

# THE HISTORY OF PALM BEACH GOLF CLUB

OUR CENTENARY  
1924 - 2024



**Palm Beach**  
— GOLF CLUB —  
Est. 1924

THE HISTORY OF PALM BEACH GOLF CLUB

75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
1924 – 1999

BY

STEWART BROWN

AND

BRIAN KENNEDY

*WITH*

A CENTENARY OF PALM BEACH GOLF CLUB

THE LAST 25 YEARS  
2000 – 2024

BY

DANIEL HILL

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# FORWARDS

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Foreward

This book chronicles “75 years” of sportsmanship, friendship, fun, highlights, disappointments and good times shared by members of the Palm Beach Golf Club. I personally, can speak for the last forty years of them and the camaraderie has always been to the fore.

The growth of the Club, from its humble beginnings in a cow paddock, to the “Dormy House” (the early clubhouse) with a membership consisting mostly of campers, to its present facilities is a direct result of the involvement, effort (working bees), commitment and generous DONATIONS from all members, past and present.

We must thank Stewart Brown and Brian Kennedy for their efforts in researching and producing the history of our past 75 years.

Our future will be assured if we continue to encourage and promote the game of golf, and maintain the friendly atmosphere enjoyed within the Club. It is now our present and prospective member’s duty to foster the future years.

**Ashley Burgess**  
**President of Palm Beach Golf Club**  
**1998 – 2000**

## 100-year Foreward

One hundred years of anything is no small feat.

We but stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us. From reading the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our club and collating the history of our last 25-years, I have realised no words could be truer.

In drafting this addendum for our Club’s history, it has become much clearer to me that there has been an immense number of members who have contributed in many different ways. All of whom deserve recognition for their many hours, days, months, and years in service of our Club. Some have been on Boards, some on sub-committees, some in organised groups of volunteers, and some for a particular project or task. All have contributed to what Palm Beach is today.

May this centenary only mark the beginning of our Club.

**Daniel Hill**  
**President of Palm Beach Golf Club**  
**2019 – 2025**

# INTRODUCTION

## THE CLUB

Palm Beach Golf Club leases a nine-hole public golf course from Pittwater Council on Crown land near the tip of Barrenjoey Peninsula about 40 kilometres north of the city of Sydney. The Club was officially founded in 1924 but it is likely that people began playing informal games of golf on the site of the course some time before that date. Today the Club has a membership of over 700.

Many golf clubs in Australia and for that matter many overseas, have links built on spectacular sites, but Palm Beach can justly claim that its course enjoys one of the most beautiful settings of any course in the world. The western boundary is a beach running beside Pittwater, where windsurfers compete with seaplanes landing on its comparatively sheltered waters. The sand dunes of Governor Phillip Park beside the Pacific Ocean lie to the east. To the north an historic lighthouse looks down from Barrenjoey Headland. After a game of golf on a warm summer's day, members and visitors can enjoy a glass or two of liquid refreshment, while they sit out on the first-floor balcony of the club house across Beach Road to the south. With glass in hand, looking out towards Pittwater over the palms, pines, paperbarks and other trees that dot the course, most members agree that life doesn't get much better than this.

The course is flat with a par of 64 and is only 4176 metres long. The course looks easy, but it is worth noting that most of the pros in the annual pro-am match struggle to achieve par and very few have broken it. The course, in fact, is extremely tight and one has to be very accurate with one's irons. Hooked shots are likely to end up on the beach on the Pittwater side. The beach being part of the literal water hazard allows a playable ball to be played as a bunker shot. Unwritten rules, plus the laws of courtesy and common sense, suggest that if a ball lands on somebody's picnic rug, it is wisest to take a drop. This is, after all, public land. A wayward shot played on the eastern side may find you in the heritage listed picnic sheds of Governor Phillip Park or else having to retrieve your ball from among the cast of the internationally famous television soap opera "Home and Away" which is shot on the ocean side.

Palm Beach is associated in the public mind with a few extremely wealthy people who have houses by the beach. In particular, the Packer family, have had a holiday house in the area for many years. However, despite what the Sydney Morning Herald seems to think, very few of our present members are rich. Neither Kerry Packer or his son Jamie are members of Palm Beach Golf Club, although Kerry has played on our course a couple of times during his summer visits. The course has also been favoured by visits from the occasional celebrity like the late John Denver and even the odd golfing pro like Brett Ogle. However, the nearest that Greg Norman has come to our course was when the "Shark" came to North Palm Beach to film a commercial a few years ago.

## DATES AT A GLANCE

1915 - Maritime Service Board refuses application by Barrenjoey Company to have a golf course built on Lighthouse Reserve  
1924 - Palm Beach Golf Club founded with Charles Crossman as first president  
1927 - First club handicaps established  
1928 - Official rules adopted  
1929 - First club championship held  
1932 - Club leases Dormy from A. A. Oxlade  
1936 - Albert Staveley becomes first club captain  
1939-45 - Many younger club members serve in armed forces  
1945 - Bert Bentley appointed first full-time groundsman  
1948 - Ron Gassman joins club

1950 – Club buys Dormy from Oxlade  
1961 – Wally Gale becomes club first pro and first pro shop opens  
1965 – New clubhouse opens  
1969 – Roy Broomhead appointed patron  
1970 – Palm Beach wins Group III pennant  
1980 – Alan Berry Jnr becomes golf pro  
1987 – David Lemmon joins as secretary-manager  
1990 – Col Johnston sets course record of 59 on revised layout  
1991 – Storm causes serious damage to golf course  
1992 – Palm Beach wins Warren Shield  
1995 – Ron Brightwell president for 12 years dies  
1996 – Women granted membership status  
1997 – Over a thousand trees planted  
1998 – New fairway watering system installed  
1999 – Club celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> year. Roy Broomhead, patron for 30 years, dies.

## AROUND THE COURSE

As you play a round the following bits and pieces of history may keep you amused and keep your mind off your terrible golf.

**First hole.** This was originally a par three with the green in front of the pine tree on the left that causes so much trouble. For many years there was a piece of concrete by the tree with a plaque to the memory of William Elder, who was one of the club's best golfers in the 1930s.

**Second hole.** Those two trees guarding the green are called fig trees, despite what most golfers call them. From 1924 to the early 1970s, golfers had the additional hazard of dodging campers, who used to wander in from neighbouring Governor Phillip Park onto this fairway and even set up their picnic rugs here.

**Third hole.** For many years this was the first hole. It was changed in the mid-1980s at the suggestion of Arch Simpson, who was captain at the time. It is sometimes referred to as the "police hole", because when the land was first transferred in 1923 this area was set aside "for police purposes". The reason for setting aside the area was probably so that the police of the day could graze their horses there. The tee is opposite dairies operated by the Gonsalves and Hitchcock families in the 1920s. Wandering stock – cattle and horses – played havoc with tees and greens for many years in the early days of the club.

**Fourth hole.** There is buried treasure along this tee. Well, not treasure exactly, but poker machine tokens. Keith Brown, who was greenkeeper in the 1950s when the course as we know it was first laid out, had the unusual task of burying tokens from the poker machines by this tee. Presumably they were no longer of use when the pokies changed over to cash. Unfortunately, a king tide and a storm undermined the bank and exposed the tokens so he had to bury them again. Longtime members remember this hole for the tree that used to grow in the middle of the fairway.

**Fifth hole.** This is usually called the aeroplane hole because seaplanes have been using the nearby wharf since 1975. In 1998, a seaplane flown from Palm Beach crashed on a trip to a Berowra restaurant, killing the pilot and passengers. Planes from another company still land in Pittwater. Beyond the fifth green in the council car park is the unmarked grave of an unknown early settler.

**Sixth hole.** Alf Webster recalls how his father Jack Webster Snr set up a camp for the family just opposite this tee in the 1920s. Jack Webster Snr built most of the roads around the area for the Palm Beach Land Company. The Norfolk Pines in Governor Phillip Park opposite this tee were planted by club members along the newly made road in 1927 as part of an attempt to improve the park. At this time the club controlled the campers in the park and collected their rents. During the 1930s, the golf club had built shelter sheds near what is now the sixth tee and in 1941 the club gave permission to the Barrenjoey Surf Club to use the shelter sheds. Presumably the Barrenjoey Surf Club was the forerunner to North Palm Beach Surf Club.

**Seventh hole.** In the 1870s, before Barrenjoey Lighthouse was built, two beacon lights were constructed. Two cottages for the keepers of the lights were constructed near the sites of the fourth and seventh greens and the eight tees. People used to reckon that old plumbing pipes left in the ground in the area attracted lightning.

**Eighth hole.** In 1988, a couple of members of Dad's Army, Laurie Gill and Roy Woodward, were struck by lightning while sheltering under one of the pine trees at this tee. Both survived. The club now has a siren to warn members of dangerous electrical storms. For what it is worth, our pro Alan Berry reckons this is the hardest hole on the course, which is why high markers get a couple of shots here and why it has dashed many a prospective club champion's dream.

**Ninth hole.** You can still see the top of an old well near the ninth tee. For many years this well was the sole source of water for the few locals who live here and had to turn to the well when their domestic water supplies ran low. A windmill was used to pump up the groundwater. In recent years, the club has looked at reopening the well but found that the salinity of the water prohibits it.

**Eighteenth hole.** This is, of course, the same as the ninth. The record for the old course was 57 set by Steve McQueen in 1974. Col Johnston, from Sugar Valley set the current course record during a pro-am match in 1990. His card of 59 included five under for the back nine.

**The Nineteenth hole.** Our clubhouse, opened in 1965, stands on the site of "Dormy", a holiday house built in 1924 by Samuel Hood Hammond, one of our first club presidents and the father of Dame Joan Hammond, the opera singer who was also a champion golfer.

## CHAPTER ONE

### IN THE BEGINNING

The golf course is built on a sandy isthmus linking the mainland of Palm Beach to Barrenjoey Headland. This formation is often referred to as a tombolo or tied island. The sand dune area has been built up over the last six thousand years to form a barrier between the ocean and Pittwater.

The isthmus has probably been breached by the sea at least twice during the last 200 years. Severe storms including the "Dunbar" storm of 1857 and the "Dandenong" storm of 1876 caused severe beach erosion in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two wash overs of northern dunes of Palm Beach possibly occurred during these storms. However, the severe storm of 1974 failed to breach the isthmus.

Local Aborigines have left behind carvings of the outline of Barrenjoey Headland on rock in the Pittwater area and are said to have seen this image as part of their traditional regard for the rainbow serpent. Aborigines have left further testimony of their occupation of the area in form of shell middens – the remnants of ancient feasts on the beach. Several middens have been discovered north of the car park in Governor Phillip Park and were the subject of a special investigation by an archaeologist working for Warringah Council in 1984. The council was obliged to obtain permission from Sydney Aboriginal groups before the construction of the present car park to go ahead. No middens have been found on the course itself. The local Aboriginal group, Ku-ring-gai, are alleged to have died out from European diseases soon after the white settlers arrived in 1788.

### Colonial Times

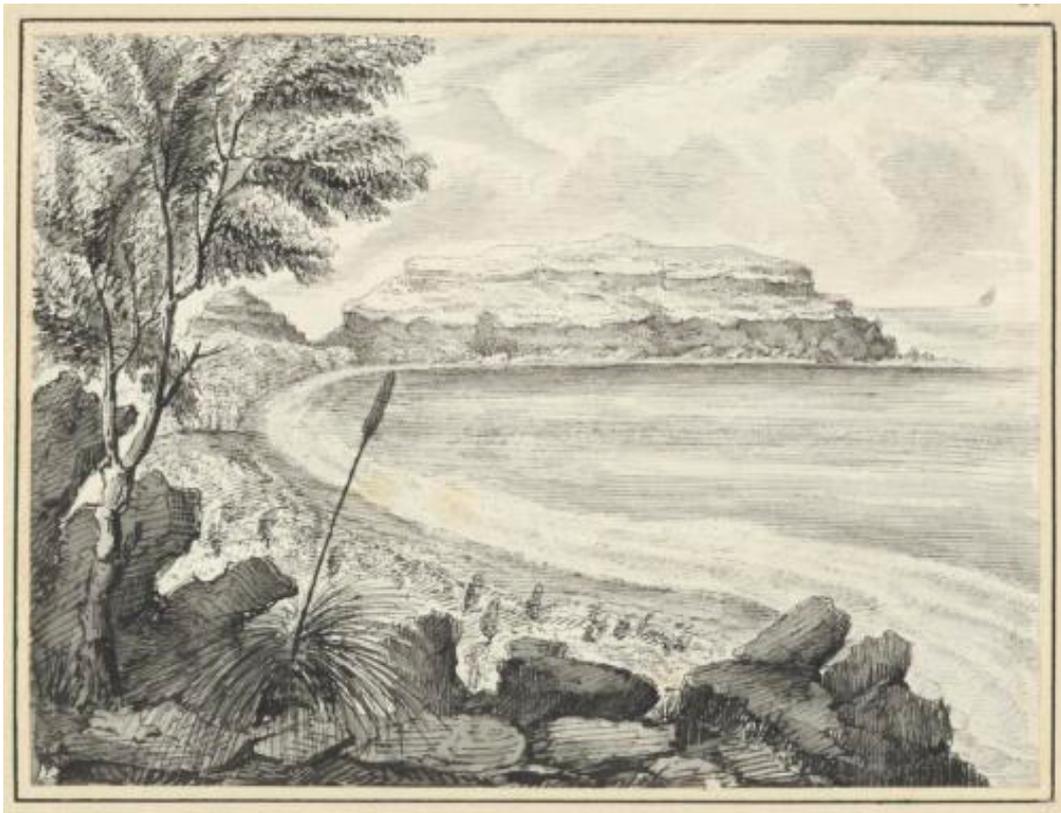
The British explorer James Cook sailed past and named Broken Bay during his epic voyage along the east coast of Australia in 1770. Australia's first governor Arthur Phillip visited the area in 1788 and gave the name Pitt Water to the enclosed area of water in honour of the British Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger.

In 1816, the land from Whale Beach to the tip the Barrenjoey Headland was given by Governor Macquarie to his favourite surgeon James Napper, who bestowed the rather grand name of Larkfield Estate on his grant. However, the area was difficult to reach from Sydney and in the years that followed the few inhabitants of the district worked mainly as fishermen, farmers or market gardeners like Pat Flynn who settled in the area in 1808. The mystery grave of an unknown white man near the site of the present car park in North Palm Beach is probably the last resting place of one of these early settlers.

The other main legal occupations in the area were splitting shingles for the roofing trade in Sydney or collecting shells which were burned to make mortar for the Sydney building industry. The very remoteness of the area encouraged illegal distillers and rum smugglers and in 1843 the government established a customs station.

In 1868, two white painted wooden beacons with oil burning lights were erected on the headland. The lights were attended by lighthouse keepers, who lived in two cottages, which were situated neat the present seventh green of the golf course. These lights functioned until August 1, 1881, when the present lighthouse came into operation.

The cottages were later used as a school room for the sons and daughters of the lighthouse keepers and other local children. The school closed in 1894. There is no sign of it today although some golf club members claim that the area where it once stood has buried pipes which attract lightning strikes.



William Romaine Govett 1807 - 1848 made this pen and wash drawing which he entitled "South Headland of Broken Bay, New South Wales, called by the natives Barrenjuill."

***Rex Nan Kivell Collection NK775/8 - National Library of Australia***



A photo taken from Barrenjoey Head in 1912. The cottage in the foreground was in the sand dunes not the golf course. It was originally built as Customs House boatman's cottage and was occupied as one of the schools from 1872 - 1876. Thereafter it was probably used as a fisherman's weekender until the white ants ate it.

***Mitchell Library***



The Barrenjoey Company already had its eye on the Lighthouse Reserve as the site for a future golf course when this view was taken about 1909

***Mitchell Library***



This view dates from about 1910 the year of the first sales at Palm Beach. There was a road around the Pittwater side of the site of the present course but not much else at this date.

***Local Studies Warringah Council - Donor Mrs. Robertson***

In 1881, the government bought back the land from the Napper Estate for lighthouse and customs requirements and so the area north of present-day Beach Road (originally known as Government Road) once again became Crown Land.

### **Barrenjoey Land Company**

The history of Palm Beach Golf Club, like the history of Palm Beach itself, is bound up with the activities of the Barrenjoey Company and later the Palm Beach Land Company. With the help of Raine and Horne, these companies subdivided and sold off most of Whale Beach and Palm Beach in the early years of the twentieth century and they used golf as a selling point.

Golf had been played in Australia since it was first introduced by a Scotsman in Tasmania in the 1820s, but it was not until later that it began to achieve wide popularity. Sydney's first golf club, the Australian, was founded in 1882 and by the early 1900s golf was a popular sport among Sydney's social set. Manly Golf Club was formed in 1903 and there were a dozen or so other clubs already in existence in New South Wales at this time. The Barrenjoey Company fostered the establishment of the Palm Beach golf course to help to sell the land it owned adjacent to the present links in much the same way that modern developers sell off land on golf course resorts today. The main difference was that the Barrenjoey Company managed to do it by setting up the golf course on public land rather than building one on its own property.

When D'Arcy Wentworth, the owner of Mona Vale Farm, died in 1827 he left his extensive estate to his daughter Katherine on the proviso that they were not to be sold in her lifetime. Katherine married Captain Benjamin Darley in 1847 and after he died, married William Bassett in 1867. The estates became known as the Bassett-Darley estates and could only be sold after a special Act of Parliament was passed in 1877.

