 26 January of Dan Cullen, long time member and Patron, at the age of 101 after a short illness.

Born in Bunbury Western Australia, Dan's career in golf began almost by accident when he and his younger brother were caught pinching figs from a tree on the Mt. Yokine (now Western Australian Golf Club) course. By way of penance, they were set to weeding greens which, in turn, led to caddying. This then progressed to a traineeship at Mt. Yokine under the guidance of professional Eric Alberts, joining the PGA in 1932, moving to the Cottesloe Club with Alberts, and then to the Nedlands Club by himself.

A two-time winner of the Western Australian Open (1938 and 1939), Dan headed to Sydney on the advice of South African professional Bobby Locke. Dan enlisted in the RAAF in 1941 and was ultimately posted to Europe piloting Lancaster bombers with 460 Squadron – a job that held less than a one in four chance of survival. For his actions on an operation over Friedrichshafen in April 1944, Dan was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Later in life, he received the Legion d'Honneur Medal, the highest decoration in France, for his war service.

Upon returning home in 1945, Dan was appointed Club Professional at Roseville Golf Club before moving to St Michael's Golf Club. He taught the game to thousands through Cullen's Driving Range which he operated in the late 1960s. Between 1948 and 1960, Dan served as Director and Chairman of the NSW PGA, and as President of the PGA from 1951 to 1955. In 1977, Dan qualified for The Open. Aged 64, he was the oldest qualifier in the tournament's history.

Dan's long and loyal service to the golf industry and the dedication he showed in promoting the game will continue to be remembered. His funeral was held on 2 February at St Mary's Cathedral.

The Australian Golf Heritage Society extends its sincere condolences to the Cullen family.

President's Report



It is with a great deal of sadness that I report the passing of our long serving patron Dan Cullen, a highly respected and much admired gentleman who offered much to the game of golf. Dan had a distinguished career, winning many golf tournaments both locally and internationally.

Now having lost two of our patrons in a relatively short time (Kel Nagle last year), much thought has been given to their replacements. I am pleased to announce that Frank Phillips has agreed to become patron. Frank was a giant in Australian golf in the 1950s and 60s winning the Australian Open in 1957 and 1962, together with several events on the Asian Circuit. Frank also represented Australia in the Canada Cup in 1958, and held the position of club professional at Oatlands and Ryde-Parramatta. He now lives in quiet retirement in glorious Moss Vale, where he can still be seen practising on the fairways of Mount Broughton Golf Club.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 1 December 2015 and a new Management Committee duly elected. On behalf of the Society, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to John Lock who has retired from the committee primarily due to some health issues. I am hoping that once he is fully recovered he seriously considers returning. John has spent countless hours working in his role as secretary and will be very much missed. I wish him well in the recovery process and sincerely hope it won't be long before we see him back.

The museum continues to show improvement in its presentation thanks to the Museum Sub-Committee guided by our curator Vicki Stanton. The Historians Sub-Committee is also working well under the guidance of Michael Sheret and ably supported by Norm Richardson.

The AGHS Management Committee is in the process of putting the final touches to our strategic plan and as soon as we are satisfied we will share our thoughts with the membership.

John Buckley
President

FREE TALK: Early Golfers in Ireland, America, India and Australia

From the earliest days, military golfers have had a significant role in spreading the game of golf outside the British Isles. The mariners and civil servants of the British Empire also played their part in popularising the game in far foreign fields. This illustrated presentation will show the results of extensive research over the past 30 years.

Everyone is welcome to this free talk by visiting golf historian, Colonel William Gibson:

AGHS MUSEUM

4 Parramatta Rd Granville (above Golf Mart – access by stairs only)

5 pm Thursday 28 April 2016

A retired army officer, Bill has extensively researched the history of his own club, Royal Curragh Golf Club in County Kildare. His research provided the evidence that Royal Curragh had its beginnings as far back as 1852, with military personnel posted to the area. Bill was made an honorary life member of Royal Curragh in 2009. He has also researched and published the definitive work on the very earliest golf known to have been played in Ireland, dating back to the early 17th century.



Bill with the Distinguished Service Award from Irish Golf Writers, 2011

For further information, contact the History Sub-Committee on the Historians page of www.australiangolfheritage.org.au. Alternatively, telephone the AGHS Museum, 10am to 4pm Sundays on 02 9637 4720 at 4 Parramatta Road (above Golf Mart – stair access), Granville NSW.

Tribute to Dan (Denzil) John Cullen

AGHS Captain Ross Howard reflects on the passing of AGHS friend and patron Dan Cullen with some thoughts garnered from the Howard family archives.

