

# THE LONG GAME

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
GOLF SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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## Vale Ken Shepherd

By Ian Rennick

Ken was born on the 17th August, 1922 in Melbourne and was educated at Box Hill High School and Scotch College. Ken loved sport, and played football and cricket for Scotch College. He was Victorian schoolboy's golf champion, and his passion for football, cricket and golf continued for the rest of his life.

Ken left Scotch in 1939 and went to work for BHP in the shipping department. This was the beginning of all things nautical, and he joined the Navy at the age of 18. In 1943 during the 2nd World War, Ken was promoted to Sub Lieutenant, and on HMAS Cooke he saw service at sea in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, English Channel, and across the North Sea to Russia.

Ken was married in England in 1945 to Joy, and it was there that he became interested in medicine. On his return to Melbourne, he completed his schooling and then went to the University of Melbourne to study medicine. After graduating he was appointed resident doctor at the Alfred Hospital and then moved to General Practice in Caulfield. He combined his love for sport and medicine, being the Medical Officer for the World Boxing Council and Australian Motor Sports, where he worked at the Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park. He retained his interest in the Navy as a member of the Australian Navy Reserve.

Ken was a member of The Royal Melbourne Golf Club for 50 years, and his knowledge of golf history and passion for collecting, was legendary. His interest in all things golf led him to co-found the Golf Society of Australia in 1982. He inaugurated our Hickory Championship and donated, for the Men, the Frank Shepherd Trophy in memory of his father. For his involvement with the Golf Society, he was made a Life Member, and in 1999 joined Peter Thomson as a Patron of the Society.

Ken passed away in September 2011, after a life well lived. He is survived by his wife, 4 children and 10 grandchildren.



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### FOR THE DIARY

#### 6th February

Dinner at Woodlands

#### 20th February

Golf Historians at Royal Park

#### 29/30th March

Al Howard Challenge at Tocumwal

#### 16th April

Hickory Championships at  
Kingston Heath

# President's Report 2011

By Ian Rennick



It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for the past year.

The Golf Society has had a very successful year, with increased membership, two successful dinners, and more members participating in our golf competitions. The only disappointment was the cancellation of two dinners, one of which was an experimental luncheon on a Sunday in April. This was cancelled due to lack of interest. The other was to be held in November, but at the last moment the speaker realised that he was not available, and at such short notice, time did not let us replace him. November was a very busy month for golf in Melbourne.

At the last AGM we voted to change the Rules to provide for an additional class of membership. The reason for this was a decline in membership numbers. I did appeal to members during the year to seek out their golfing friends, and because of this, we now have welcomed twenty new members. Therefore, the provision for 'Secondary Membership' has not been needed.

It was fortunate that we had not admitted anyone under this rule as the Consumer Affairs have advised us that as we did not notify them within the required 21 days we have to do it again. This will be rectified at a social function in the New Year. I am sure there are still many acceptable members at your clubs who would be interested in what we do, and would enjoy the Society's activities.

This year's events have been reported in the Long Game, but I would especially to mention the Al Howard Hickory Challenge event held at Eden against the Australian Golf Heritage Society. This is an annual event and is played over several days. A number of non golfers attended, and joined in the social side of the golf. Next year it will be played at Tocumwal in April, and it is hoped that more members will attend to enjoy the golf and all the social activities.

Historical research has continued, under the watchful eye of committee member Norie Macleod, identifying the locations of golf courses in Victoria, including present courses, and those that have closed down. Some information is now being collated about golf in the Northern Territory

A number of donations to the museum collection, including clubs, memorabilia and golf club histories were received from members and non members. This is to be applauded, and members are encouraged to be alert in identifying any memorabilia items relating to the history of the game here in Victoria, and elsewhere.

Our Archivist, Moira Drew has had a busy year with the maintenance of the web page, cataloguing new items in the collection, preparing exhibits and a multitude of other matters. Special thanks go to two long standing members, Bev Coutie and Mary Allen. They have been busy helping Moira sift through our photographic collection identifying faces and events. Bev also regularly assists with greeting visitors to our stand at the Women's Australian Open.

This year we have held several meetings for Golf Club Historians. These were well received, and it is a great way to make contact with all Victorian Golf Clubs, who in return use the Society when they have a query. The golf historian meetings are open to anyone interested in details of forthcoming events which can be found on our web page. We know that most members have computers as we now have your email addresses, so please use them to keep in touch with the Society.

This is the fourth year I have been President and would like to thank everyone for granting me this honour. I was fortunate in having many helpers both on and off the committee. Secretaries Janet Hibbins and Paul Burgess have been invaluable to me and have made my job easier. Dick Kirby as Treasurer, Moira Drew as Archivist, and Peter Gompertz as Editor of the Long Game have been hard working and a pleasure to work with. Of course there are other committee members that contribute in many ways and I want to thank each and every one of you.