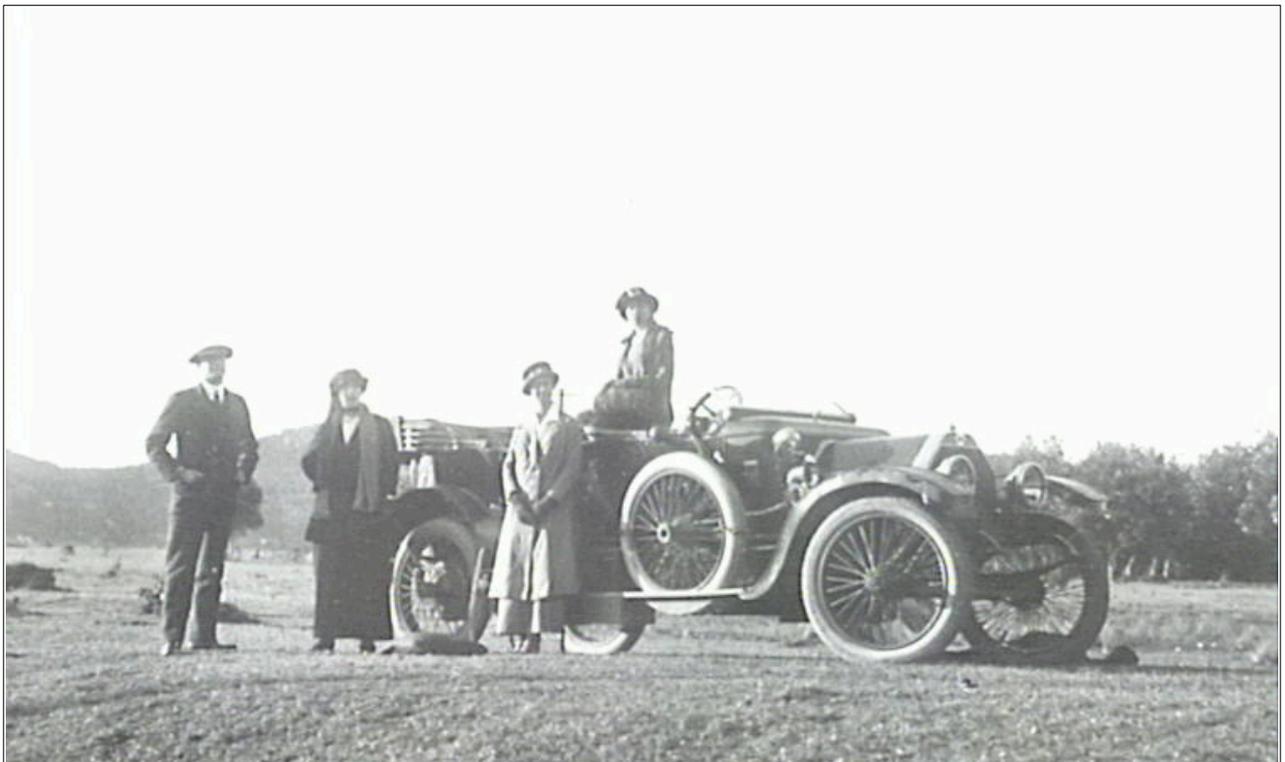
The original Napper grant had already become part of the Bassett-Darley Estate by the time the Palm Beach land that formed part of this estate was put up for auction in 1900. The sale was a great disappointment and not one block was sold. Soon afterwards a solicitor named J.T. Ralston joined with several Sydney businessmen to buy the land for 500 pounds. This syndicate then formed the Barrenjoey Company to sell the land. But they had to wait another 12 years before they were able to do so.

In the early 1900s, access to the area was still very difficult. A journey from Sydney involved travel by tram, punt and boat and a return trip took the best part of a day. A few intrepid fishermen like Harry Gonsalves used to sail round from Rose Bay and spend their holidays camping beside Pittwater little realising that their descendants, including present member John Gonsalves, would one day play golf there. But in general, few people visited the area. A track from Newport built about 1910 was so rough that most people preferred to arrive by boat. In 1911, Gows wharf was built near the site of the present-day Gonsalves boatshed, and a ferry service was established. Given the remoteness of the area it is not surprising that the 1911 census shows that there were only 25 houses and 88 people in the area of Pittwater.

However, all that was about to change as the Barrenjoey Company had decided that the time had come to launch the first of many subdivisions of the land they owned. In January 1912 and again in December the same year, Raine and Horne auctioned the company's land around Palm Beach. This time a number of well-to-do Sydney families bought blocks of land and between 1912 and 1920 they built the first holiday houses in this beautiful area. Many of these early houses were constructed by Albert Verrills, whose descendants now own the Palm Beach Ferry Company. Geoffrey Verrills is among the present members of the golf club. Other early settlers who should be mentioned include the Goddards, a family of shipbuilders who operated Goddard's wharf opposite Barrenjoey House. Present day members of this family who belong to our golf club are Donald and Matthew Goddard.



The site of the golf course about 1915  
***Mitchell Library***



On the flat at Barrenjoey 1915.  
***Mitchell Library***

In its advertisement for the 1912 sale, Raine and Horne placed great emphasis on the profusion of the beautiful cabbage tree palms (*Livistona australis*) that gave Palm Beach its name. The company also recommended the attractions of boating, surfing, and fishing in the area. No mention was made of golf.

However, records in the state archives at Kingswood show that in 1915 the Barrenjoey Company had made a formal application to build a golf links on the Barrenjoey Lighthouse Reserve as the area was then known. The bureaucrats at the Maritime Services Board, which controlled the land at this time, were not impressed with this application. They complained that the company had been "consistently striving for several years to get hold of part of the Lighthouse Reserve for their own purposes for nothing". In fact, they accused the company of trying to "hog" public land while they kept their own land strictly for their own profit. They recommended that the company's application should be turned down.

By 1922, the Maritime Services Board had indicated its intention to release for public use that part of the Lighthouse Reserve now occupied by the golf course. In anticipation of this the Barrenjoey Company advertised its "Golf Club Subdivision" in the same year. This was premature as it was not until June 1923 that the land was vested in the Lands Department and gazetted for public use. Under the authority of the Lands Department via the Local Government Act of the day, control of the newly created reserve was undertaken by the Warringah Shire Council and the stage was set for Palm Beach Golf Club.

During the next six months, the Barrenjoey Company and friends created the Palm Beach Recreation Club, which obtained permission from the Warringah Shire Council to use part of the reserve for the purposes of playing golf. To achieve this, the Recreation Company created the Palm Beach Golf Club to maintain and run the golf club and course in its name. To understand the early history of the Palm Beach Golf Club it is important to understand the relationship between the golf club and the Palm Beach Recreation Club. This can best be realised by studying a letter from the Recreation Club to the NSW Registrar General written in 1938 and reproduced in this chapter. This arrangement continued until 1938, when the Palm Beach Golf Club finally paid out the shareholders of the Recreation Club.



This photo from around 1920 shows 'Erina' unloading furniture believed to be for Barrenjoey.

***Manly Warringah Pittwater Historical Society.***

Palm Beach Recreation Club Limited.



HEAD OFFICE:  
SYDNEY, N.S.W.  
Beach Road, Palm Beach.

ADDRESSED TO  
HON. SECRETARY

24th February, 1938.

*Union George St*

Chq. 4/6  
25 FEB 1938  
C. P. Item 2654

Acknowledged

*7103*

The Registrar General,  
SYDNEY.

Dear Sir,

Replying to your communication ~~1937~~ <sup>1938</sup> dated 1st instant, I forward herewith ~~7103~~ Annual Return for year 1937 on the correct form, as directed, and enclose cheque for Four shillings and six pence covering balance of filing fee and cost of form.

As the Company has no funds or banking account I am not able to submit a certified balance sheet or Auditor's Report.

This Company was promoted to establish a Golf Club and secure the right from the Warringah Shire Council to convert Governor Phillip Park, Barrenjoey, for use as a Golf Links.

The whole of the capital subscribed amounting to £1010 was used for this purpose and expended in first year's operations. Since then there have been no transactions.

The Company has no Liabilities and its only Assett is the Agreement with the Warringah Shire Council in connection with the use of Governor Phillip Park as a Golf Links.

The details are known to Mr. W. B. Meehan of your Department. During the last three years the Palm Beach Golf Club has refunded to the Company's Shareholders 75% of the Capital Subscribed and is about to refund the remaining 25%; after which the Company's Directors propose to wind the Company up, the Council having agreed to the Company transferring the Agreement in connection with Governor Phillip Park to the Palm Beach Golf Club.

Yours faithfully

*W. B. Meehan*

Hon. Secretary.

Letter winding up the Palm Beach Recreation Club Ltd.

## CHAPTER TWO

### THE CLUB BEGINS (1924 – 1939)

There is some evidence that the Lighthouse Reserve was being used for golf in some form before the official foundation of Palm Beach Golf Club in 1924. Minutes of the Warringah Shire Council of 1923 show that an organisation call the Barrenjoey Golf Club asked the council if it could “continue” to be allowed to use the reserve for golf.

A photo of the late Chrissie Seaman, mother of Palm Beach historian Laurie Seaman, shows her holding a golf club on the site of the present course. On the back she has written that the course was “not properly laid out but fun.” The picture is undated, but Laurie’s guess is that it could have been taken in the early 1920s.

#### **The Palm Beach Land Company**

As has already been noted, the golf club owed a lot to the developers of subdivisions at Palm Beach. The Barrenjoey Company went into liquidation in October 1924 and its place was taken by the Palm Beach Land Company, which was already applying for subdivisions in January 1925. Some of the people connected with the old company like the lawyer, John Ralston, and the auctioneers Raine and Horne were also connected to the new one. The new company had offices in Pitt Street and its own wharf at Palm Beach, where it could meet prospective clients who had made their way out from Sydney. The new company, like its predecessor, also took a special interest in golf and mentioned the new golf course as part of the attractions of the area in its brochures published in the 1920s. Interestingly enough, Mr. R.T. McKay, the chairman of the land company, was a prominent member of the Sydney Harbour Trust, the predecessor of the Maritime Services Board, which had originally opposed the building of the golf club on public land. McKay served on the committee of the golf club in its early years and the company was generous with the time and money towards the club. A donation of 25 pounds was made in 1924–25.

The land company is now largely forgotten apart from the names of a couple of its principals, such as McKay and Ralston, who have left their names on local roads and reserves. These roads were built by Jack Webster Snr, who was working under the contract to the land company. Jack’s youngest son, one of Palm Beach’s oldest long-time residents, Alf Webster, recalls coming down with his father to Palm Beach in 1924, the year the golf club opened. The trip by horse drawn dray from Seaforth took all day.

The next year, when Alf was 10, the whole family moved to Palm Beach. His father built a shack, with a timber ridge pole and an iron roof, on top of the hill above Barrenjoey Road near where Alf still lives. Two years later drought forced the family to move down to camp beside the golf course where they could get water from the golf course well. Alf, a keen cricketer in his youth, was never a member of the golf club. But he and his mates did make improvised golf clubs out of lantana, which grew profusely on the sandhills at the time. For golf balls they used whatever they could retrieve from Pittwater.

#### **The Palm Beach Recreation Club Limited**

When the golf club was finally formed it was not done as part of the Palm Beach Land Company or as Palm Beach Golf Club but through a body called Palm Beach Recreation Club Limited.

The oldest club record is the report of an annual general meeting held on December 26, 1925. This “annual” report in fact covers the period from January 1, 1924, to December 31, 1925. It shows the Mr. C.R. Crossman was the first president of the club. In October 1925 the council minutes show that it agreed to an application by the Palm Beach Progress Association that “the land now used as a golf links on the



Chrissie Seaman who appears in this picture wrote on the back of the photo that the course was 'not properly laid out but fun'. The photo may have been taken some time in the early 1920s when informal games of golf had already begun on the Lighthouse Reserve but before the course officially opened in 1924.

***Courtesy Laurie Seaman***

Lighthouse Reserve" should in future be known as Governor Phillip Park. It should be noted that many of the members of the progress association were also members of then golf club.

The 1924-25 annual report showed that by the end of 1925 great concern was being realised by the golf club executive and the shire councillors, together with residents that the invasion of the reserve by the public, particularly those in vehicles, were turning the area into a sandy waste. The golf club, through the services of Mr McKay, chairman of the Palm Beach Land Company and his surveyor Mr Kenny surveyed the land, laying out the boundary road and fences and water supplies etc. It was this work in particular that became known as the "Phillip Park Improvement Scheme" and influenced the Warringah Shire Council to finally enter into an official agreement over the golf course with the Recreation Club.

On May 10, 1926, a letter from the council solicitors Maund and Co dated April 28, 1926, was tabled before a meeting of the Warringah Shire Council advising that the council could grant an exclusive licence for the use of the land as a golf links to a body called the Palm Beach Recreation Club. This was followed on June 28, 1926, with an agreement between the council and the club covering the next 10 years. However, all this was rather premature as the Palm Beach Recreation Club Limited was not officially incorporated until August 19, 1926. The club was formed to raise share capital for the golf club and to make an agreement with the shire council. Its first directors were Charles Robert Crossman, merchant, Eldred Roger Moser, wool broker, Herbert Langley Tress, solicitor, Arthur Allan Oxlade, electrical engineer, Samuel Hood Hammond, accountant, Sydney Benjamin Hooper, bank manager, and Arthur Clement Frederick Webb, consulting engineer. The president of Warringah Shire Council was also nominated as an ex officio director during his time in office.

The memorandum and articles of association set out that the company's objectives were to "promote the games of golf, tennis, bowls, croquet and other athletic sports, recreation or pastimes" as well as establishing and carrying on a golf club at Palm Beach on the grounds of Governor Phillip Park.

Minutes of August 30, 1926, show that as the Palm Beach Recreation Club Limited was now a registered company the council could go ahead and sign the agreement that had been drawn up in June and this they did.

Not all local residents or even all members of the council were thrilled to have a golf course at Palm Beach. Minutes of a Warringah Shire Council meeting show that a meeting of the council held on December 20, 1926, considered a motion to cancel the agreement with the club altogether. It was agreed to adjourn the meeting to 4p.m. to consult with members of the club. Messrs Crossman, Hooper, Hammond, Oxlade, and Tress attended the meeting to put the club's point- of view. The meeting was also attended by a resident, Mr. C.P. Curlewis. Councillor Simpson complained that the club had broken its agreement with the council by building fences and blocking public access to the park. The motion to cancel the agreement with the club was lost but as a result of the meeting the club was ordered to fence only those portions of the course that needed to block the way to motor traffic. The council also ordered that pedestrians were to have uninterrupted access to all parts of the course.

Apparently, even these stringent conditions were insufficient to satisfy the anti-golf forces, who still had one more shot to fire. On December 29, 1926, a Mr. J.H. Miles complained to the council about golf being played at weekends. He wanted the council to ban golf on Saturday afternoons and after 10a.m. on Sundays. The council considered his objections but rejected them by one vote – 5 to 4. It was perhaps fortunate that George Hitchcock was both a member of the golf club and a councillor – a close association that continues to this day with the membership of Councillor Robert Grace.

# Report

(By the President, C. R. Crossman, Esq.)

The Annual General Meeting was held on December 26th, 1925, when the Treasurer's Report was adopted and the following Statement made by the President:—

Statement of Accounts for the two years' period to 31st December, 1926, is enclosed for information of members, there remaining at this date a balance in hand of £18/16/-.

Throughout the period, as members will have seen, the links have been maintained and improvements effected in the way of clearing the lantana, rolling the greens, etc. Tees have been made, the whole costing a substantial sum. The tees have so far not proved a success, but it is hoped that attention to be given to them will put them in better condition in course of time.

It is specially pointed out that the golf links are a boon not only to residents and regular visitors, but also to the public. This is evidenced by the numbers that have made use of them, it being estimated that approximately a thousand people have actually played on the links during the past year.

The links and the improvements made in clearing scrub and providing more open spaces in the timbered area for parking cars, etc., are attracting numbers of visitors, this incidentally benefiting local business of various kinds.

To date the cost of improvements and maintenance expenses have been borne by the Golf Club.

The heavy motor traffic over the whole area of the reserve is having a rapid injurious effect upon the carpet of grass, and a situation has arisen calling for prompt action to prevent retrogression of the area into a sand waste, and other serious damage to the reserve as a whole.

Realising the seriousness of the position, the Golf Club Executive, associating with themselves the Shire Councillors for the Riding, are providing the initiative in developing a scheme covering provision of water supply, sanitary conveniences, and definition and delimitation of areas for roads,

The First Report of Palm Beach Golf Club recorded the affairs of the club between its opening on 1 January 1924 and 31 December 1925

parking cars, etc. It is thought that the scheme will approve itself to the whole community as not only desirable, but essential to the well-being of Palm Beach, in the interest of residents with that of visitors.

The greatest practicable expedition is being made in working up the scheme, and as the concurrence of the Club in the general idea is taken to be assured, it is proposed to enlist the co-operation of the Progress Association and the whole Palm Beach community, preparatory to placing the matured plan before the Shire Council, under whose control the work will necessarily have to be carried out.

## Balance Sheet

JANUARY 1st, 1924, TO DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

Jan. 1—	£	s.	d.	To	£	s.	d.
By Balance .....	17	13	6	Professional Fees, laying out links .....	5	5	0
„ Subscriptions .....	133	16	6	„ Fencing and Fittings ....	34	12	6
„ Green Fees .....	52	8	0	„ Labour Erecting Same, etc.	13	6	3
„ Palm Beach Land Co. ....	25	0	0	„ Tins and Flags .....	8	7	0
„ Competition Entries .....	7	16	0	„ Water Carrier .....	3	13	6
„ Sale of Golf Balls .....	2	19	6	„ Lawn Mower .....	6	4	3
				„ Notice Boards .....	10	19	6
				„ Labour and Material for New Green and Tees and Clearing .....	53	0	0
				„ Clearing for Parking Area	32	0	0
				„ Top Dressing Greens and Tees .....	8	19	6
				„ Caretaker .....	27	13	0
				„ Receipt Books .....	6	10	6
				„ Scoring Cards .....	2	17	6
				„ Golf Balls .....	5	8	0
				„ Postage, etc. ....	2	1	0
				„ Balance .....	18	16	0
	<u>£239</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>£239</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>

S. B. HOOPER, Hon. Sec.,  
Box 1559, G.P.O.



The Palm Beach Recreation Club Ltd started with a subscribed capital of 1,010 pounds put in by some 50 people mainly from the Eastern Suburbs and the North Shore. One of the principal shareholders was the Palm Beach Land Company. The importance of the recreation company in relation to the golf club can be demonstrated by the fact that when the club tried to override the company in the 1930s the company shareholders pointed out in no uncertain terms that two of its directors had a place on the golf club committee whether the other committee members liked it or not. The shareholders were gradually paid back over the years until 1938 when the last of them were paid out and the company was wound up.