Having experienced work in the pro shops of the 50s and 60s as the unpaid hired help, I can in some ways relate to the trials and tribulations of operating as a golf professional during those years post World War Two. There were long days in rudimentary shops, teaching some players seeking to improve themselves (who, if one was honest were wasting their money and time), dealing with members whose demands at times seemed unreasonable and the playing public who also expected first class service and a perfectly groomed golf course, and all the while not being allowed into the club house. Sporting goods manufacturers were also loath to sell to the professionals, preferring instead to supply the large department and sporting goods retailers.

Dan and his peers would have experienced all of the above and much more. Despite those apparent downsides of the profession, the sheer delight of actually seeing a pupil execute a shot with great results and resultant pride far outweighed the negatives. Dan was born in the Golden West in November 1914 and started his golfing career at the tender age of 14 as an assistant to Eric Alberts, firstly at WA Golf Club and then Cottesloe Golf Club. As Dan's career progressed and his playing skills matured, we enter 1935 with ex-Sydney's Concord Golf Club pro, one Thomas Ewington Howard, appointed as professional to Royal Fremantle Golf Club. My grandfather was a very competitive opponent even though in his late forties, winning the 1938 WA Pro title at 49, and no doubt they both relished the many events they competed in. Whilst it is acknowledged that Bobby Locke played a part in suggesting Dan move east in 1939, we know that grandpa Tom was constantly "plotting" to have Dan seek greater challenges in the east. I suspect my grandfather wanted more of the "booty".

Dan did go east not only to further his golfing career but also to follow the love of his life Enid whose family had moved to Sydney. Like many golfers of the day, the period of World War Two changed their lives forever. Dan enlisted and served his country with great distinction in Europe. It was interesting to learn during Dan's funeral that he had spoken little of his wartime experiences to his family. This was similar to my own father who spent the war years in Darwin enduring the 64 air raids in the area.

Post the conflict, Dan was appointed pro at Roseville in 1946 and subsequently St Michael's in 1955 where he served until 1975. In the early post-war years, the Sydney based professionals held a family day usually down the coast at Austinmer beach. The meeting place for the car convoy was outside Artarmon Railway Station and I still recall my first meeting with Dan as a five-year-old in 1950. Picture if you will, this giant of a man, so softly spoken saying to me as we shook hands, "Hope you are a better golfer than your grandfather".

Moving forward some 27 years to 1977 and Dan qualified at the age of 63 years and 8 months at Gailes shooting 70, 76 (146) to win a place in The Open, a task my own grandfather had accomplished 51 years before. Dan played in a field with five other Australians, including my old school mate Tom Linskey.

Professional golf and golf generally owes a huge debt to Dan and his peers because the immediate post-war years were difficult to provide a living for one's family, with clubs struggling to build memberships and attract players. His guidance and enthusiasm in the leadership of the PGA, plus the advent of television coverage and overseas players coming to our shores, provided a great impetus for the game. In addition, the success of our home-grown heroes, particularly in the UK, drove the game forward.

There are many stories that could occupy numerous more pages, from Dan being outdriven regularly at NSW Golf Course during an exhibition match with the American lady Babe Didrikson Zaharias, to the war time story when Dan gave a pound to a down at the heel Irishman who responded with "God bless you Sir, and may the wood for your casket come from a tree that hasn't been planted yet". I rather fancy that Irishman's wish was granted.

I hope you have enjoyed this short set of thoughts and memories about this wonderful and gentle man.

RIP Dan.

A putter that played a big part in golf history

Michael Sheret writes on the game changing Schenectady putter

Early in the 20th century putters were commonly a sort of modified iron. The loft was barely noticeable (typically between 6 and 8 degrees), the shaft was shorter and the lie more upright than any iron in the bag. These rather plain putters were very different from the weird and wonderful designs to be found in modern putters.

A big change occurred in 1902 when Arthur F Knight designed a putter where the shaft met the club-head not at the heel but roughly midway between the heel and the toe. In other words, he designed a centre shafted putter. Unusually the club-head was made of an aluminium alloy and was much bulkier than the common blade putter. It was often described as "mallet headed". As Knight was an engineer working for General Electric in the town of Schenectady in the state of New York, the putter became known as the Schenectady.

It is not known if the Schenectady was the first centre shafted putter, but it was the first to become popular in a big way. Its popularity was boosted when it was used by the Australian-born American golfer, Walter Travis. As an amateur, he used a Schenectady to come second in the 1902 US Open. Again using his Schenectady to deadly effect he won the 1903 US Amateur and the 1904 British Amateur, the first non-British golfer to do so.