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:

**Darrell Arnett, John Boundy, Robert Crosby, Phillip Ellis, Russell Fynmore, Graeme Harrison,  
David Hill, John Hopkins, Graham Mc Eachran.**

This year the committee is changing, and we are getting a new President - Geoff Vincent, and also new committee members - Des Tobin and Peter Gompertz. Paul Rak, who has been on the committee for two years, is not seeking re-election. He is a busy man and helps the Society in many ways, and has done so for many years. We hold many functions at Royal Melbourne and they are very generous to us.

Daryl Cox is stepping down from the committee after serving for 21 years, seven of those as President. In that time Daryl has seen many changes in the Society, with an increase in membership and activities in sub committees.

Throughout the changes Daryl ensured care was taken to retain the basic aims and ambitions of the Society. Thank you Daryl for all you have done; I know you will keep attending all our functions and contributing whenever possible.

Finally, I am looking forward to the coming year as I can spend more time in golf research. It is an aspect of golf that I wish I was aware of many years ago, and with the modern computer facilities through the State Library it is now not as tedious as it once was. Thank you all, once again, for your cooperation throughout the year.

I congratulate Geoff Vincent who will be the new President, and I look forward to working with him.



## Greetings from incoming President

*By Geoff Vincent AM*

The year ahead will have its special challenges, and I welcome the opportunity to continue the good work of Past President, Ian Rennick.

The Committee is conscious of the need to keep members informed, to play golf and to provide social events through dinners and other occasions. The social events for the coming year are already being planned and will be building on the successful events of last year. A proposed trip to Tocumwal in March / April 2012, to play hickories with NSW colleagues is being arranged.

I would hope we might increase support for our sub-committees, particularly research, and we are grateful for any volunteers to assist in this area.

As your President, I am looking forward to the year ahead, and wish everyone a happy and fulfilling year.

**British 'phlegm' was never better illustrated than during 1940; as witnessed by this notice.**

### **RICHMOND GOLF CLUB** Temporary Rules 1940.

1. Players are asked to collect bomb and shrapnel splinters to save causing damage to the mowing machines.
2. In Competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players must take cover without penalty for ceasing play.
3. The positions of known delayed action bombs are marked by red flags at a reasonably, but not guaranteed, safe distance therefrom.
4. Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the fairways, or in bunkers within a clubs length of the ball, may be moved without penalty, and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not neared the hole without penalty.
6. A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving a line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke

# Golf in the Melbourne Centenary Year 1934

By Michael Sheret

For the June 2010 issue of *Through The Green*, journal of the British Golf Collectors Society, I wrote an article, *Australia's Ryder Cup*. The article gave a fairly complete account of The Lakes International Cup, a team match played between American and Australian professional golfers in the Ryder Cup format of the day. The match was played on four occasions: 1934, 1936, 1952 and 1954.

In the article I pointed out the considerable entrepreneurship of The Lakes Golf Club in inaugurating and hosting the event. For the first match at The Lakes in 1934, members raised £1000 as a guarantee to the PGA against financial losses. The Lakes also donated a handsome silver trophy with the notion that the match would become a regular event.

The Lakes International Cup had great significance for professional golf. In the 1934 match the Australian team was trounced nine matches to nil. By 1954 standards of Australian professional golf had developed to the extent that Australia won. At the time there was growing dissatisfaction with the Ryder Cup, as America routinely beat the Great Britain & Ireland team. There were in the mid-1950s increasing calls in the media for the GBI team to be broadened.

The 1952 and 1954 matches for The Lakes International Cup provided ammunition for the media campaign. The commonest media suggestion, remembering that the European tour was nothing like what it became in the 1980s, was for GBI team to be replaced by a British Commonwealth team. This would have brought in players of the calibre of Peter Thomson, Bobby Locke, Kel Nagle and Norman von Nida. GBI's splendid but unexpected victory in the Ryder Cup of 1957 probably silenced the media albeit temporarily, until the growth of European tour. If in the 1950s the GBI team had been broadened to a Commonwealth team, how different could the Ryder Cup and the Presidents Cup be today?