## Firsts

Unfortunately, we do not know the names of the first people to play the historic, official inaugural game of golf on the course, exactly when it was played, or even if such an event ever took place. But we do know from the annual report that the first golfers were followed by over a thousand people who played on the course in 1925.



The golf club had opened for business and a few houses had been built across the road when this photo was taken about 1926. The house shown on the northern beach front of Pittwater was owned by George Hitchcock, a local dairyman, shire president and founder and first life member of Palm Beach Golf Club. The house was destroyed by a storm around 1930 as were the boatsheds shown by the waterside in this photo.

***Local Studies Warringah Council – Donor Jean Lea***

Tony Hammond, son of foundation member S.H. Hammond and brother of the opera singer and champion golfer the late Joan Hammond, has fond memories of driving down from Lindfield to the family holiday cottage "Dormy" at Palm Beach. The 25-mile trip took over an hour – more if the car got bogged at Tumbledown Dick Hill. Tony remembers the first tee was where the third is now positioned and the ninth was where the second is now located opposite the family cottage, which is the site of our modern clubhouse. He also has memories of entertaining such people as Billy Hughes, the former Prime Minister of Australia, in the family holiday cottage. Unlike his sister, Tony did not become a champion golfer, but he did play off a handicap of five at one time.

Betty Everingham, the daughter of foundation member Clifford Broughton, is now in her eighties but still plays the odd game of golf near her home at Hopetoun Village, Castle Hill. She has vivid memories of coming to Palm Beach as a seven-year-old in the 1920s and staying at the family cottage overlooking the course. She recalls that it was an excellent course for children to learn the game and she enjoyed playing golf with Tony Hammond. As she remembers it, the course was rough – the only bits that were mowed were the greens. "To be perfectly frank the course then was pretty much a cow paddock." In fact, she remembers that on one occasion a cow ate her ball.

There were two dairies at Palm Beach in those days. Perhaps dairy is too grand a word. They both consisted of three or four milking cows, which served their own families plus the small local population and weekend visitors. One of the owners, the Gonsalves family, was one of the early pioneering families at Palm Beach. The list of golf club members – past and present – includes a number of members of the Gonsalves family, notably the late Midge Gonsalves, who was one of the best golfers in the club in his prime. The other dairy owner was George Hitchcock, one of the foundation members of the golf club. In these early days, there were probably more cattle than people in the district and Avalon had its own stockyard. A lot of cattle wandered around more or less wild, and minutes of the golf club abound with complaints about stock interfering with the tees and greens. In fact, some present-day members can remember cows wandering around the outside of the golf course as late as the 1940s.

Joyce Mildwater, the daughter of foundation member Allan Oxlade, has fond memories of getting in the family's big Hudson and driving down from Manly to Palm Beach at weekends. At first, they camped on a block of land they had bought near the present clubhouse and later they built the cottage Murraba, which still stands. In those days, there was no electricity at Palm Beach and kerosine was used for cooking and lighting by both the householders and campers. Her father was an electrical engineer and his firm eventually provided most of the residents of Palm Beach with electricity in the early 1930s. Her father later bought the Hammond's house, which he leased to the club and which the club eventually bought. The present clubhouse now stands on this site on Beach Road.

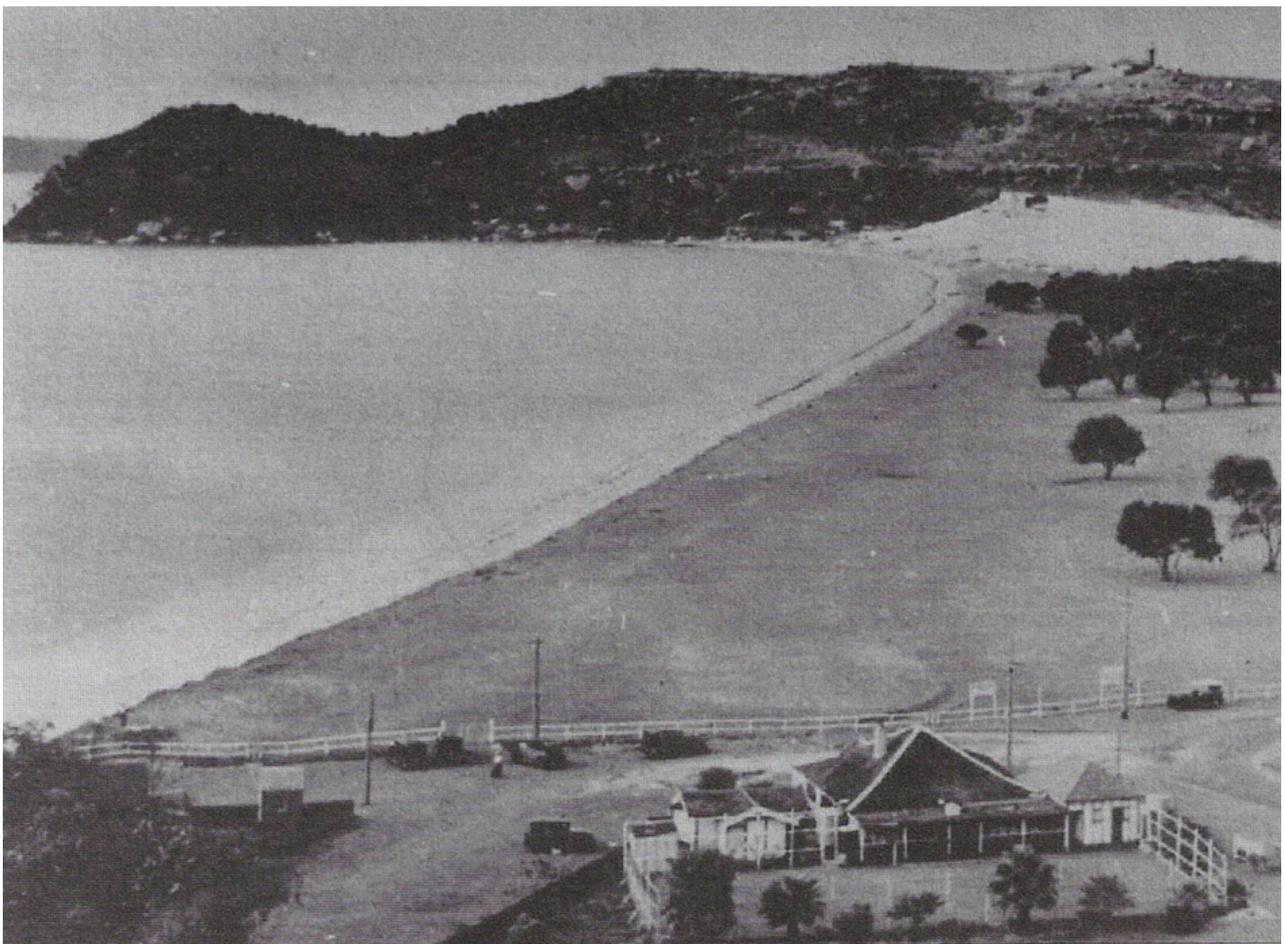
Joyce remembers the general appearance of the course as being not too much different from what it is today. There was a rough track along the water on the Pittwater side until it was closed off with a white fence and another track was built beside the course on the ocean side to the custom house cottages which have since been destroyed. The golf course was laid out with big white stones to mark out the tees.

In 1927, the committee decided to set up the first handicaps for the club. Members were requested to take out cards for two rounds to form the basis of the handicapping system. Mr. Crossman was given the task of being the club's first handicapper. Other clubs were invited to come and compete on the Palm Beach course.



There was more of a picnic atmosphere than one of serious golf in the 1920s. This photo shows family and friends of our first president Charles Crossman engaged in dejeuner sur l'herbe in these halcyon early days.

*Courtesy Shirley Crossman*



The course was fenced off and signs had been erected when this view was taken in 1932. In the left foreground is the house of Barney Houghton, one of the club's founders.

*Courtesy Aubrey Barton*

The first groundskeeper at Palm Beach was a Mr. Harrison, who was employed for three pounds 10 shillings. The club agreed to buy him a motorcycle costing 30 to 40 pounds so that he could travel from Narrabeen to Palm Beach. In 1928, however, the services of Mr. Harrison were dispensed with, and he was replaced by Mr. A.E. Smith, who continued on as greenkeeper until his death in 1939.

In 1928, the club formally adopted the rules of golf as approved by the Royal and Ancient Club of St Andrews. In 1929, the committee approved the first local rule. Rule one was that a ball being driven into the sea was to be treated as out of bounds. The penalty was to be loss of distance only.

The club held its first championships in March 1929. The men's championship was won by M. Gonsalves. The ladies' event was won by Mrs. S.B. Hooper. Prizes of silver palm badges were donated by Messrs Moser, Wiltshire, and Hammond. A marquee and 130 tables were set up and a jazz band played until midnight.

In 1934, the club granted its first honorary members – William Morris Hughes, the Hon. Archdale Parkhill, Brigadier-General Lloyd, and A.E.V. Reid M.L.A. A former member of Palm Beach Golf Club, Peter Ballard lived as a five year old boy in the family home in Waratah Street before World War II and remembers former Prime Minister Hughes as a regular visitor to the course. Apparently, the "Little Digger" would arrive with a female companion on one side and his bodyguard on the other. His habit was to march up to the first tee scattering the crowd before him like Moses parting the waters of the Red Sea. He would then immediately hit off, totally ignoring anybody waiting in front of him.

In 1936, Albert Staveley, an A grade golfer, became the first captain of Palm Beach. By this time the weekend fields must have been increasing because club minutes reveal that the committee had a long discussion about slow play. The committee decided to speed things up by having players hit off before the ones ahead putted out on certain holes.

In April 1938, the club took out a public risk policy for 15 pounds for a cover of 500 pounds. The timing was great. The minutes for May 1938 show the first recorded payout for damage to a motor vehicle when the Queensland Insurance Company was obliged to pay money to a Mr. Watts for a broken windscreen.

## **The Founders**

The foundation members of the club were mainly city business and professional men with homes in the Eastern Suburbs or on the North Shore and holiday homes in Palm Beach. The men who played a leading role in the early years of the club include C. Broughton, C.R. Crossman, S.H. Hammond, G. Hitchcock, S.B. Hooper, B.L. Houghton, E.R. Moser, A.A. Oxlade, H.L. Tress, A.C.F. Webb, and D.B. Wiltshire. None of their descendants have any links with Palm Beach Golf Club today.

**Clifford Broughton**, a foundation member at Pennant Hills as well as Palm Beach, is credited as one of the men who laid out the first three holes of the golf course. By profession he was a land inspector for the Intercontinental Land and Building Company, which constructed homes all over Australia. He built a family weekender on the hill overlooking Palm Beach golf course and so that he could indulge his two greatest hobbies – golf and fishing.

**Charles Robert Crossman** was the first president of the club and held the position from 1924 to 1926. Crossman was manager and later owner of Edward Arnolds a large Oxford Street retailing firm that was eventually taken over by Westinghouse in the 1950s. The Crossman family home Inglenook was at Neutral Bay and Crossman used to bring his family to Warringah Peninsula in a chauffeur-driven car. He bought land in the sale of 1910 and built one of the first weekend cottages on the hill overlooking the



Vera Russell, daughter of lighthouse keeper William Russell, must have had the world's longest drive if she was serious about reaching the golf course. The number of houses shown in this photo suggests it was taken in the late 1920s or early 1930s.

**Local Studies Warringah Council - Donor Jean McGlynn**

site of the golf course soon afterwards. He later moved to Bayview. He died in 1945 in his 86<sup>th</sup> year.

**Samuel Hood Hammond** took over as president of the club in 1927 and held the position until 1933. Many early meetings were held in either his office in the city or at his weekend home "Dormy", which was eventually demolished to make way for the present-day club house on Beach Road. Hammond was a British electrical engineer who emigrated to Australia about 1912 and later became an accountant. He died in 1963 in his eighties. He is best remembered today as the father of the opera singer Dame Joan Hammond (1912–1996). In addition to being one of Australia's most famous divas, Joan was a talented golfer. She learned the game on the Palm Beach course often making up a four when her father and two other friends were playing.

She credited her father with teaching her the sport so well that she went on to win five titles between 1930 and 1935.

**George Hitchcock (1865 – 1949)**, unlike the other foundation members, was a local resident of Palm Beach. An Englishman, who worked his way out to Australia in a sailing ship, he earned his living first as a butcher and later became a farmer at Dural. Sometime around 1918 he came to Palm Beach, where he set up a dairy just south of the third tee. His house appears in early photos of the Palm Beach course and one of the outbuildings extended on piers out over the beach. It was destroyed by a storm about 1930. Despite his humble origins, George Hitchcock made quite a mark on the Warringah Peninsula. He was a member of Warringah Shire Council from 1920 to 1941. He was shire president in 1930 and 1931. Hitchcock Park is named after him. He was made the first life member of Palm Beach Golf Club in 1934.

**Bernard Lesley Houghton** was the founder and managing director of Houghton and Byrne, a York Street based firm of pest exterminators. The company specialist in the use of chloropicrin to fumigate rabbits and the business was so profitable that "Barney" Houghton was reputed to have become a millionaire at a time when a million pounds was a lot harder to acquire than it is today. Houghton built one of the first houses on Sunrise Hill and later owned a house at the corner of Beach Road and Waratah Street. Here he employed a full-time gardener to care for his carnations, water and mow his bowling green and look after his tennis court, where the American champion Jack Kramer was said to have been among the players invited to play at weekends. From time-to-time Barney would lend his gardener to the golf club as a greenkeeper.

**Sydney Benjamin Hooper (1869 – 1959)** was a former city bank manager with the now long defunct Union Bank. After he retired, he moved to a large house at Palm Beach on the hill overlooking the golf course. He was the club's second life member in 1936.

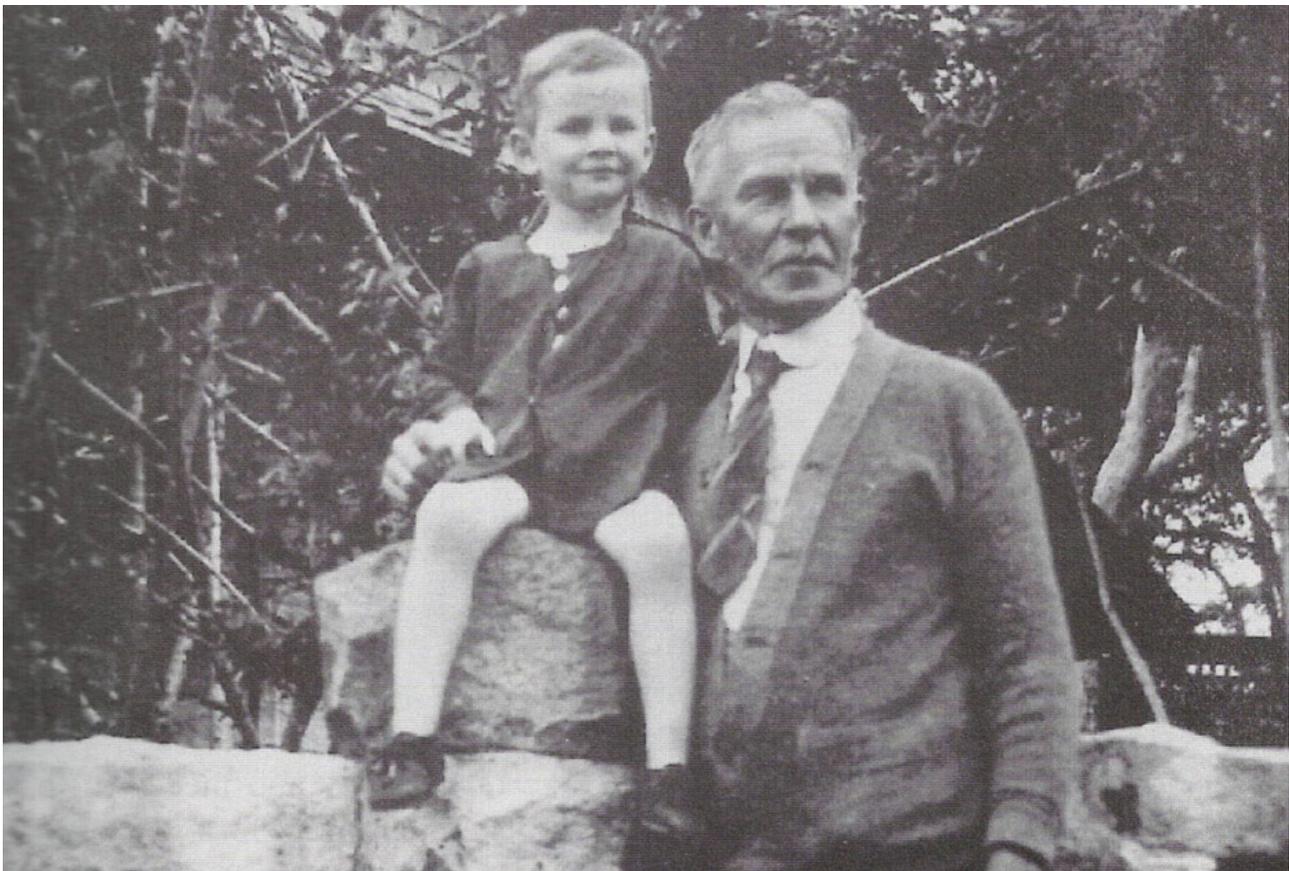
**Eldred Moser**, a wool broker with Winchcombe and Carson, played an important part in the early history of the Palm Beach, where his nephew and niece still have holiday homes. Moser was president of the golf club from 1933 to 1936 and a regular partner of Joan Hammond and her father. His wife Mary was also a keen golfer. Moser was also president of Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club from 1933 to 1935. He died in 1937.