Common putter in early 20th century Schenectady putter

Then things began to happen at the R&A. Up until 1909 the Rules of Golf said nothing about what could or could not be used as a club. In 1909 this appeared under the heading Form and Make of Golf Clubs: "The Rules of Golf Committee intimates that it will not sanction any substantial departure from the traditional and accepted form and make of golf clubs ..." This sweeping statement gave the R&A the power to make almost any new design of golf club to be – in today's terminology – non-conforming. No sooner was this new rule introduced than a query came from the Nga Motu Golf Club in New Zealand: "... is it permissible to use a small croquet mallet to putt with?" The answer was that a croquet mallet was not a golf club and was not permissible.

Similar queries followed and in 1909 the R&A expressed concerns about "the various mallet-headed implements at present in use" and the "vertical croquet stroke". In 1913 the R&A expanded on the issue. It regarded as "illegal the use of such clubs as those of the mallet-head type". It went on to state the "shaft shall be fixed to the heel, or to a neck, socket or hose which terminates at the heel". At one blow the Schenectady and all other centre shafted putters were declared illegal under the R&A's jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, the USGA took a different view. The USGA Rules of Golf simply did not require the shaft to be attached to the heel of the club-head. So a situation was created where, for nearly forty years Australian golfers, unlike their American counterparts, were denied the perceived advantages of centre shafted putters.



Schenectady club-head

To venture an opinion, in 1913 the USGA seemed to adopt the more sensible view. By talking about “mallet-headed implements” and the “vertical croquet stroke” the R&A seemed to be equating the Schenectady with a croquet mallet. The Schenectady was quite different from a croquet mallet and was used in the same manner as any other putter. Unlike a croquet mallet the Schenectady was not swung in the vertical plane.

This rift between the R&A and the USGA was settled in 1951, when there was a great coming together of the two organisations to attain a common set of rules. Their aim was achieved, with the only difference remaining being the size of the ball, minimum diameter 1.62 inches under the R&A rules and 1.68 inches for the USGA. When the R&A Rules of Golf were issued on the 1st of January 1952 Australian golfers were at last allowed to use centre shafted putters: The shaft shall be fixed to the club-head at the heel ... However, the shaft of a putter may be fixed at any point in the head.”

The AGHS Golf Museum has a Schenectady, which visitors can try out, putting to a “cup” on the carpet.

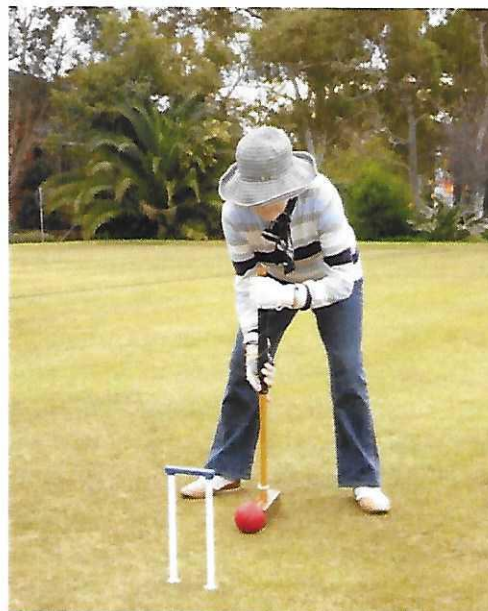


Croquet Mallet

Golfers are always surprised at how good a putter it is. The Museum also has fact sheets with a lot of information about the Schenectady and its place in golf history. It also has copies of some of the patent applications that Arthur F Knight made. Interestingly, he saw the centre shaft principle being applied to all clubs, but the idea took off only for putters.

Notes

- 1 Information on the Rules of Golf from 1909 to 1952 were taken from the website www.ruleshistory.com, which has transcribed the Rules of Golf from 1744 to 2015.
- 2 There is a lot of information available on Walter Travis and the Schenectady putter. www.travissociety.com and <http://library.la84.org/SportsLibrary/AmericanGolfer/1911/ag55i.pdf> are good internet sources.
- 3 The photograph of a croquet player in action was taken with permission of the Hunters Hill Croquet Club.



Croquet Player

COMING HICKORY EVENTS 2016 (tbc)

MAY: 2 J J Paine Trophy | Windsor CGC

Al Howard Memorial Trophy | Kingston Heath GC (tbc)

JUNE: 24 Show and Tell | Rosnay GC

JULY: 29 Show and Tell | The Coast GC

SEPTEMBER: 11 Craigieburn Cup | Peppers Craigieburn Resort

AGHS Museum Report

Exhibitions

The museum is refreshing some of its permanent displays. Current focus is on the Early Golf Clubs exhibit. Collection items to be shown include a book owned by Carnegie Clark when he was the professional at Royal Sydney Golf Club and a small notebook of clippings from Hunter's Hill Golf Club which closed in 1932. A new feature is a reproduction of the image included in our travelling exhibition.