<< Jimmy Thomson in action

When researching for my article, *Australia's Ryder Cup*, I was aware that the astonishing entrepreneurship of The Lakes (then a very young club founded in 1928 with a course opening in 1930) was also a case of seizing an opportunity while it was there. 1934 was Melbourne's Centenary Year. The city had invited many prominent sportsmen and women to Melbourne as part of the Centenary celebrations. The entire American team that played in the 1934 Lakes International Cup (Craig Wood, Denny Shute, Leo Diegel, Paul Runyan, Ky Laffoon and Harry Cooper) were in Australia at the invitation of Melbourne, presumably for a nice fee and expenses. Over the last few weeks, by ploughing through back copies of *The Argus* and – a surprising source of information – the *NZ Evening Post*, I have been able to piece together the extent of the participation of American golfers in the Melbourne Centenary celebrations. Taken together with the 1934 Lakes International Cup and the 1934 inaugural Lakes Open, where the American visitors took the first six places, it makes a rather sad tale of the domination of the American professionals over their Australian counterparts.

The Centenary Open was played over 72 holes at the Metropolitan Golf Club. The leaderboard was dominated by American names. The event was won by Jimmy Thomson (USA) with the superb score of 283, six strokes clear of the runner-up, Leo Diegel, and seven shots clear of firm favourite, Gene Sarazen. Thomson, who learned his game at North Berwick, was an interesting golfer. He was the long hitter of his day, able to crank out drives of 350 metres. He would qualify as the best golfer of his era never to win a major, but he was runner-up in the 1935 US Open and the 1936 USPGA. He did win the Los Angeles Open, then a very prestigious tournament, in 1938.

The Centenary Professional Match Play was also played at Metropolitan. The semi-finals were an all-American affair. In the 36 hole final Leo Diegel defeated Denny Shute by 2 and 1. Leo Diegel was a fine match play golfer, winning back-to-back USPGAs in 1928 and 1929, when it was in match play format. He had a famous "chicken wing" putting style, affectionately known as "diegeling it".

A Centenary match between the American and Australian professionals was arranged at Victoria Golf Club. The American team was the same as contested The Lakes International Cup. The format was not quite the same as the Ryder Cup as better ball four balls (something of a novelty for Australian golf and an American innovation for that era) were substituted for foursomes. USA won by eight matches to one. The Australian heroes were Martin Smith (the assistant at Kingston Heath brought in as a last minute substitute) and Ted Naismith, who defeated Craig Wood and Ky Laffoon by 2 and 1 over 36 holes.



### *Leo Diegel's unique putting style*

To cap Australia's 1934 misfortunes, in the Centenary Amateur over 36 holes at Metropolitan, the final was contested between Jack McLean (Scotland) and Harry Hattersley (NSW). McLean won by a staggering 11 and 9. It was not that Hattersley played that badly. McLean was simply unbeatable on the day.

*Have you missed a dinner  
but would like to hear the  
speech?*

**In most cases, when the speaker agrees, we record the after-dinner speeches at Golf Society functions.**

**If you would like to hear any of the presentations, they can be made available on cd for playing on computer or cd player.**

**Contact: The Secretary**

# Dinner at Royal Melbourne

*Ian Rennick*

74 people attended the dinner held at Royal Melbourne Golf Club to hear a talk by Peter Toogood. Peter is one of Australia's most celebrated amateur golfers and, although he is now 81 years old, he has an amazing memory of his golfing life. He impressed everyone with his ability to recognise people at the dinner he had met previously, either through golf or his long career as a school teacher. Peter recognised June Jeans, a former pupil of his from 40 years ago, and immediately called her by name.

Peter started by crediting his golfing achievements to three important factors. Firstly he inherited good genes from his grandfather and father, who were professional golfers.



Secondly, the encouragement his father, Alfred, showed him by helping, but not forcing, his progress. Peter's father was the professional at the Grange Golf Club in Adelaide, and from a very early age Peter remembers playing near the Pro shop and hitting golf balls. Thirdly, when the family moved to Kingston Beach Golf Club in Tasmania he caddied for Len Nettlefold and Rup Paton. They helped and encouraged him, and it was during this period that Peter developed his love and respect for golf. He remembers his father cutting out photos of Byron Nelson, and pasting them above the fire place. Peter could not help seeing them and memorising the swing.

Peter developed into a good golfer at an early age and was allowed to join Kingston Beach Golf Club before the age of 17, even though the club had a rule prohibiting under age players. At that stage Rup Paton was Match Chairman and needed Peter to play pennant. Peter first played for Tasmania in 1948 when he was 18. The following year he played at Royal Sydney, and when entering the club house was asked to leave, as 'caddies are not allowed in the club house'. He explained that he was playing for Tasmania. Again in the locker room he was asked to leave. When he was playing a practice round later, he was dismayed to see a man on a horse galloping towards him. The man stopped near him, stared at him and asked if he was a Toogood. The man was Fred Popplewell, the Royal Sydney professional. Fred had played many games of golf with Peter's father.