**Allan Oxlade** was a keen athlete who represented Australia in the 220 yards race in New Zealand in his youth. He worked as an electrical engineer for the family-owned Federal Electrical and Engineering Works which began its electrical contracting business in 1900. In 1923, he built a family fibro weekender named Murraba, which still stands on Beach Road.

Around 1930 he bought "Dormy" from the Hammonds. He rented it to the club as a clubhouse in 1932 and sold it to the club in 1950. His daughter Joyce Mildwater says that her father was a dedicated member of Palm Beach Golf Club and the lease and



Cliff Broughton was a foundation member of Pennant Hills Golf Club as well as Palm Beach.  
*Courtesy Mrs. Betty Everingham*



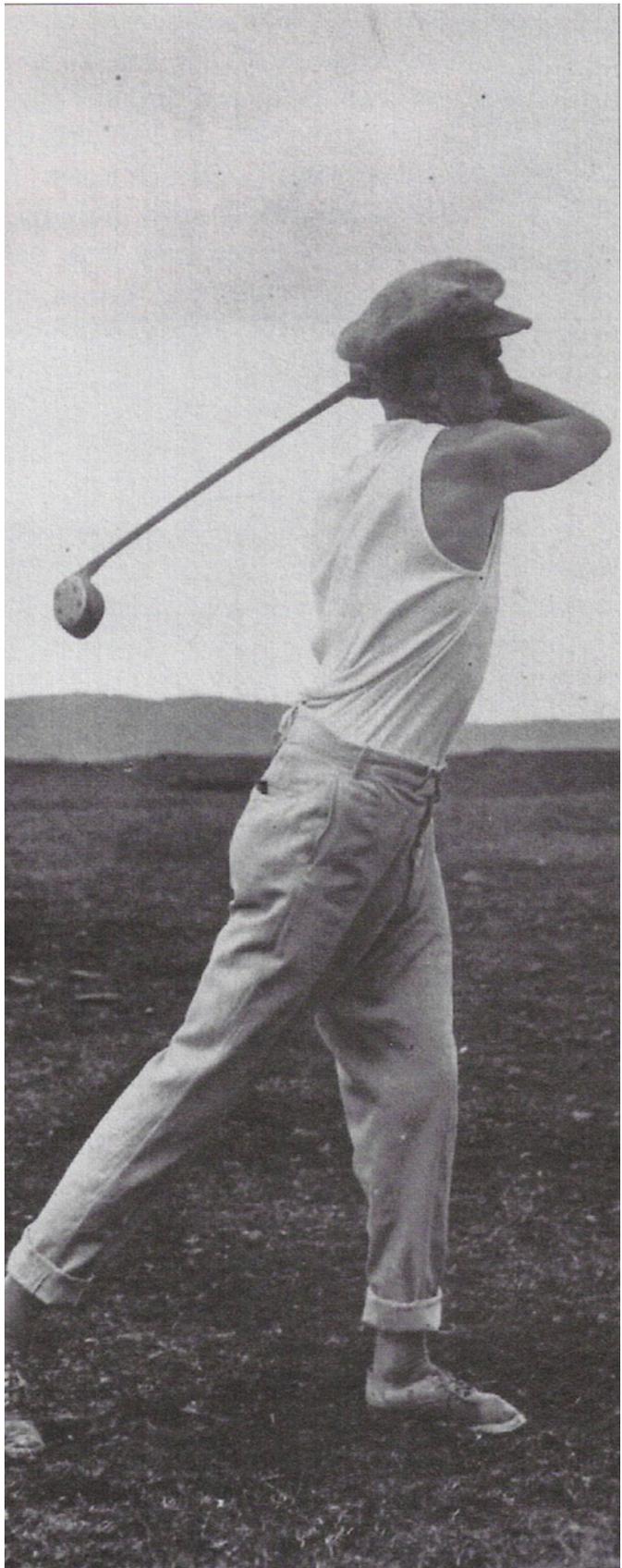
Charles Crossman was first president of Palm Beach Golf Club  
*Courtesy Shirley Crossman*



Samuel Hood Hammond, father of opera singer and golfer Dame Joan Hammond, built the house "Dormy" which later became our club house  
***Courtesy Mrs. D.M. Hammond***



George Hitchcock ran a dairy farm at Palm Beach. A foundation member of Palm Beach Golf Club, he later became president of Warringah Shire Council  
***Courtesy Hitchcock family***



Barney Houghton, a millionaire businessman, was a foundation member of our club.  
***Courtesy Rentokil***

later the sale was both made to help the club rather than for financial reasons for himself.

**Allan Oxlade** was a member of every executive committee from the inauguration of the club in 1924 until 1939. He was president of the club from 1936 to 1939 and was made a life member in 1940.

His brother Guy Oxlade was an accountant who never played golf. However, he took a great interest in the club. He became club secretary in 1928 and stayed on in the position for 19 years until his death in 1947.

**Arthur Clement Frederick Webb** was a founding member of the Palm Beach Recreation Club Limited. He was a consulting engineer who lived in Rose Bay.

**Dudley Barnett Wiltshire (1875 – 1949)**, a long-time committee member and trustee of the golf club, was general manager of the Darling Island Stevedoring Company. He lived at Pennant Hills where his wife Sylvia was a champion golfer. In 1923, the Wiltshires bought land in Northview Road where the house Northview was built. Dudley Wiltshire retired in 1940 and came to live at Palm Beach full time. His daughter Juanita Laird remembers that her father was in poor health and as there was no



Allan Oxlade, a president of our club, allowed his weekend house "Dormy" to be used as a club house at a nominal rental until he sold it to the club in 1950.

*Courtesy Joyce Mildwater*



Eldred Moser was an early Palm Beach resident and a foundation member  
of the golf club  
*Courtesy R McIlroy*

doctor in Palm Beach at that time he was obliged to resign from the club and leave the district in 1948. His brother Bowen Barnett Wiltshire, the owner of a shipping company, also served as a vice-president of the club. B.B. Wiltshire lived at Burwood and had a holiday home at Palm Beach under the cliff facing the ocean. He died in 1945.

Herbert Langley Tress (1875 – 1942), a Sydney solicitor, was the founder of the law firm Tress, Cocks, and Maddox, which records in its 100-year history its involvement in the famous "shark arm case" which astounded Sydney when a shark regurgitated the arm of a man who was believed to have been murdered. Tress lived at Roseville and helped to found Pymble Golf Club as well as Palm Beach. He acted as the Palm Beach club's honorary lawyer for many years.

### **The Course**

Photos of the Pittwater side of the course taken around 1910 show an almost treeless waste dotted here and there with a few low clumps of shrubs. When the area became the golf links in the 1920s, Joyce Mildwater remembers that some parts of the course were fairly thick with a species of Banksia similar to the ones that grew at Long Reef. However, the trees were attacked by a big white grub and many valiant but vain efforts were made to save them. The actual surface of the land was very delicate and, as the annual report covering 1924 stated, the motor traffic was threatening to return the area to a sandy waste. The shire council was obliged to construct roads and parking areas to limit the damage.



Dudley Wiltshire shown here in 1924 built one of the early weekend houses at Palm Beach and later lived there during the war years.

*Courtesy Mrs. Juanita Laird*

The first annual report covering 1924-25 records that the links were cleared of lantana. It tells us that the first tees were set up and the first greens laid out and rolled. But it is clear reading the annual reports that it was not until 1927 that the land was surveyed, the roads laid out, the boundary fence and water supply arrangements put in place.

These improvements were assisted by the Palm Beach Land Company through its chairman Mr. McKay who also arranged for the company surveyor Eugene Kenny to lay out the course for a deferred fee. This would indicate that in the first four years the golf course was very primitive when judged by the standards we expect today. However, when placed in the context of isolation and holiday atmosphere, the golf club provided a means for social and sporting enjoyment. The social aspect cannot be overemphasised for at the first minuted annual general meeting held in 1926 a women's committee was voted in beside the men's committee and this strong social bond remained.

By the end of 1929, the area was beginning to resemble a golf course. The annual report for that year records: "The sum of 107 pounds 1 shilling and 2 pence was spent in providing labour for mowing the fairways, carting, and purchasing of soil, making the new number three green, commencing the new number six green, clearing grounds, erecting piles and wire barricades on the beach etc. This last item has put an end to the vexatious trouble experienced for a lengthy period from straying cattle. The plant and tools purchased include a Water Ballast Roller, a Housing Shed for Tools, and a Petrol Driven Pumping Plant as an auxiliary to the Windmill."

The annual report for 1930 records that the club had begun placing bunkers on the course. From 1931 to 1938, greens were enlarged and bunkered, and a considerable tree planting program was undertaken. After years of carting soil and fertiliser a carpet of grass has been established. So, after almost 15 years, a golf course in a true sense had finally been established.



Frank Tress, lawyer and golfer, is shown here with his family at Palm Beach.

***Local Studies Warringah Shire Council - Donor Frank Tress***

Nonetheless, photos from the 1930s show that the western side of the links was still almost treeless and board minutes from this period continue to complain about wandering cattle and horses grazing on the reserve and invading the golf course area. It is interesting to speculate what local rules may have been applied to a ball landing in animal droppings. Perhaps such a rule may have read that a ball landing in a cow pat could be considered "a ball in motion," which could be removed, cleaned, and dropped without penalty.

The 1933 census recorded that there were still very few homes or residents in Palm Beach, which had 66 dwellings and 208 people. The successful creation and continued running of the golf course were therefore a considerable achievement given that these were Depression years when money for such ventures was almost unknown. The annual report for 1932 records that many members did not renew their subscriptions that year due to the "Great Financial Depression," although even so the club somehow managed to finish the year with a surplus of 95 pounds.

### **Water**

As with all golf courses, water has been a continuing problem for Palm Beach Golf Club since the very beginning and this was complicated by the club's formal obligation to supply water to the campers in adjacent Governor Phillip Park. The first



Barney Houghton lines up a put on greens fenced off to keep out the cows. In the 1920s the greens were only bits of the course that got mowed and even then they make our temporary greens look like the Royal Sydney by comparison.

*Courtesy Rentokil*

source of water was a bore near the site of the well which is still located near the 9<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> tee.

Water was originally pumped by hand and later the club installed a windmill which suffered from endless mechanical problems. In 1928, the council agreed to pay for half the cost. In 1929, a petrol driven pump was brought into use as an auxiliary to the windmill.

In the 1930s the committee spent a great deal of time discussing new spear points – that is a spear shaped drill which creates a small underground hollow into which water flows to form a small reservoir that can then be pumped to the surface. But in 1936, both the links and the camping site were formally connected to the mains supply and the club was able to buy new revolving sprinklers and consider putting a new hot shower in the clubhouse. The committee sold off the windmill with a sigh of relief in 1939.

### **Club House**

In the early years of the club, Mr. Resch, a member of the famous brewing family agreed to let the golf course groundsman use his cottage, which was on the corner of Beach Road and the beach overlooking Pittwater. His original intention was said to have been to build a pub there, but it never eventuated. The two-bedroom house on this site was sold in 1998 for \$2.3 million.

From 1932 onwards there are references in the club's minutes to a tool shed on the course where petrol and mowers were stored. According to Joyce Mildwater, machinery was never left in the open even in the early days and she clearly remembers a green galvanised iron shed near the windmill, which is in fact the site of the present equipment shed.

Early committee meetings were held in the city offices of various members. There are references in early minutes to meetings being held in the "club house," which was probably the house beside Pittwater owned by Mr. Resch. Meeting was also held at the Rendez-Vous (now Beach Road) Restaurant. Later they were held at Mr. Hammond's family holiday house "Dormy," the wood and fibro cottage built in 1924 on the site of the present club house.

In the early 1930s, Hammond sold Dormy to Allan Oxlade, who agreed to rent it to the club for use as a club room for 30 shillings a week in 1932. The club in turn sublet part of the cottage to the groundsman Mr. Smith for 15 shillings a week and he moved into the house in 1933.

In 1938, after the Palm Beach Recreation Club had finally been paid off, several members of the committee were keen for the club to have its own club house on the golf links site. Opinion was divided as to whether the council should build the club house or if the club should build its own. In the event, neither plan was adopted and with the outbreak of the war, the whole matter was put on hold.

### **The Campers**

The destinies of the golf course and the adjacent camp in Governor Phillip Park were entwined almost from the beginning. People had been coming to the camp around Palm Beach since the early 1900s. In those days you simply pitched your tent wherever you felt like it. In 1923, when the Warringah Shire Council took over the day-to-day running of the Barrenjoey Lighthouse Reserve, one of the first things it did was to erect a notice banning camping on the reserve. However, the Lands Department stepped in and reversed the council ban. In 1926, the Palm Beach Recreation Club Ltd suggested to the council that they should jointly employ a caretaker for Governor Phillip Park. The matter was referred to the shire engineer who was also instructed to

mark out a camping area on that part of the park not used as a golf course. The council then asked the recreation club to provide fireplaces and undertake the supervision of the camping area. In particular, the club was asked to collect all rents on behalf of council. The report for 1927 shows that 7 pound 12 shillings camping fees were collected that year and from then onwards this item appears as an important source of the club's annual income although, of course, the club had to pay numerous costs, including supplying water and sanitation for the campers. On the whole, the agreement appeared to favour the club, because when the council decided in 1939 to end the arrangement and collect the fees itself, the club objected bitterly, but in vain.



**Winners of the Northern Division of the Sydney Sub-District Golf Association championship for 1938.**

Top left to right:

L. Lemmon, C. East, L. Giles, R. Trevor, W.S. Anderson, C. Rowley Jr, H. Gonsalves

Bottom row left to right:

W. McDougall, D. Fullerton, A. Staveley (captain), R. Rowley Snr, W. Elder

## Chapter Three

### THE WAR YEARS (1939 – 1945)

The arrival of the war affected Palm Beach in various ways. Some people evacuated their sons and daughters to this remote part of the world as a safety precaution. Judy Warner, a current club member, was one such "refugee". The Australian defence authorities on the other hand saw Broken Bay as a prime enemy target and built a net to trap Japanese submarines entering Pittwater. The remnants of the nets can still be seen at low tide below the lighthouse. Fred Powderly, a long-time peninsula resident whose son Glen is a current member of the golf club, spent much of the war camped at North Avalon as part of the coastal report patrol. Fred remembers the fleas that infested the patrol's blankets as the worst enemy they normally had to contend with. Their job was to put up barbed wire on Mona Vale and other beaches and to keep a watch on shipping and aircraft movements. One day in 1942, they were observing a Lockheed Hudson heading towards land from the sea and dropping bombs. Fred and his mates worked out that the plane had spotted a Japanese submarine and was taking appropriate action.

Ruby Watts who was a leading lady golfer at Palm Beach and Long Reef lived at Palm Beach during the war and used to ride a motorcycle to carry out her voluntary duties which included the making of camouflage nets and plane spotting from the local hills and peaks. Juanita Laird, daughter of foundation club member Dudley Wiltshire, remembers that their family garage at Palm Beach had a plane spotting post on top to keep a look out for enemy aircraft. Fortunately, none arrived.

Roy Broomhead and his wife were among a number of newlyweds who came to Palm Beach for a wartime honeymoon at Florida House in 1942. Roy, who later became our club patron, managed to squeeze in a game of golf during his brief honeymoon.

#### The War Effort

A meeting of the committee of Palm Beach Golf Club in June 1940 begins with a resolution expressing loyalty to King and Country and gives the promise of assistance in raising funds for war purposes. A social committee was set up to raise money for the war effort and as a matter of urgency the club sent off an immediate donation of 20 pounds to the Commonwealth Government for war purposes. Twenty pounds, it should be noted, was a considerable sum in those days. We do not know exactly what part of Hitler's downfall the 20 pounds played but we do know that a grateful Government subsequently wrote back to the club to thank its members for this donation.

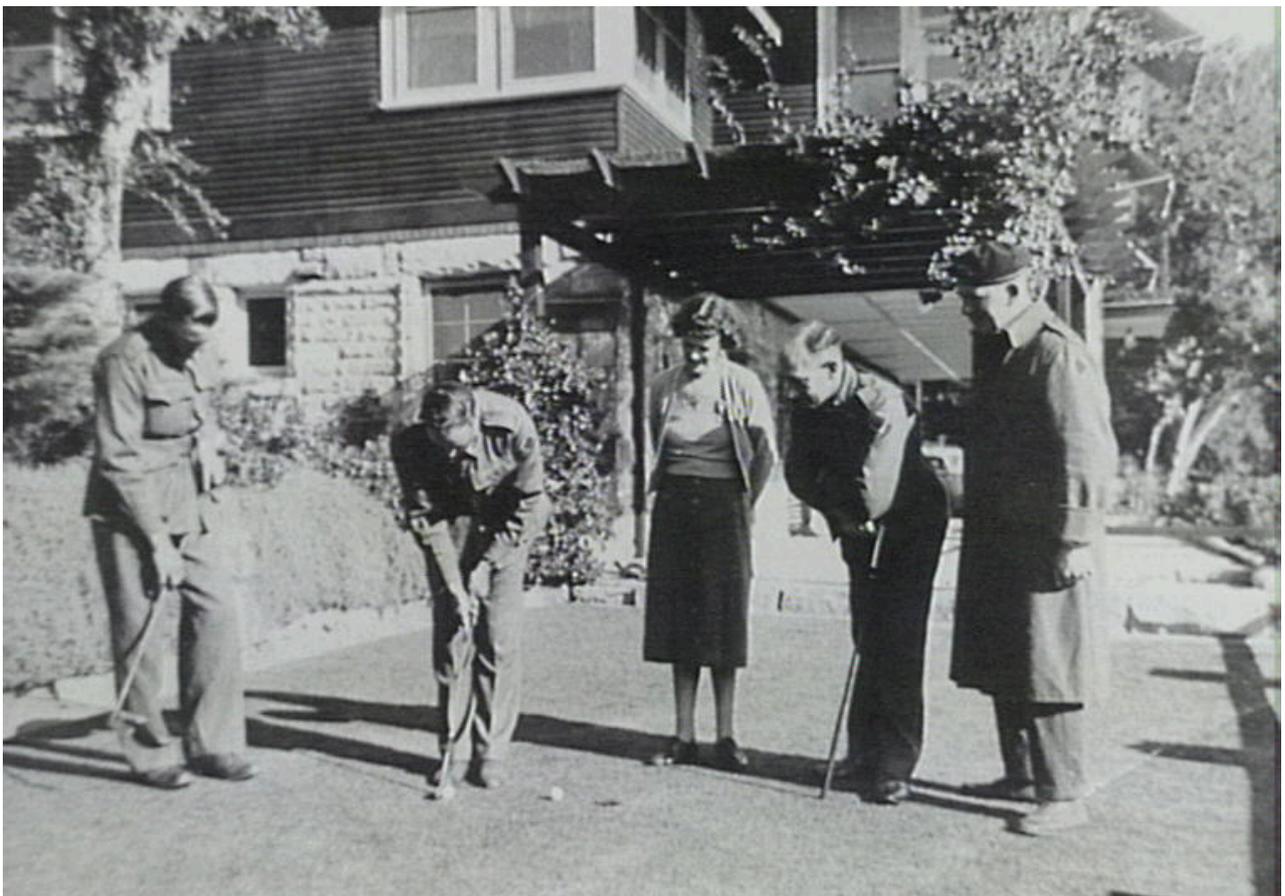
Various money raising schemes were tried including the levy of sixpence on green fees for war purposes. Golf balls were raffled to raise funds. On ANZAC Day 1941, a smoko to raise funds for the Red Cross raised seven pounds seven shillings. At a second smoko, tickets were sold to Tivoli theatre. In 1943, Mr Wiltshire loaned his billiard table to the club and members paid 6d a game.