Playing golf - Tenterfield, NSW (AB Butler c. 1898); State Library of NSW: At Work and Play - 06869

The travelling exhibition continues to be well received as it tours golf clubs around Sydney. This year it has travelled to Georges River Golf Club and is now at Long Reef Golf Club where it was on display for the Dan Cullen Trophy. Golf clubs interested in hosting the exhibition are invited to contact the museum at museum@australiangolfheritage.org.au

Our Kel Nagle – The Gentleman of Golf display received coverage in the Parramatta Sun (<http://www.parramattasun.com.au/story/3533613/golfing-great-remembered/>) and will remain at the museum until after the Open. The next exhibition scheduled is on women's golf and will be augmented by the NSW Women's Golf Oral History Project (partially funded by an Arts NSW grant) currently being conducted by Carol McKirdy. Carol has already completed interviews with the outstanding amateurs Edwina Kennedy and Marea Parsons.

Check out the museum's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Australian-Golf-Heritage-Society-Museum-163599337026751>) with current events and photographs of all things golf, past and present. The Pickworth family joined the conversation after we posted a photograph of Ossie at the 1953

Ampol Tournament. We invite comments and are delighted when others share their own collection images online.



Ossie Pickworth receiving the congratulations of his caddy after winning the 1953 Ampol Golf Tournament at The Lakes, NSW (J Fitzpatrick); NAA: A1805, CU29/19

National Standards Program

The museum is thrilled to have been accepted into the National Standards Program for Sustainable Community Museums facilitated by Museums & Galleries NSW and to receive \$1000 through a Parramatta City Council Community Grant to fund our participation in the project. The Standards Program is designed to assist small to medium museums and galleries understand their strengths and weaknesses, to establish goals and maximise achievements.

Collection

This year the museum will increase its focus on collection management and clearing the backlog of accessions. The wonderful Jennifer Doorey is assisting us in accessioning objects into our Collection Management System. Back of house continues to be reorganised and a recently purchased cabinet will provide much needed storage for large maps and plans.

Vicki Stanton

Museum Curator and Collection Manager

History Sub-Committee Report

We missed out on a report for the November issue, so there's quite a lot to write about.

In the middle of last year we started History Nuggets on the website. Each month two questions appear, one about Australian golf history and the other about general golf history. In the following month we give the answers and two fresh questions. Golf NSW also publishes the same questions and answers in their Drop Zone monthly newsletter, sent to all affiliated clubs. The detailed answers give us a good opportunity to increase readers' knowledge of golf history.

After discussion with Golf NSW, we organised for artwork to be produced professionally for a 100cm by 140cm board-mounted poster, Golf in Sydney in 1839. AGHS has given the poster to Golf NSW. It is now prominently displayed at Golf NSW HQ, all part of our educational mission.

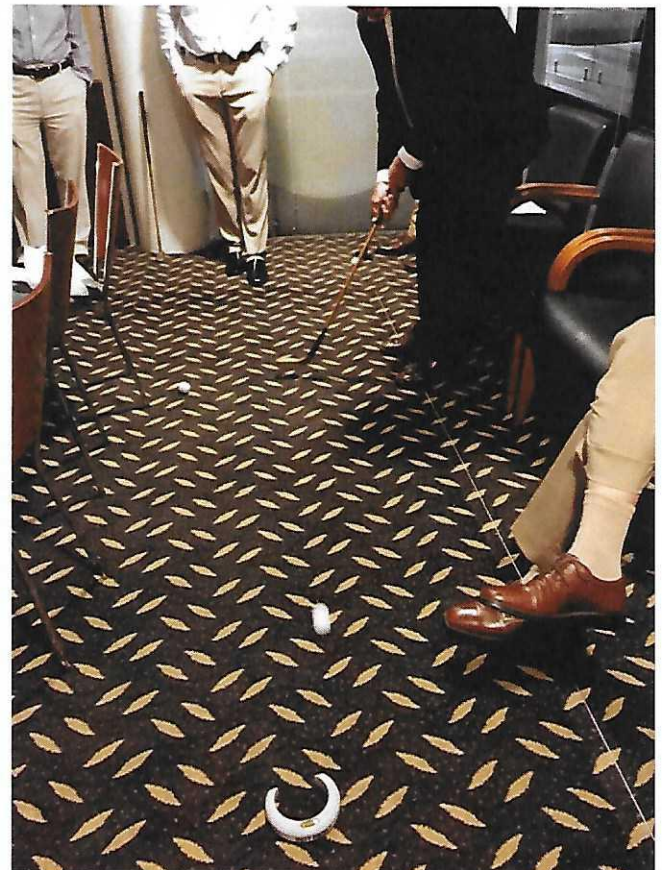
Rob Downie and I took part in the inaugural Queensland Hickory Shaft Championship at Royal Queensland in October. At the dinner afterwards interesting items from the AGHS Museum were on display, and questions arising were answered. These items all had something to tell about the way golf has evolved over the years. Diners were invited to use three historic putters on the carpet, an enjoyable and informative experience.