When Peter moved to Victoria in 1952 to study for a Diploma of Physical Education at Melbourne University, he was invited to join Huntingdale Golf Club and was delighted to see Burtta Cheney at the dinner. He credits his stay at Huntingdale as a period that put the polish on his golf.

Peter said he was lucky that his parents won "Tatts" in 1954. The family was able to travel to England where he played in many golf tournaments including The Open where he was the leading amateur. He was helped by Peter Thomson and Norman Von Vida and met many of the leading players including Bobby Locke.

In 1958 Peter was in the Australian team playing for the Eisenhower Cup. The other team members were Bruce Devlin, Bob Stevens and Doug Bachli. It was a close tussle with the USA team. Peter two putted a short putt, which meant the two teams were tied. A play off was necessary but as play was not allowed at St Andrews on Sundays, they had to wait an extra day, which meant he had two sleepless nights before playing again.



*Gillian Ednie, Burtta Cheney, Des Tobin & Peter Toogood*

Australia eventually won by two shots. Peter was very careful this time, especially with the short putts. One of the spectators at the tournament was R T 'Bobby' Jones. After the third day's play, Peter was asked to Bobby Jones' room, where they chatted for over two hours. Bobby asked how come Peter had an American 'one piece' swing and Peter related how his father had put photos of Byron Nelson's swing above the fireplace at home. He has always remembered the advice that he received from Jones during that chat. As Manager of the Tasmanian Junior teams, he passed on this advice, 'always go with your instincts'.

Everyone at the dinner enjoyed Peter's fascinating golf tales.

Des Tobin thanked Peter on behalf of the Golf Society. Des has previously written Peter's biography, '*Simply Toogood*'. He generously provided copies of his book to members present.

## The Last Word

An Englishman playing golf on a French course, having no knowledge whatsoever of French, made a fine approach shot with his wedge and succeeded in stopping the ball six inches from the hole. He glanced at his French caddy hoping for some approving remark. The latter appreciated what was expected of him and did his best using the only English words, which he had constantly heard when caddying for Englishmen on holiday. With a big grin he nodded his head, winked, and said "Bloody fluke".



*Doug Bachli winner 2011*

## Successful Doug Bachli Trophy Day at Australian Masters Venue

*Paul Burgess*

A field of almost 50 ladies and gentlemen had a most enjoyable day at Victoria Golf Club competing for the Doug Bachli Trophy, prior to attending the Cocktail Party and Annual General Meeting. This was the final event for the year for the Society and it again proved to be one of its most popular.

Doug Bachli was the first Australian to win the British Amateur Championship. He joined Victoria in 1940, was club champion 13 times and elected a life member in 1957. He won numerous State titles including three Victorian Amateur Championships. Doug remained an amateur throughout his golfing career and was the inaugural President of our Society.

Victoria Golf Club is about to stage the Australian Masters again and preparations were evident throughout the course. The fairways were already in carpet like condition, bunkers were being groomed and the rough was growing at what seemed a formidable rate. The recent heavy rains did not appear to have had any detrimental effect on the greens that were quite fast and tricky. All in all, the setting for the Masters is likely to be in perfect condition for the world's best golfers. Society members were again fortunate to have the opportunity to play on such a magnificent course and enjoy the club's facilities for its Annual meeting.

Dick Curtis was the winner on the day after scoring 38 Stableford points to claim the trophy. Runner-up was Michael Sheret with 37 points. Michael is one of our New South Wales members and made a special trip to attend the day. Well done Michael. The Ladies medal went to Virginia Gorrell with 37 points, and the Ladies runner-up was Joan Drummond with 33 points.



*Playoff gallery*

## Inaugural Highlands ProAm

The 1st of February 2011 saw the inaugural 'Highlands ProAm' played over 15 holes of one of Australia's older courses, Ratho at Bothwell in Tasmania. Played as an official Australian PGA event, the field included former Australian Open winner Rodger Davis, a dozen or so of the PGA's Legends of Golf, as well as two lady professional golfers and tyro professional golfers from as far away as Queensland.

Played as a two field, shotgun start, 112 golfers teed it up; the amateurs in teams competing for the Corporate Cup and the professionals for a \$6,000 purse and a winner's jacket. With 5 under rounds of 51, Tasmania's Scott Priest and Michael Hansen, from Queensland, played a sudden death, 2 hole playoff with a gallery of 150 fellow competitors looking on with an old shearing shed as a backdrop. Hansen claimed the title, and his first ProAm victory, remarking during his victory speech that he had a bit of experience playing on quirky courses in country Queensland.

*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.*