The club also found a new way of raising money – poker machines. It introduced one to the club house in December 1940. In two months, it raised 47 pounds and 6 pence. The club was so impressed that it obtained two more machines in September 1941 splitting the proceeds 75 and 25 and 60 and 40 with the lessees.

Many younger members of Palm Beach, including club captain Dallas Hodgins, were being called up and the club decided to donate each club member two guineas on their final leave. Fees were waived for members serving overseas. The minutes of October 1941 record that Corporal Oatley had been wounded in Tobruk and the club decided to send him a Christmas hamper. Visiting soldiers in uniform were allowed to play golf on the course free. In 1942, the Sydney District Golf Association suspended interclub competitions and special open days.



Coastwatchers on Barrenjoey Headland made constant checks for enemy aircraft and shipping during World War II.  
*Courtesy Fred Powderly*



Soldiers on disability leave enjoying putting at Arcadia, the Palm Beach House of golf club committee member Ern Verey in 1943.  
*Courtesy David Lyall*

Rear Admiral Feakes and Brigadier General Lloyd joined former Prime Minister Billy Hughes and prominent politician Percy Spender among the club's honorary members.

### **Financial Problems**

The club had weathered the Great Depression of the 1930s with only one passing mention of financial problems appearing in the minutes or annual reports. However, World War II was a different story. The club at this stage was not large. It had only 62 members altogether and this figure included nine associates (ladies) and six juniors. Members paid two guineas a year. Associates paid one guinea.

By 1942 in the darkest days of the war, with many members away in the armed forces and petrol rationing making travel to Palm Beach difficult, the club began to have very real financial problems. Stringent economies were introduced. The cost of cleaning the club house was reduced and the groundsman Bert Bentley was cut back to three days a week and a pound a day. Bert, who was club captain as well as groundsman in 1942-43, was employed by Allan Oxlade, whose company ran a ship repair business during the war and Bentley was therefore in a reserved occupation that prevented him from being conscripted. The club persuaded Oxlade to give them a rebate of two pounds a month for the rent of the club house and the Warringah Shire Council was successfully petitioned to reduce payments for the lease of the course to half for the duration of the war.

### **Weather Problems**

There were severe storms in October 1942 and June 1945, but the main weather problem of the war years was a period of record drought which lasted almost without a break from 1941 to 1947. (Nobody blamed El Nino in those days). Club records show a consistent battle fought at this time to keep the greens watered. Spear points were put down to water distant greens. Plants were watered with hand pumps. Water for drinking was supplied in water bags.



A428998

F/Sgt. Mathews R.K.

Husho London

England

Dear Mr Kemmis,

15-4-45

I would like to  
thank you for the Palm Beach  
Golf Club's generous gift of canteen  
orders. They proved very welcome &  
I certainly made the best use of them.  
It was certainly good of you & your  
kind gestures brought back many  
of my happy days spent on  
the golf course. Since then I have  
played on quite a few golf  
courses in different parts of  
the world I have visited.

Thanking you again  
for your kind ~~gift~~ gift.

I remain your friend  
Keith

During the war the golf club sent canteen order to members serving overseas. This letter from a grateful Flight Sergeant Keith Mathews to the club president Charles Kemmis is in the club archives.

## Chapter Four

### EXPANDING HORIZONS (1945 – 1960)

In 1945, the club erected a flagpole and raised the flag to commemorate victory and war service of club members. Peace brought a period of expansion to both Australia and Palm Beach Golf Club. The club went from about 200 members in 1945 to around 500 in 1960.

The 1947 census showed that there were only 205 houses and 612 residents at Palm Beach. One of the residents was Clem Lewis, a bookmaker who lived in a house facing Pittwater just beside "the aeroplane hole". The house has since been demolished. Clem's son Peter was active in the North Palm Beach Surf Club and his daughters Jill and Judy were keen golfers and members of the Palm Beach Golf Club.

In 1947, the joining fee was five guineas, and the annual subscription was two guineas – a fair sum to the campers, who made up a steadily increasing proportion of the membership, but not an amount of any great consequence to members like the Moses brothers, who were millionaire financiers with holiday homes at Palm Beach.

Tommy Cragg, now at 88 our oldest playing member, joined the club in 1946. As a young man, Tommy was fairly typical of the people who came to camp with their families at Palm Beach after the war. Tommy was a good golfer capable of holding his head up in any company on the course. However, as a humble poultry farmer from Windsor, Tommy says he felt like a peasant among all the monied members of the club. Tommy was introduced to the club by the Hordern family, who owned the general store at Windsor. Tommy's friends were the Windsor branch of the famous department store family and were related to R.J. Hordern the man who planted the Norfolk Island pines along the beach and the man for whom Hordern Park along the beach front is named. In those days tees as we know them were a rarity. Most golfers simply set up the ball on a "sand tee" and hit it off from there. However, Tommy's friend, Mr Hordern Senior, had a real tee which he treasured, and Tommy remembers him holding up the field for a quarter of an hour or so while he searched in the rough for his precious lost tee.

Other prominent members of the time included W. Clifton-Mogg, who served on several committees in the late 1940s and early 1950s. He is always referred to in club minutes as "Captain" Clifton-Mogg. The title apparently came from his time as a sea captain. Cec and Arthur East of the East Golf Club Manufacturing Company were also prominent members. Arthur spent many years in the United States as a golfing pro and also trained as a golf course architect.

The president in 1943, 1945, 1946, and 1949 was Charles Kemmis, who devoted a good deal of his time to running the club after he retired from business. Club minutes generally make pretty dry reading but in the case of the surviving records of the Palm Beach club the personality of Charles Kemmis come through very strongly. During the war, he was conducting his own private conflict with the club captain and groundsman, Bert Bentley, and tried to have him sacked for "disobedience" over refusing an order not to enter the shed where the petrol was kept. The matter was eventually resolved with an apology from Bentley, who was then reinstated.

In 1945, Kemmis obviously decided that standards on the links were slipping. A minute in the club records shows that at the annual general meeting that year it was decided that players without shirts would no longer be permitted on the course. Players wearing bathing costumes were also banned.

In his 1949 report, Kemmis called for "firmer discipline on the links" and advocated the employment of a course ranger during holiday periods. He also deplored the fact that "the healthy club spirit previously in evidence here has been allowed to wane.

Less choosing of one's partners and more drawings in competition would have a stimulating effect. In all open competitions the rule should be that visitors must play in the company of a local member."

Peter Ballard, who was a member of the club in the immediate post war years, confirms our impression of Kemmis as a strong personality. In fact, according to Peter, Kemmis generally ran the club like his own personal fiefdom, with little or no reference to the rest of the committee. Eventually the committee struck back. They ganged up on him and had him removed.

Recording the death of Kemmis in the annual report for 1954, Ron Gassman paid him the following tribute. "Like all good men he had an opinion and at all times he was prepared to challenge any other. Such is the noble spirit he maintained till life departed."

Honorary members in the 1950s included Sir Dallas Brookes, Governor of Victoria. Les Uren, who was a club member at the time, remembers Sir Dallas as an avid golfer and an affable fellow, who was only too happy to play with regular members like Bob Warner during his frequent appearances at Palm Beach Golf Club. Les recalls that the vice-regal limousine was distinctive not just for its size but for the fact that it sported royal crests on the front and back. The governor's aide was in the habit of parking the vehicle on a bus stop facing the wrong way. But for some reason it was never booked.

### **Life Members**

During this immediate post-war period some of the men who had played a prominent part in the club for many years were rewarded for their efforts by being made life members.

**Albert Bowman**, who was president in 1946 and 1947, was made a life member of the club in 1957. Away from the course, Albie ran Caesar Fabrics an import-export business from his offices in George Street.

**Percival Cavill** was president from 1950 to 1952 and was also made a life member in 1957. Perce is not best remembered as the man who planted the Hawaiian hibiscuses on the course. In his private life he owned a hotel at Surfers Paradise.

**Dallas Hodgins** represented Australia in Rugby League. He was also an excellent golfer, who won the club's Wellwood Cup and the Captain's Trophy. He was club captain both before and after the war and was made a life member in 1957.

### **Golfers**

The club boasted some very good golfers in the immediate post-war period and the course attracted several visiting pros.

**Harry Hattersley (1908 – 1970)**, a stockbroker from Mosman, was the best of the male golfers at Palm Beach in the 1930s and 1940s. He began to play at Palm Beach at the age of 10 and went on to win club championships at the Australian, Manly, and Elanora golf clubs. Harry won the Australian amateur championship in 1930 and 1947 and was NSW amateur golf champion in 1933, 1935, and 1950.

**Midge Gonsalves** was one of the best club members of this era. There is nobody alive today to verify the truth or otherwise of the following tale but truth or fiction it makes a good story. Apparently, Midge was working on a building job for Ern Verey, one of the wealthy committee members who had a holiday house at Palm Beach. A golf match involving Harry Hattersley had been arranged but Midge said he had to be at work. "To hell with work," said Ern. "Get down there and play golf." So, Midge, who stood five feet nothing in his bare feet, went down and took on the mighty Harry Hattersley and won.



William Morris Hughes, former Prime Minister of Australia, was an honorary member and enthusiastic golfer at Palm Beach for many years.

***National Library of Australia***



Sir Dallas Brooks, Governor of Victoria, was an honorary member of our club and a frequent summer visitor to Palm Beach during the 1950s.

***National Library of Australia***

**Bill Bolger**, the 1934 winner of the Australian Open championship, was among the pros who used to play for a purse of 50 pounds in the 1940s.

**Harry Berwick** visited the club in 1953, the year he won the state championship. Harry was fulsome in his praise of Palm Beach. He described the greens as the "equal of anything I have played on this year." His judgement of the greens, however, may or may not have been influenced by the fact that Harry played a record round of 57.

## **Competitions**

The club during the 1950s was a "weekend club." The only competitions were played on Saturdays and Sundays and a few public holidays. The exception was the Christmas carnival which was held over a couple of weeks with the campers making up the majority of the field. In the early 1950s, few people lived full time in Palm Beach and those who did took very little interest in the golf club until Jack Lewis became president and encouraged the Palm Beach residents to join and to play mid-week.

In the late 1950s, Dick Trevor, who served as treasurer on the committee, came down to Palm Beach to convalesce from an illness. Dick volunteered to keep the club house open seven days a week and helped to establish midweek competitions. Later on, Dick won the club singles championship.

One of the most important trophies of this period was the Wellwood Cup named after Norm Wellwood, a prominent member of the golf club who died in 1948. Winners of this four-ball handicap event included Bob Warner, Tommy Cragg, Les Uren, and Dallas Hodgins.

Most of the trophies played for in the 1940s and 1950s, like the Wellwood Cup, are no longer competed for. The Viking Cup donated by a visiting American yachtsman is also no longer played for.

The Stanley Cup was competed for on All Services Day. This was a keenly contested event for which a couple of beer tents were provided on the course to prevent golfers suffering dehydration during their round. These competitions were so popular that the club house was too small to take the competitors who wanted to celebrate afterwards, and the club members used to go to the Palladium Restaurant in Ocean Road. Another contest conducted in a similar spirit was the Rum Cup in which winners of each hole were "handicapped" by being obliged to down a measure of rum.

An interclub competition between Northbridge and Palm Beach for the Albert Staveley Shield, named after the first captain of Palm Beach Golf Club, was reinstated in 1947. Sid Smith, the owner of Bayview course, was also a member of Palm Beach and in 1949 he donated the Sid Smith Cup for competitions between Palm Beach and Bayview. The club's first professional day was also held in 1949.

In 1956, the Palm Beach Warren Shield team won the northern division and the Castle Cove Cup. Unfortunately, it lost to Marrickville in the final at Lane Cove.

## **The Course**

In 1945 Bentley was appointed as full-time groundsman and he and his wife were given accommodation in the club house. Vince McManus, the head greenkeeper at Long Reef, was also a member at Palm Beach and took a personal interest in our greens for many years. Ted Lees was a greenkeeper in the early 1950s and when he left, he was replaced by Keith Brown who was greenkeeper from 1956 to 1973. Keith "lived on the job." In fact, he and his family lived in a small hut at the back of the club, where the car park is now located. During Keith's time, many improvements were

made including a better watering system for the course. A new centrifugal pump was installed to pump water from the old well. It replaced the old piston pump, which had worn out. One of Keith's more unusual jobs was to bury a pile of poker machine tokens. Unfortunately, a storm eroded the course along the Pittwater shoreline and exposed the tokens. So they had to be buried all over again.

For many years there was only one groundsman and club members pitched in and helped with work on the course. In particular Reg Richardson organised arbor days in the 1950s and many of the trees still on the course owe their existence to Reg and his helpers.

The course in the 1950s had a much shorter layout compared with what it is today. It consisted of six par threes and three par fours. The greens and tees were very small. The tees and fairways were planted with blue couch, a variety of grass that was ill suited to standing up to wear and tear, particularly after the number of players began to increase dramatically. Over the years it was replaced with kikuyu, a much more suitable grass for the course. A railing fence surrounded the course and zig zagged down the eastern side to accommodate the permanent camps that abutted the course. Eventually, the fence line was straightened out by Roy Broomhead and the council engineer.

### **The Club House**

The club had been largely founded by well off professional and businessmen who left their eastern suburbs homes for their holiday houses at Palm Beach at the weekends. Just after the war, these people were still running the club. However, as the forties gave way to the fifties more and more working-class golfers from Balmain and other inner western suburbs came to the camping ground at Palm Beach for their holidays and joined the golf club in increasing numbers.

The club enjoyed a vigorous social life during the forties and fifties, two decades when people made their own fun rather than rely on mass media. The annual golf ball, the New Year's Eve Ball and the fancy dress golf day were highlights of the Palm Beach social calendar.

There was also a sense of do-it-yourself camaraderie in the club at this time. When the club house was extended in 1948-49, club members joined together to do the work. Les Gosper, a cabinet maker by trade, built the club's first bar.

At this time, the club had no licence and beer was in short supply. So when a keg of beer was needed a member drove down to the Newport Hotel and bought one along with some ice to keep it cool if not exactly cold.

Tommy Cragg remembers volunteering for this chore on a number of occasions but in later years the task of collecting the beer usually fell to Ron Gassman, who used to strap the keg into the boot of his little Ford Prefect. The weight of the keg practically lifted the front wheels of the car off the ground. Bottled beer, which was in short supply after the war, was kept in an old Silent Knight fridge and any surplus was kept in a couple of lockers set aside for the storage of beer. An honour system applied to the fridge. You put your money in the tin and took out your bottle of beer. A beer cost a shilling a glass.

In 1950, the club decided to purchase the clubhouse from Mr. Oxlade for 3,500 pounds and to finance this purchase with debentures. It was generously supported by 110 members who subscribed over 4,000 pounds. Tommy Cragg remembers coming home to his wife in their humble tent and trying to explain to her that he had just offered 50 pounds of their hard-earned money as a debenture for the clubhouse. His wife replied, "But we don't have fifty pounds."

However, somehow Tommy found the money and with his contribution, and the money from the other members, the club purchased its first club house. The list of debenture holders show that Tommy was by no means unique in coming from outside Palm Beach. Other debenture holders listed home addresses from Ashfield to Rose Bay and from Canterbury to North Sydney.

### **Winds of Change**

Somewhere between the end of the war in 1945 and the beginning of the 1950s, when the returned servicemen began to join in increasing numbers, the character of the club began to change from an exclusive institution to a more democratic one. The campers became more numerous as the Palm Beach summer resident set became less prominent.

Some of the early members died. Gus Oxlade, who had been 19 years on the committee, died in 1947. Dudley Wiltshire, a foundation member, and trustee, died in 1949. Charles Kemmis, the club's wartime president, died in 1954.

New members took their place. In particular, Ron Gassman, who joined in 1948, became one of the club's main driving forces during his 30-year association with Palm Beach. He served as president in the 1950s and was made a life member in 1957. During the 1960s and 1970s, he worked as a paid full-time secretary manager.



A hail storm on 28 August 1956 left the bunkers full of ice and disrupted traffic for miles around Palm Beach.

## Chapter Five

### THE CLUB DEVELOPS (1960 – 1980)

From 1960 to 1980 the club's membership increased from 245 to over 700. The annual reports of the early 1960s tell the story of record crowds on weekends and increasing numbers playing on Thursdays. This period saw not only an increase in membership but the construction of the first pro shop, the building of a new clubhouse and the employment of full-time staff. This was when Palm Beach developed into the club we know today.