The HSC can be contacted through the website by members or the general public who seek answers on matters of golf history. We are generally able to answer these queries, which often require a bit of research. Three recent questions will give you the flavour. From the USA, did Banjo Paterson, who wrote a poem about golf, actually play golf? Again from the USA, can we supply any information about the correspondent's father, who was thought to be a boy champion golfer in the early 1960s? Can we supply information, with supporting evidence, about the foundation date of Royal Blackheath GC, England?

We are organizing an interesting day for Colonel William Gibson on the 28th of April. Bill is an Irish golf historian, visiting his family in Australia. He has expressed an interest in seeing the AGHS Golf Museum. At the Museum he will be giving an illustrated talk: Early Golfers in Ireland, America, India and Australia. Details are elsewhere in this issue.

Readers might be interested in a research article, The Lakes Open, written by myself and published in the September 2015 issue of Through the Green. The Lakes Open ran from 1934 to 1974 and was financed and managed by The Lakes GC in Sydney. In some ways the tournament was as important as the Australian Open. If readers would like a copy of the article, contact the History Sub-Committee via the website.

Finally, we are sad to report that Alan McDonald has stepped down from the History Sub-Committee. Alan was an active and productive member of the HSC. In the meantime Norm Richardson and I battle on.



RQ member trying out a long-nosed scare-necked Ross Baker putter

Michael Sheret

Dan Cullen Trophy Event

Thursday 17 March, Long Reef Golf Club

Firstly, a vote of sincere thanks to Les Browne (Captain of Long Reef GC) for arranging the event at the Reef, to Danny in the Pro shop, and also the Long Reef staff in the clubhouse and the course staff for presenting the course in such great condition. The rain over the previous days had assisted our old clubs taking a bite in some of the greens.

The weather gods smiled on our group of 25 players (one of our biggest ever Dan Cullen fields) after looking like a broolly may be required earlier in the day. Our playing group consisted of some new faces – Tristan, Warwick, Ian, Bill, Mike and Tim, hope I have included everybody – and we trust you enjoyed the experience and will return to do battle with the hickories. A number of past winners fancied their chances hoping to add their names to the trophy board as multiple winners.

The event was conducted over 11 holes in a 2 ball ambrose format, from 1st hole to 11th, with a par of 43. The range of gross scores covered from par to 10 over. The handicaps also covered a range from scratch to 26. The handicap applied was determined by dividing the joint gross handicaps by 4 (except for 6 in the group of 3). Of interest were the birdies recorded being 8 in total, with 2 at the 6th, 1 at the 7th, 3 at the 8th and one each

at 9 & 10. Every group except one recorded a net less than par, with 8 groups having net scores of less than 40.

After all the mathematics were tallied, in third place were the Pickrells (Tony & Martin) with net of 37.75 and the runners up were the 3 player team of Tom Moore, Geoff Martin & Warwick Stanwell with 37.50. The winners, posting a net of 36.75, were Michael Sheret and Tristan Perrett (a novice hickory player) with handicaps of 25 and scratch respectively with gross of 43.

So a new set of names will grace the wonderful reminder of our dear departed patron, some 13 years after Dan Jnr and his father won in 2003. Dan Cullen Jnr also played in the field and presented the winners with the Dan Cullen Trophy.

My personal thanks to Les Browne for being my partner on the day and I trust all players enjoyed the day as much we did.

Ross Howard
Captain



2016 Dan Cullen Trophy winners Tristan Perrett and Michael Sheret, with Dan Cullen Jnr (Steve Doorey)

The Golf Museum at Granville is proudly sponsored by Golf Mart and supported by
Golf NSW, PGA of Australia and
Museums & Galleries New South Wales
The Golf Museum (located above Golf Mart), 4 Parramatta Rd, Granville
Telephone 9637 4720 • www.australiangolfheritage.org.au
Open on Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Admission FREE.
The Museum can give advice on collecting, restoring and preserving old or antique
golf clubs and other golfing artefacts.