There were also many social changes beyond the boundaries of the course in the 1970s. The most obvious one was the advent of sea planes at the aeroplane hole. The boatshed built in 1947 at the end of Governor Phillip Park was owned by Aub Allen, who operated a fishing boat hire business. In 1975, he leased the wharf and shed to Captain Victor Walton, who used it to operate his seaplane business.

The other social change affecting the periphery of the golf course was the advent of topless sunbathing. This was said to be the main cause of a tremendous outbreak of hook shots on the Pittwater side of the course.

Improved transport made Palm Beach more accessible, but it also brought more undesirables to the area. Alan Berry Senior remembers being woken frequently because the burglar alarm had gone off in the clubhouse and as a member of the club committee, he had to go with the police to investigate. The break-ins finally diminished after night cleaners were appointed.

Every club has its 'characters.' The man that most people from this era seem to remember was the late Mick MacIntosh. Nobody seems to remember much about his golf but his capacity as a drinker was legendary. Mick lived at Ermington and fortunately for the safety of the motoring public of Sydney he always travelled between Ermington and Palm Beach by bus. Alan Berry Senior remembers that one night after Mick had been indulging in his normal tippie – rum washed down with schooners of beer – he asked to be dropped at the bus stop. Alan was passing by the next day and was surprised to find Mick still there. He has missed the last bus and spent the night at the bus stop.

#### Staff

Professional staff replaced volunteers in key positions in the club during this period. They included Ron Gassman, who was the first full-time secretary manager and Wally Gale, the first teaching pro.

**Ron Gassman** originally joined the club in 1948 and when he retired in 1979, he was written up in the golfing magazine as Palm Beach's Mr Golf. During his younger days Ron was a golfer of no mean repute. Playing off a handicap of 16, he represented Palm Beach in the Gibson-Warren shields. Ron was president of the club from 1953 to 1955 and served as honorary treasurer from 1958 to 1961. Ron originally worked for Hordern Brothers but in 1961 he decided to become a full-time golf administrator. He went off to work at Fox Hills for three years before returning to Palm Beach as secretary manager from 1965 to 1979. Those who still remember Ron recall him as a tireless worker for the club and a convivial soul, who always enjoyed a drink or three with members who had similar interests.

**Walter Gale**, a young Northern Beaches golfer, was working as an assistant pro at Long Reef when he was approached by Ron Gassman to become the first pro at Palm Beach. Ron was unsure if there were enough golfers at Palm Beach to offer a

reasonable living for a pro but Wally, who lived at Palm Beach decided to give it a go. He began teaching at Palm Beach and his wife, Margaret, helped him sell golf equipment and clothing in the new pro shop when it opened in 1962. Wally recalls that in the summer they would open the shop at 4am and keep it going until 9pm seven days a week to cater for the campers and the other golfers. During his four years at Palm Beach, Wally established the Thursday comp which still continues today. He also coached Vicki Jellis, who went on to become an Australian representative golfer and now manages the "Royal Avalon" golf course for Pittwater Council. Our present professional, Alan Berry Jnr, was just a child at the time.

Somehow Wally managed to find time to play in tournaments while he was at Palm Beach. During this period, he won two state titles and was runner-up in one Australian title. He managed to score a two on every hole at Palm Beach and his record included hitting a hole-in-one twice. Wally left in 1965 and went to work as a pro at Bonnie Doon and then at Monash. Today he is semi-retired but still retains an interest in a golf range at Terrey Hills.

Wally was followed by other professionals. Gordon Clarke, a young Englishman, occupied the post from 1966 to 1968. Ian Passwell took over as pro until 1972. Garry Churcher, now a pro at Long Reef, came to our club in 1972 and left in 1974 for Bayview taking with him his young assistant Alan Berry Junior who is now our resident pro. Garry was followed first by Michael Moulds and then by Alan Topham, who left to try his luck on the circuit in 1976 and was replaced by Laurie Green. Laurie had to leave suddenly which left the club without a professional until Ron Gassman telephoned Alan Berry Jr and offered him the job.

## Life Members

Most of the life members of the 1960s are no longer with us and the survivors now generally live outside the district.

**Reg Copp** was one of the many campers who came to Palm Beach every year from the inner western suburbs. A tireless worker for the club, he served as president from 1956 to 1958 and was made a life member in 1962.

**George Kidd**, another camper from the inner western suburbs, served as president in 1959 and 1960 and was also made a life member in 1962. It was typical of George that he could be found peeling potatoes at three in the morning preparing for All Services Day which was a big feature in the club calendar in those days. He died in 1968.

Bill Chapman who came from Epping first joined the club's committee in 1947 and served as a senior vice-president from 1951 to 1955. He was made a life member in recognition of his outstanding services to the club in 1962.

**Jack Lewis** served as president in 1962 and is best remembered today as the man who made peace between the club and the council after endless years of wrangling. Jack was made a life member of the club in 1964. In business life, Jack was spare parts manager for Standard Cars.

**Reg Richardson** lives in Ebor Road, Palm Beach, and worked as a personnel manager for Lever Brothers before taking early retirement and buying the Palm Beach paper shop and corner store, which he ran for many years while devoting a great deal of time to the golf club as well. He served as a captain of the club from 1963 to 1965 and was honoured for his services to the club with life membership in 1964. He died in 1967. He is best remembered today by the bell which he donated. It is rung in the clubhouse to get the attention of members, especially by those who have just scored a hole-in-one and who wish to "shout the bar." It is also an unwritten rule that if the bell is rung without the permission of the captain or the president, the ringer has to "shout the bar."

**Les Gosper** was a cabinet maker by trade and is remembered with gratitude as the man who built the club's first bar when the old clubhouse was extended in 1948-49. He was made a life member in 1969.

**Richard Trevor** was a junior and senior club champion and a member of the winning pennant team in 1970. An accountant by profession, he first began serving as club treasurer in the 1950s. He was made a life member in recognition of his services to the club in 1974. He died in 1992.

**Robert Warner** was one of the best golfers Palm Beach ever produced. He joined Palm Beach as a teenager in the 1940s and went on to play at Concord as well as playing for our club. In 1959, he turned in a score of 57 in a medal round, equalling the course record set by state champion Harry Berwick in 1953. In 1967, Bob finished fifth in the state champion of champions competition. Altogether, Bob won 18 championships at Palm Beach – a record that may never be broken. He served on the golf club committee for many years and helped to install the course's watering system. He was made a life member in recognition of these services to the club in 1987. Bob is now remembered by the Bob Warner Memorial Trophy. His wife, Judy, and his son, Greg, are still members of the club. Those who remember Bob recall him as a modest friendly bloke who was universally liked. He died in 1992.

**Roy Broomhead**, our late club patron, somehow always managed to take precious time off from his heavy involvement with his family engineering and construction business to indulge his two main hobbies – rugby and golf. Roy played a key role in pioneering Drummoyne Rugby Club.

Roy joined our club in 1960 and not only played a vital role in the building of the present clubhouse but also worked at getting the course straightened out within its current boundaries. He served as president of the club from 1966 to 1970 and was made a life member in 1972.

This was in fact the second time he had been made a life member. In 1968, the club offered all members the opportunity of paying \$300 for life membership without further subscriptions. Another member Gordon Baker and Roy were the only ones to take up the offer. At the time Roy had not been made a life member for his services and when the club eventually did honour him in this was they refunded his money. Perhaps Roy's greatest achievement was using his influence with the lands department which had plans in 1971 to eliminate the golf course entirely in 1977. Instead, Roy persuaded them to incorporate the course into the general plan for the peninsula.

Those who knew Roy saw him as something of a gentle giant. However, this former footballer has his own idiosyncratic way of running a meeting. Roy was fond of telling the following story against himself. According to Roy, one of the committee members, Arthur Whitlock kept raising irrelevant points of order during meeting in the old "Dormy" clubhouse. Finally in exasperation, Roy announced that he was going to deal with Arthur and his points of order. He picked him up and tossed him out of the window. Fortunately, in those days the clubhouse was only one storey, and the window was not high off the ground.

Roy was appointed as patron in 1969 and continued on in this capacity until his death in 1999 at the age of 78. Among his many achievements, Roy was proud of the fact that he held the record for being the longest-serving patron of any golf club in New South Wales.

An attentive reader who has followed our text thus far may be pardoned for wondering if the honour of life member of Palm Beach Golf Club is something of a health hazard. However, the three female life members, Thelma Hopewell, Shirley Toms, and Joan Palmer are still very much alive, and Shirley and Joan still play. They are discussed in chapter seven.



A group of associates in the 1970s with secretary manager Ron Gassman. Left to right are Joan Berry, Joan Brunker, Helen O'Brien, Mary Hammond, Wendy Martin, Ron Gassman, Thelma Hopewell, Jeannie Grant (partly hidden), and Joan Campbell.



Ron Gassman was Palm Beach's 'Mr. Golf' during the 30 years he spent at our club. He joined in 1948 and left in 1979 after many years as secretary manager.



Bobby Warner, a fine golfer, won 18 championships at Palm Beach - a record that may never be broken.



Roy Broomhead joined Palm Beach in 1960 and contributed more to the club than anybody in its history. After stepping down as president, he continued his relationship with the club as our patron. He was the longest serving patron of any golf club in NSW at the time of his death in 1999.

There are also four male life members, who are still very much alive and well at the time of writing although three of them have either left the district or given up golf or both. These life members are Alan Berry Snr, Charles Gates, Les Uren, and Ken Cush.

**Alan Berry Snr** joined Palm Beach Golf Club in 1961 and remained a keen member of the club until he left the area in 1980. He served as a senior vice-president for eight years and was made a life member in 1979. Alan spent his working life with the family engineering business. He is of course remembered today as the father of our present professional Alan Berry Junior.

**Leslie Uren** left school during the Great Depression and was lucky enough to be offered a job as an assistant professional at Manly, where he served his apprenticeship with Ossie Pickworth. However, he eventually decided against continuing his career as a golf pro and joined his brother Jack to start up a printing business. His other brother is Tom Uren the well-known Labor politician. Les moved to Palm Beach and joined the golf club in 1949. He played golf as a hobby at Long Reef and Palm Beach off a handicap of four. He was a member of the pennant team for Palm Beach and won the club championship a number of times. He was also active on the greens committee and was made a life member in 1970. He quit golf for bowls in the early 1970s.

**Charles Gates** was one of the campers, who joined Palm Beach in 1953. Charles won the club championship in 1955 and served on the golf club committee over many years. His golf club activities had to be fitted into a busy schedule demanded by his job as managing director of TRW Products, a company that manufactured steering gear for the automotive industry. He retired in 1987 and was captain in 1993. He was made a life member in 1995 and left Sydney to move north in 1996.

**Ken Cush** first joined Palm Beach Golf Club in 1952. He won the Staveley Shield in the All Services Day competition in 1954 and later played in both Warren and Gibson shield teams. He left the club for a period in 1960s. After he rejoined in 1969, he became one of our most active members. Although he lives at Coogee, nobody can remember Ken ever missing an Annual General Meeting in the last 30 years. When the club pro, Ian Passwell, asked for help with the Thursday raffle, Ken stepped in and ran it for some 20 years. He also organised barbeques out on the course, and, with the help of his wife, he ran the Christmas and mid-year parties inside the clubhouse. He served as president in 1975 and 1976 and was responsible for introducing to the club two players who later became presidents – the late Don McLeod and the late Ron Brightwell. Ken was made a life member of the club in 1999.

## Competitions

The high point of the golfing calendar at Palm Beach in the 1960s was All Services Day. This was held once a year and extended to late at night or even early morning. Over 200 golfers from clubs all over New South Wales took part. During the day, associated served food and drinks on the course at three different holes and by the end of the day most players had eaten well and drunk a reasonable amount of alcohol. They then went on to dinner. Dinner was followed by a game called overs and unders, which is a form of two-up. This was very professionally organised- by Darcy Bonnett, the husband of Beryl Bonnett and one of the top six bookmakers in New South Wales. The result was a very handsome profit for the club. The other big event of the year was the Christmas Carnival. In 1966, it attracted over 2000 players.

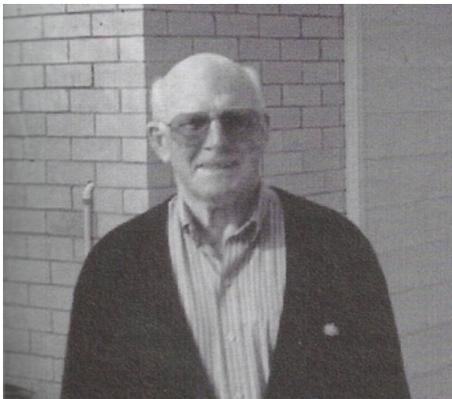
As a small club with a nine-hole course, Palm Beach is not generally regarded as a club sought out by "heavy hitters." As a result, it has not had a great deal of success in interclub competitions. So, when the men's team won the group three Pennant in 1970, Roy Broomhead described the victory as "probably the greatest thrill of my life."



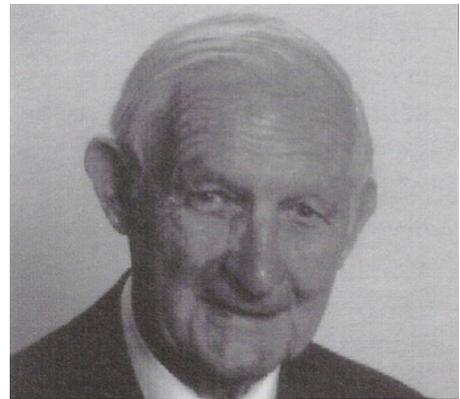
Alan Berry Snr, father of our current professional Alan Berry Jr, was made a life member in 1979.



Les Uren served as apprenticeship at Manly with Ossie Pickworth before joining Palm Beach as a hobby player in 1949.



Charles Gates joined our club in 1955 and was a life member in 1995.



Ken Cush was made a life member in 1999.



In 1970 when our team won the group three Pennant. The team included several golfers who became life members of the club. Top row: A. Berry (Sen VP), W. Flanagan, R. Trevor, R. Broomhead (Pres), W. O'Brien, C. Gates, J. Workman (Club Captain).

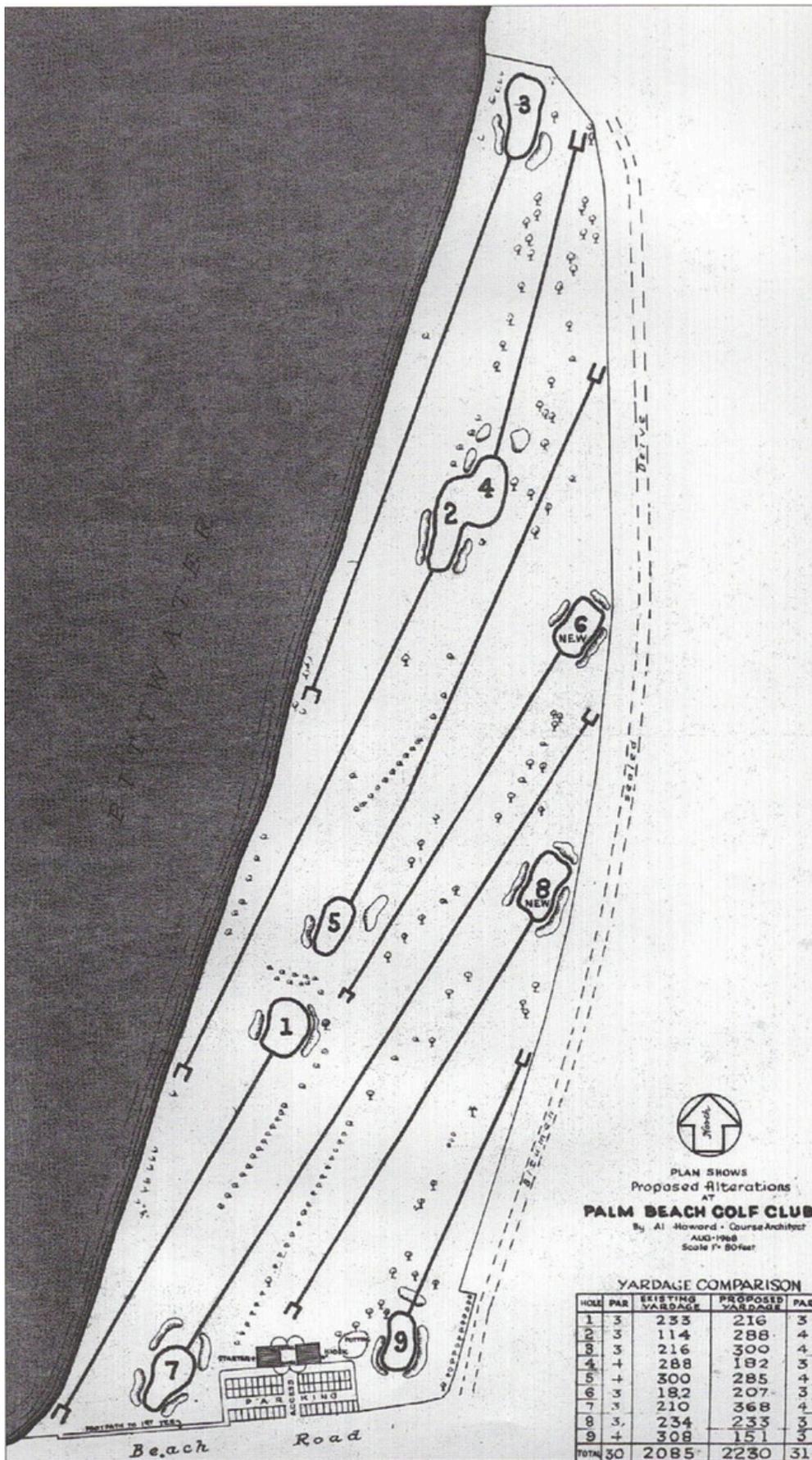
Bottom row: R. Thomas, W. Boots, P. Burke, R. Warner (Field Captain).

## The Course

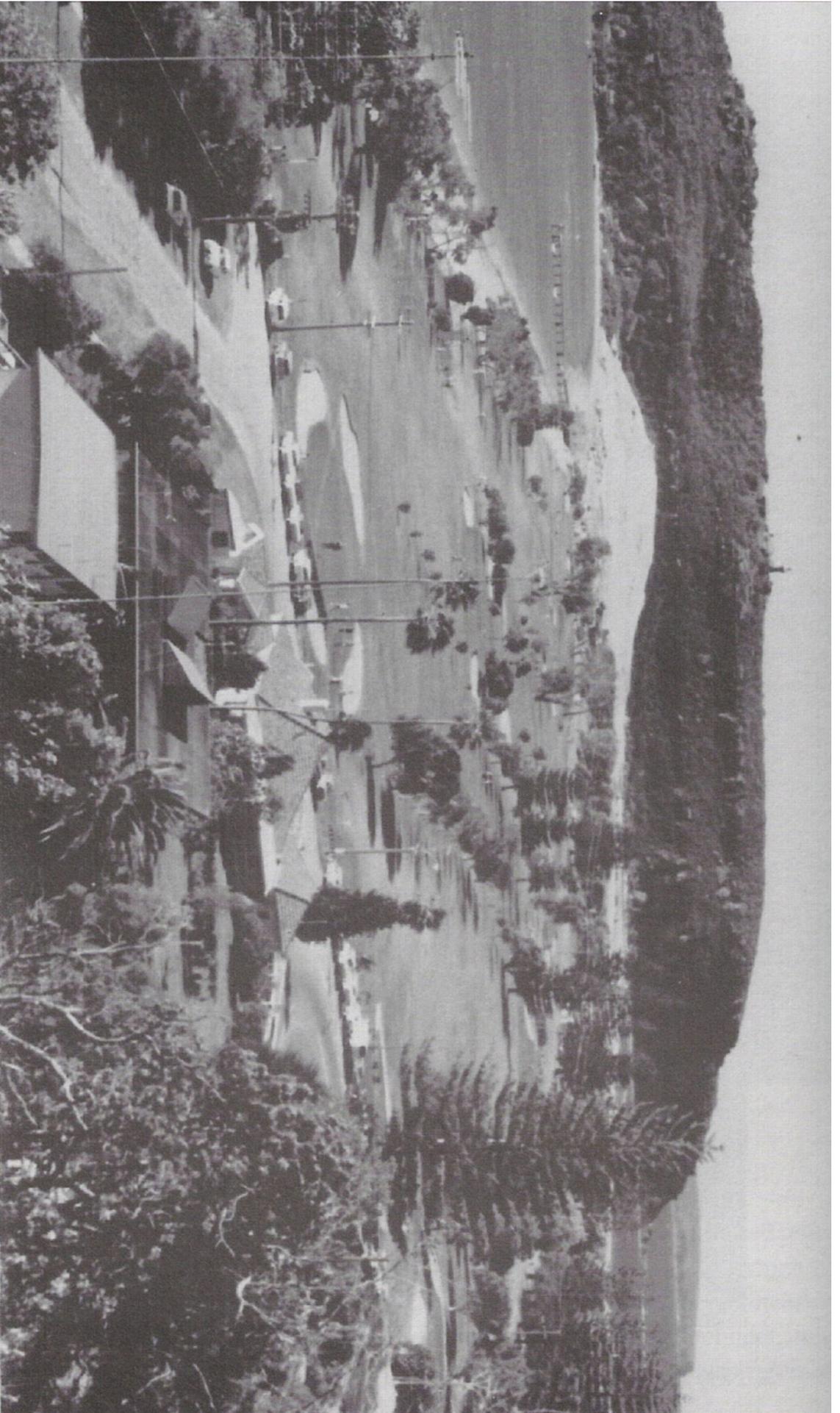
In 1969, fairway watering was introduced. Past president Any Lewis donated pipes through W.S. Friends Ltd, a building and plumbing supplies company of which he was manager, and Roy Broomhead provided free labour through his engineering company, the J.W. Broomhead Group. Al Howard, a golf course architect, was commissioned to redesign the golf course. The annual report for 1969 also refers to vain attempts to get rid of Parramatta grass by chemical means.



On the 9<sup>th</sup> green in the 1960s. This is now our second green.



In 1969 Al Howard, a golf course architect, was commissioned to redesign the course. This is his plan.



By 1974 Palm Beach Golf Course had begun to look generally as it does today.  
*Courtesy Bill Renolds*

## A New Club House

In the late 1950s, there were only a couple of hundred members of Palm Beach Golf Club. The atmosphere in the little converted cottage was intimate and the general air of conviviality had been helped along by the introduction of Resch's beer in 1959. It was very much a period of self-help. The women associates in particular contributed an enormous amount of work for club social functions.

One of the many honorary projects taken on by members was the building of a large, covered area in front of the old clubhouse where members could gather under shelter after a game of golf. Members like Albert Sims, managing director of Sims Metals and Judge Jack Fitzpatrick pitched in to work alongside tradesman like Les Gosper. They were fun times and Palm Beach was a fun club to belong to.

However, the course was becoming more and more popular with the general public and the club, like golf generally, had entered an era of further expansion. The club house was becoming too small.

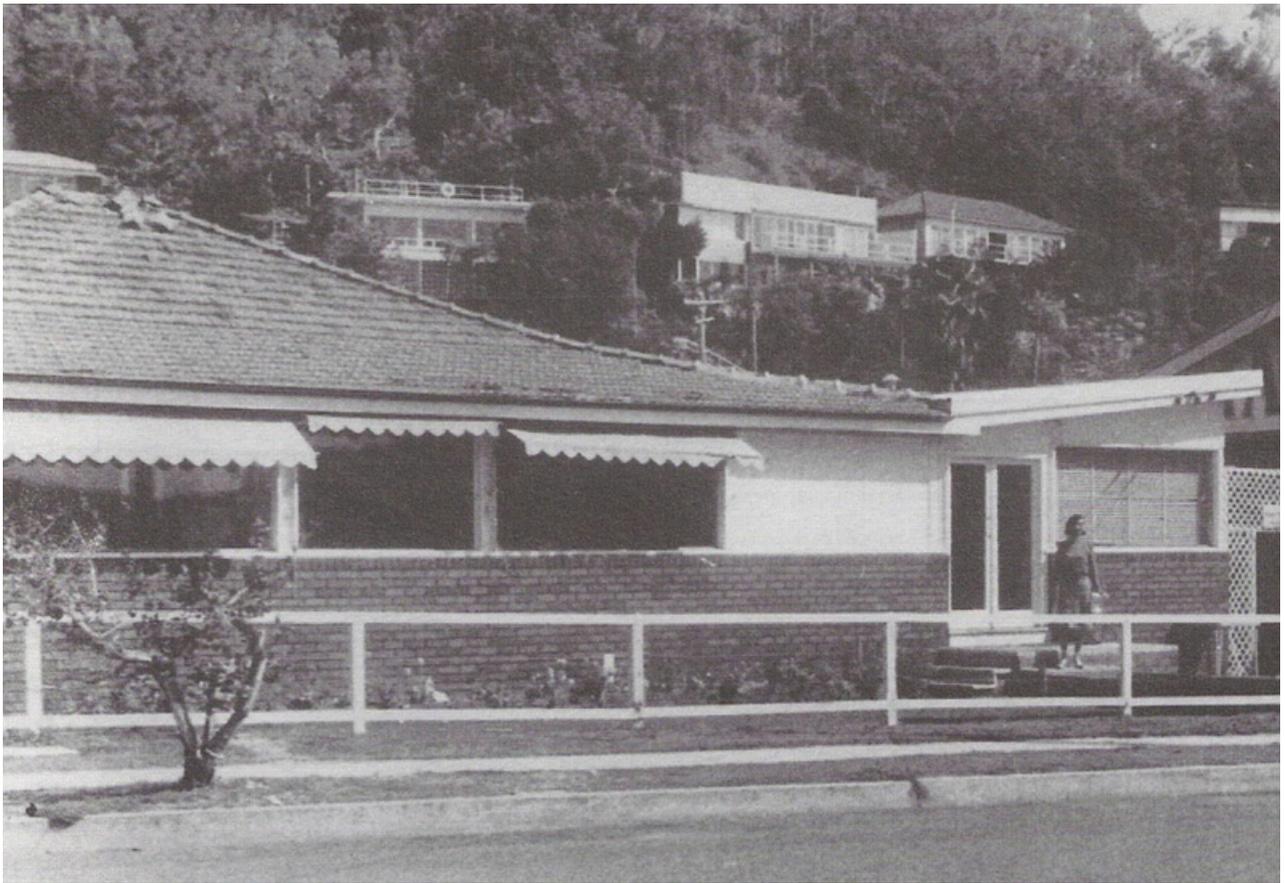
In 1963, the club president Andy Lewis arranged for Jack Torzillo of the architects, Edward Maddigan, and Torzillo to draw up plans for a new 60,000 pounds clubhouse. There was just one problem. Andy Lewis was unable to raise the finance.

Roy Broomhead offered to help with some of his business contacts. They included Sir Robert Norman who was the head of the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac). A phone call from Roy to Sir Norman was all it took to get the necessary money.

In 1969, when Lyndon, the house next door to Dormy, was for sale Roy personally put his hand in his pocket to get the \$15,000 needed for the club to buy the cottage. The club, of course, refunded him and bought the cottage itself. The original idea was to apply to the council for permission to extend the car park and build units which could be rented by members wanting weekend accommodation. It would have made Palm Beach one of the first country clubs. However, the plan was never carried out. Lyndon was used for a time by the club's associates but was sold in 1978 for \$24,000.



In the 1960s, "Dormy," the cottage bought from founder member Allan Oxlade in 1950, was still in use as our club house. The atmosphere was crowded but fun.



In 1963, club members worked together on renovations to the house to provide more room for social gatherings after golf.



Alan Berry Snr. pauses beside the poker machine on the verandah of the old club house in 1965.



Premier Rob Askin and President Andy Lewis unveil the plaque to open our new clubhouse in 1965.

Throughout 1964 and during the early part of 1965 members had to put up with a great deal of inconvenience as the old club house was torn down and the new one took shape. However, everybody agreed that any sacrifice had been more than worthwhile when the new club house was eventually opened on October 15, 1965, by the Premier of the day, Sir Robert Askin.

### **The Campers**

The people who came each Christmas to camp at Palm Beach had always played a close part in the history of the golf club. At the height of the camping eras, the campers supplied over half the field of 200 that made up regular weekend golfing matches. Many campers were not only members of the golf club but helped to found North Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club. The campers were responsible among other things for changing the tone of the golf club – some would say “democratising” it. Others might mutter that they were “lowering” it.

Mind you not all the tent-dwellers were “happy campers.” Former camper and long-time golf club member, Bill Brennan, remembers how the golfers frequently had to chase campers’ children off the fairways during school holidays. One camper retaliated by setting up a picnic rug in the middle of the fairway and sitting with her family while they ate their meal defying any intrepid golfer to try and move her.

Some of the campers were wealthy men like John L. Pierce who ran a large trucking company at that era. John’s “tent” was strung over a rigid frame and the canvas was painted so that it looked like a permanent house.

Joe Carroll, managing director of Email, wasn’t a camper but he used to join in the life of the area when he came to stay at his holiday house in Sunrise Road where he entertained the Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brookes, who came to Palm Beach to relax and play golf as an honorary member of our club. Joe Carroll became patron of North Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club which was largely formed by the campers. He used to offer fridges as first prize in a raffle to raise funds for the surf club and then generously donate cold beer to people on patrol who were unable to take part in the raffle.



Campers at Palm Beach in 1950 played an increasing part in the affairs of our golf club providing both players and committee members.

***Local Studies Warringah Council - Donor Murray Views***

There were some campers, who started with very little but made a lot of money. Nevertheless, they remained as campers although they could well afford to buy weekend houses. Just after the war you could buy a block of land at Palm Beach for a couple of hundred pounds. One of the nouveau riche campers was a baker who won the contract to supply the army with cakes during the war. Bill Brennan remembers that on one occasion the baker's wife came into the tent and asked for some money. The baker fished under his camp bed and pulled out a biscuit tin full of ten-pound notes. He peeled off a few for his wife and shoved the tin back under the bed.

Some of the so-called "tents" were in point of fact substantial dwellings with glass windows that looked out on million-dollar ocean views. In the 1940s, all this came for a camping fee of 27s6d a week. Bill Brennan remembers that people had their own pianos inside their "tents" and would hold group singalongs. The number of these "semi-permanent" dwellings increased steadily from 60 in 1940 to over 100 in 1947. These "tents" had almost every mod con except sewerage and electricity. Light was provided by a Tilley lamp and cooking was done on a kerosine stove.

Joe and Linda Coleman, who bought the first on-site caravan from Lidcombe to Barrenjoey in 1938, were fairly typical of regular campers. Joe built a permanent dwelling which had an Oregon frame trimmed with Masonite and scrimmed with canvas. He later added a sand blasted window featuring palms. The building was in fact so substantial that he later moved it lock, stock and barrel to a block of land at 1172 Barrenjoey Road which he had bought from Cliff Broughton, one of the founders of Palm Beach Golf Club. The then Minister for Lands, Mr Sheehan inspected the shack, which Joe had modestly named "Duzme." The minister was so impressed that he pronounced Joe's edifice an "exemplary" building for New South Wales camping grounds.



By 1950 the tents in Governor Phillip Park were increasingly being replaced by semi-permanent accommodation like cabin No. 103 "Duzme."

***Local Studies - Donor Bill Treble***



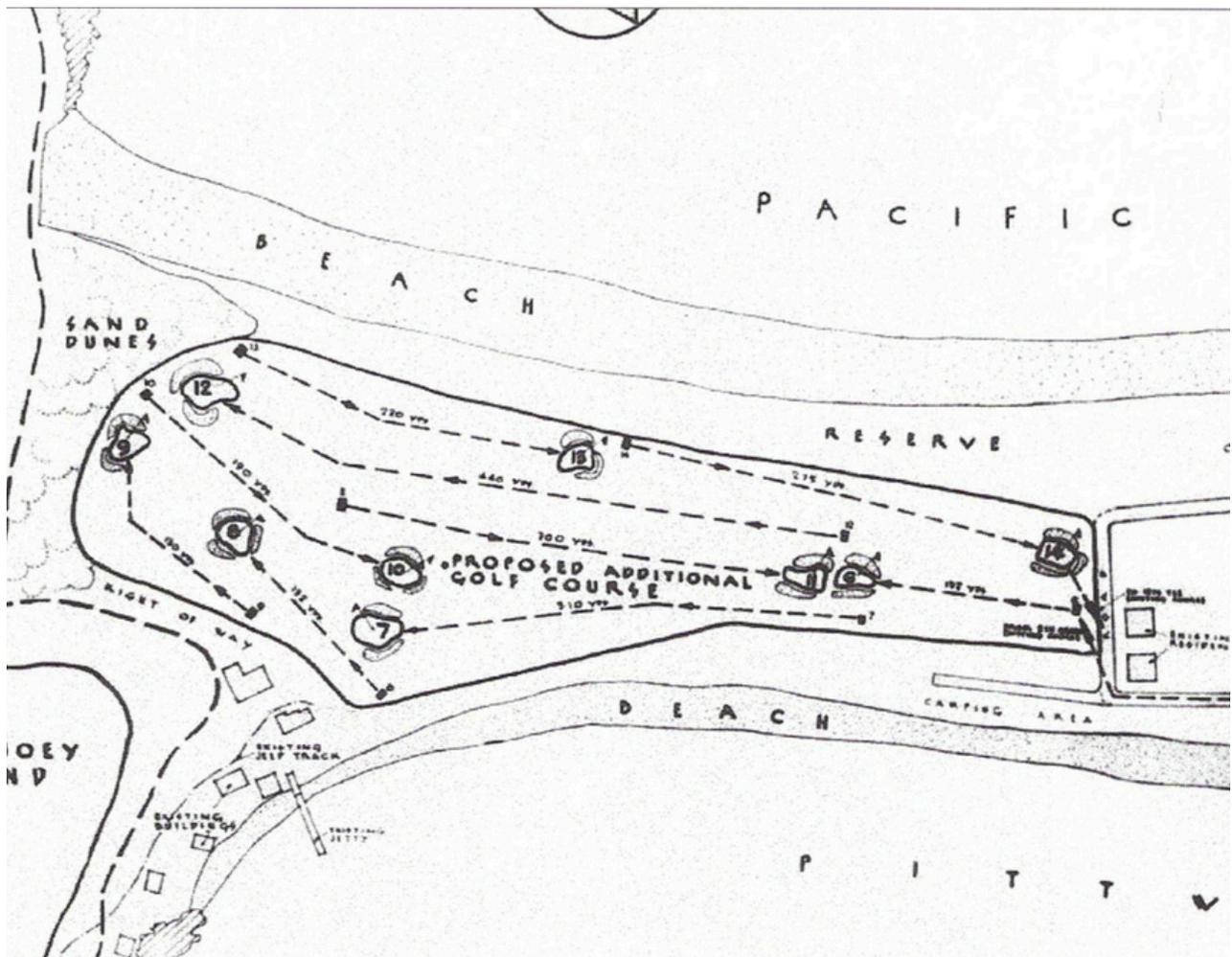
Golf club member and camper Peter Ballard demonstrates his ability with a wedge in Governor Phillip Park in 1964.

***Courtesy Peter Ballard***

However, a later Minister for Lands, Tom Lewis, took a different view. Many homeowners on the hill thought the camping ground was an "eyesore." Rightly or wrongly the name of Sir Percy Spender is quoted by several present-day golfers in this regard. In the mid-1960s, the state government began moves to eject the campers and despite numerous protests the camping ground was finally closed in the early 1970s. The closure of the camp was a severe financial blow to the golf club which had depended on Christmas holidaymakers for most of its membership for many years.

### The Extension That Never Happened

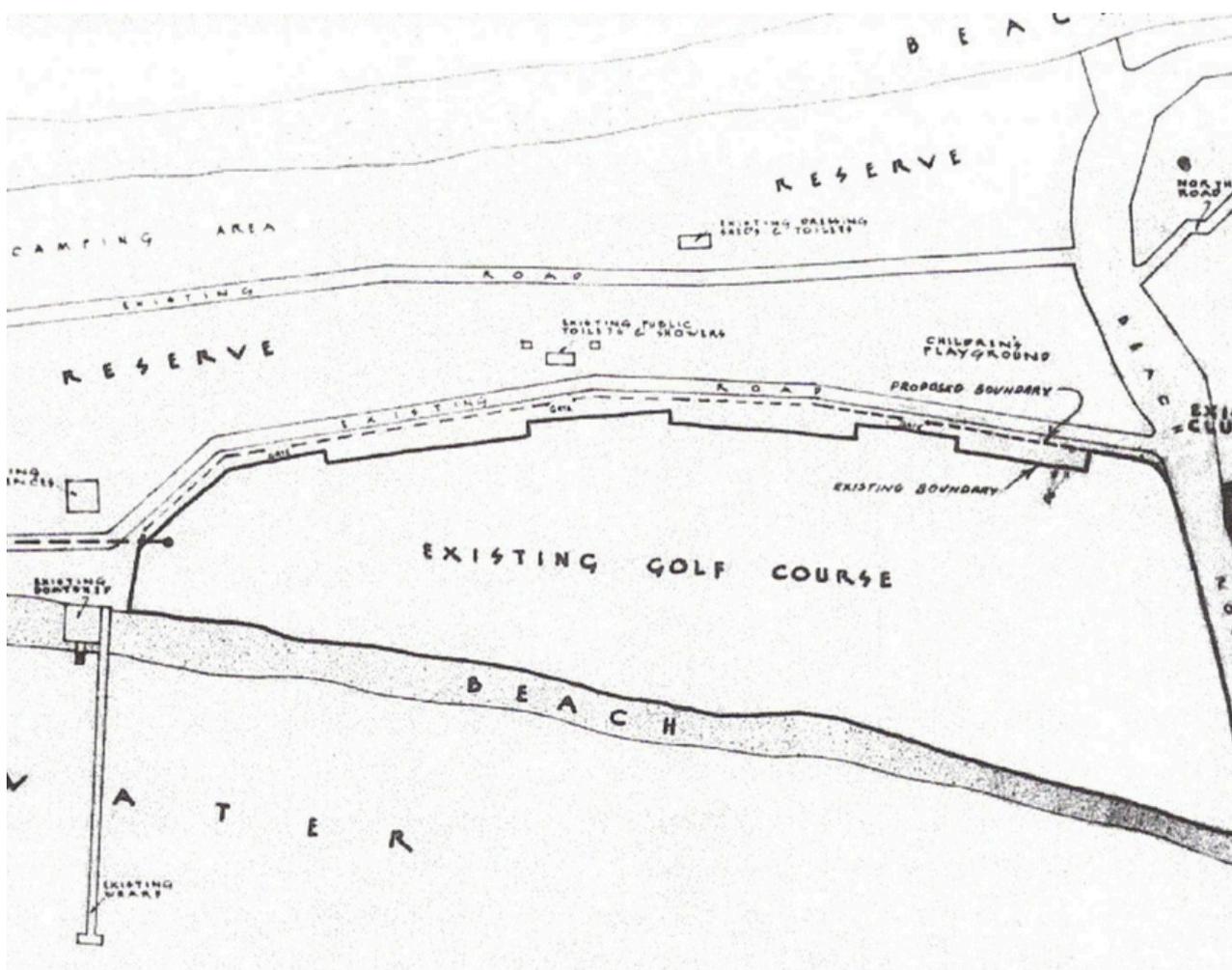
Minister Lewis offered the land vacated by the campers to the golf club to extend the course by nine holes. Roy Broomhead and the rest of the committee at that time considered the offer very seriously and plans were drawn up by Arthur East, who was a well-known golf architect, to the extend the course by an additional nine holes. The land involved would have been to the north of the present course and extended to the foot of Barrenjoey. Les Uren and Keith Brown actually played a mock round with Arthur to assist him in pegging out the intended layout of the extended course.



The plan of the proposed additional golf course

Times have changed and people today have mixed feelings as to the benefits an extended course might or might not have brought. On the positive side the course would have provided a continuous 18-holes and got rid of the queues at the first tee as people come round to play their second nine holes. It could also have been the most spectacular 18-hole golf course in Australia.

On the other hand, the course would have been very expensive to build and maintain. The proposed extensions would have been built on sand dunes that were subject to heavy pounding during coastal storms and there would have been a constant danger of the course being undermined. The chance to extend the course also coincided with the heavy expense of building a new clubhouse. There was also initial opposition from the Palm Beach Progress Association, which had been fighting plans to build a hotel north of the golf course. In the end the club abandoned plans to extend the course.



## Chapter Six

### THE MODERN CLUB (1980-)

The modern club still depends on the hard work of many committee members who give up their time to serve in various capacities. But like most golf clubs, Palm Beach is now run largely by professionals rather than member-driven working bees as in the days of old.

#### The Staff

Palm Beach Golf Club had lost its dynamic long serving secretary manager Ron Gassman in 1978 and the 1980s began badly for the club. In 1981, the club made a loss for the first time in its history. The year 1982 was marked by low rainfall and the club had to spend more money on town water. In 1983, the club's fortunes were badly hit by the introduction of random breath testing which although it had its positive effects in reducing road accidents, it hit the hip pocket nerve of clubs and hotels throughout New South Wales.

However, help was at hand. In February 1984, when Tony Weymouth took over as secretary manager, the club's finances were in bad shape and there were membership vacancies in all categories. By 1985, the bar which had run at a loss for the two previous years was back in profit. (This was due to Tony's management skills rather than his legendary capacity for a companionable drink or two.) By the time he quit the job in June 1987, the club was back in the black and there was a waiting list for membership. Anybody who has ever met Tony will not be surprised at this dramatic improvement in the club's fortunes during his comparatively brief but memorable time as secretary manager. Tony is a people-person with the kind of personality for which the word ebullient was invented to describe. Coupled with this he has a memory for names and faces that border on the uncanny. Not that Tony takes all the credit for the club's turn around. According to Tony, everybody wanted to join a golf club in these early Greg Norman years. After his retirement as secretary manager, Tony Weymouth and his wife, Marie, stayed on with the club to organise and cater for many social functions. Their departure for Maroochydore in September 1998 was a severe blow to the club and to Tony and Marie's many friends.

The vital job of secretary manager was taken over in 1987 by David Lemmon. Originally a Londoner, David was with the Avalon RSL for seven years from 1977 to 1983 and before taking the job at our club, he was managing a businessmen's club in Adelaide which is his wife's hometown.

He is ably assisted by our longest serving employee, Carmen Sablatnig, who has been working in the club's office since 1981, and by Faye Starr, who joined us in 1998. And then of course there is our barman Don Hamilton, who has been working at the club since 1994 and seems to remember not only people's names but exactly what each member likes to drink after a hard round of golf.

David Lemmon has overseen a period of steady progress during the decade he has spent with us. The pro shop was totally rebuilt in 1990 and a new green shed was constructed in 1992. The club purchased new machinery about this time. There have also been a series of improvements to our club house. The gravel carpark at the back of the clubhouse was sealed. The present balcony was built in 1988 and in 1997 our new high-tech Vergola was built over it to offer shade and protection from the elements for people who like to sit outside in summer. Then there has been the introduction of computers, which now control everything from regulating the club finances to recording handicaps.



Club president Rob Brightwell (centre) presents the 1992 Indoor Bowls Champion Tony Weymouth (left) with his trophy and also congratulates runner-up John Williams.

But perhaps the improvement David likes best was the introduction of sewerage in 1993. Before that he had to begin work each morning by priming the club's septic pumps and often get sprayed with the foul-smelling odour. David recalls with amusement one member, an Englishman, falling up to his waist into the large grease trap at the rear of the club. The stench was incredible, and the grease trap became known as the "pommie trap."

Another vital part of the Palm Beach team is our club professional Alan Berry Jr. Alan is another people-person who knows every member and unfailingly remembers their name no matter how infrequently they may play. Alan grew up on Palm Beach Golf Course where his father is a life member. Older club members remember how "young Alan" won the C grade club championship off a handicap of 17 and was back the next year as a pro with a handicap of 2. He left Palm Beach to go to Bayview with Garry Churcher in 1974 but returned to Palm Beach as our resident pro in 1980. From 1993 to 1997, Alan was assisted by Ashley Marsay a talented golfer who played in the Australian Mastercard PGA in 1997 and left us to go to Monash the same year. These days Alan and his team, Jason Pelc, "Uncle" Ken Petrie, and Barbara Stevenson, make up the public face of Palm Beach – issuing tickets for more than 50,000 rounds of golf each year. As well as organising our Thursday competition, Alan organises our annual pro-am in which members are paired with visiting professionals from clubs all over New South Wales. In 1990, a new record for the present course was set during the annual pro-am match when Col Johnston of Sugar Valley turned a card in of 59 which included five under for the back nine.

### **The Members**

The 1980s and early 1990s were dominated by Ron Brightwell, the dynamic club president from 1984 to 1995. Ron ran a printing business to make a living so that he could devote his full time to doing what he liked best – running Palm Beach Golf Club. His sudden death in 1995 was a severe blow to all those who knew him.

Another person who should be mentioned here is Kevin McKeown who served as club captain in 1981, 1982, and 1983. Kevin did a lot to foster juniors, one of whom was Chris Shaw, who went on to be president in 1996 and senior vice president in 1999. Chris ensures that junior development continues to be a large part of Palm Beach Golf Club.



David Lemmon took over as secretary-manager of our club in 1987 and has overseen a decade of solid progress.

*Courtesy David Kennedy*



This group posed for a photo at the 1994 Palm Beach Golf Club Celebrity Day. They are Ross Neil (bar manager), Lou Mackenzie (a deceased director), Carmen Sablatnig (our longest serving member of staff), David Lemmon (Secretary Manager), and Tony Weymouth (caterer).



Our club professional since 1980, Alan Berry Jr, shown here with his wife Anne, grew up around Palm Beach Golf Course, where he won the C grade championship as a young man. His father Alan Berry Snr was made a life member of our club.



A team from Palm Beach represented New South Wales at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club in 1990. Our photo shows Cameron Lester, Fred Pickup, (the sponsor's representative), Ron Brightwell, and Ashley Burgess.

As has been stated previously in this book Palm Beach has enjoyed a record in interclub matches that has been distinguished more for the friendliness and goodwill of our players rather than the number of victories. So, when we do score a victory, it is even more sweet. In 1990, we had a minor triumph when we won the right to represent New South Wales in the Spalding Australian team's championship. Four of our players won the right to represent the state when they put together a four round net total of 218 on August 11. On a course rated 62, Doug Johnstone returned a net 52, Cameron Lester 54, Fred Pickup 55, and our current club president, Ashley Burgess 57 to finish 30 strokes under DCR for the day. So shocked was the NSW golf association by the fact that a humble club like Palm Beach should outperform all other clubs in NSW in such a major event that they sent a representative out to check the handicapping and measure the course. But to no avail. Palm Beach had won. Ron Brightwell filled in for Doug Johnstone when the team travelled to Victoria in November to represent Palm Beach at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

But the major victory of the decade was winning the Warren Shield in 1992 – the first win in interclub competition since 1970. The winning team which defeated Bardwell Valley in the final round at Randwick consisted of Eric Fryer, Alan Cosgrave, Max Walker, Mark Houlder, John Essenstam, Peter Golding, Ray Barry, Steve Potter, and Geoff Verrills.

Every club has its own stories about famous holes in one. But surely Joe Kerr's effort is worth a special mention. Joe has achieved two holes in one – once with a left-handed shot and once with a right-handed.



Our Warren Shield team broke a 20 year drought with its fine win in 1992. Our photo shows back row left to right: Ray Barry, Eric Fryer, Peter Golding, Alan Cosgrave, John Essenstam, Max Walker, and Charles Gates.

Front row left to right: Steve Potter, Geoff Verrills, and Mark Houlder.

## **The Course**

There was still some residue of the old do-it-yourself spirit as the club moved into the 1980s. In the 1980s, there was a working bee of 50 members led by Ron Brightwell to get rid of – you guessed it – Parramatta grass. In 1981, another working bee planted over 60 trees including Cocos Palms, New Zealand Christmas bushes, paper barks, and Norfolk Island hibiscuses.

In 1989, the annual report took time out to compliment Bill O'Brien, an earthmoving contractor by profession, for the contribution he had made of his own time and in many cases his own machinery for the good of the club. Bill can still be seen assisting around the golf course whenever he can.

An outdoor sport like golf is by its very nature dependent on the vagaries of the weather. Just when you think everything is under control nature strikes back. In 1991, the storm that devastated Sydney's upper north shore passed over Palm Beach on its way out to sea. The storm only lasted 20 minutes but nobody who experienced it will ever forget how terrifying it was. It left behind over \$50,000 worth of damage including punching holes in the clubhouse roof, which allowed water to pour through and ruin the carpet. Many trees on the course were blown over and the whole course was littered with debris. Golf was cancelled for the week and a working bee of over 50 members turned out with rakes to clean it all up.

In 1995, Bob Decker left after 13 years and his place was taken by John Davidson, a fully qualified greenkeeper. The second and seventh greens were rebuilt in the mid-1990s and since then John and his team have been responsible for a thorough upgrading of the course. The work still continues and eventually John hopes to get rid of the Parramatta grass.

The most notable recent improvements have been in the watering system. In 1985, pop-up sprinklers were built on all tees, but the PVC pipes laid in 1969 were ageing and did not allow enough water through for watering more than three greens at one time. In 1997, the committee decided to bite the bullet and undertake the considerable expense of fully automating all fairway watering so that it could be done at night. This work was carried out in 1998. In 1999, the club celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary with special contests and dinners.

## **The Future**

It is almost 120 years since the Lighthouse Reserve (now Governor Phillip Park) was created from the Bassett-Darley Estate. And it is 100 years since the first subdivision of the land from the southern boundary of the golf course to Whale Beach. However, it was not until after the First World War that the area we know as Palm Beach began to develop. So, in terms of Sydney's history, the development of Palm Beach is relatively recent but so much has been achieved.

Relative to the golf course, although it was operational in 1924, it was not until 1927 that it began to develop and the long process of improvement in really harsh conditions began to show progress. Those who can remember before 1988, when the first fairway water was introduced, will recall the extremely harsh fairway conditions during summer. Now only 10 years later with the introduction of automatic fairway and greens watering there now exists an oasis in the very difficult environment that surrounds it. If Barrenjoey is the crown of the peninsula, then Palm Beach Golf course is its jewel. This is complemented by a clubhouse whose views and open spaces make a visit to the area a really enjoyable experience.

The committee is committed to ever improving this environment and over the next 25 years we will see the benefits of tree planting and beautification programs come to fruition, making the community the beneficiaries of a magnificent piece of open space. The committee's ongoing plans for the upgrading of our clubhouse will make a visit to this area a truly memorable experience – something to be cherished over the next 25 years and beyond.



In 1991 a sudden destructive storm swept across Palm Beach causing major damage on the golf course and leaving this boat high and dry.

*Courtesy Peter Donald*

## Chapter Seven

### LADY MEMBERS

The ladies (known as associates until 1996) have always been an integral part of Palm Beach Golf Club from the very beginning. From its earliest days, Palm Beach was (and still is) very much a family club where juniors were welcome to play alongside the adults. Palm Beach was also primarily a weekend and holiday club.

Mixed events were popular and in the late 1950s one of the highlights of the year was a fancy-dress golf day in which participants had to play 18 holes in fancy dress costume. Those who took part recall it as a fun event that always caused great hilarity. In the 1950s, the ladies also competed for the Verey Cup supplied by a Sydney tailor named Ern Verey. Joan Bruncker believes that the original trophy was a bolt of material, which was probably very much appreciated when cloth was in short supply just after the end of the war.

Thelma Hopewell recalls that in the 1950s members used to practice by hitting two or three balls around the course on weekdays and before competitions at weekends. The field was started by a gentleman called "Harry." If he wasn't available, then a member would volunteer for the job and hit off at the end of the field. Regular players donated a trophy each year and these were listed in the programs. This practice was discontinued after about 1965 but, for the people who won them, these trophies still retain great sentimental value.

Before the ladies joined the Ladies Golf Union in 1954, the members did the handicapping. The associates needed nine players to make up a field and often had to chase around the camp to find an extra player to make up the numbers. The club had no pro in the 1950s and on Saturday mornings Dick Trevor and Les Uren gave associates some coaching. Also on Saturday mornings, associated committee members used to take girl juniors round nine holes. One of these juniors was Vicki Jellis, who played her first competition when the Ladies Golf Union held their annual Junior Girls' Open Day at Palm Beach. It was on one of these occasions that the potential of another junior was noted by the LGU. She was Edwina Kennedy, who went on to represent the state most successfully as a junior and later made a name for herself representing Australia in international events.

Prior to moving into the new clubhouse in 1965, the associates occupied a small, weatherboard cottage (known as Lyndon) next to the old clubhouse and situated where our present driveway is. Longstanding lady golfers have very happy and fond memories of those times, even though the facilities were somewhat antiquated. Thelma Hopewell recalls that the first associated grade team had a very nice uniform consisting of a short skirt and hat made of small, checked material and a white blouse. Thelma also had fond memories of a Mrs Leonard (known by all as "Lennie"), who was a camper and a very capable golfer in the 1950s. On New Year's Eve, Lennie used to get everybody into the festive spirit by distributing a jar of raisins liberally soaked in rum and then insisting on everyone having a teaspoonful.

As the club developed in the 1960s it became increasingly a husband-and-wife club. In this era, men had no trouble getting a game on Saturday. Sunday was the big day and you had to get your name down early to play in the mixed which was dominated by couples. As in most clubs, the women have played a particularly big part in raising money to help club finances and also for charitable purposes. In 1945, Miss P. Morgan, a member of the club, entered the Miss Australia contest. In the 1980s, the club lost a number of members from cancer and the associates raised \$8,000 for cancer research. A number of members have had their ashes scattered on the course. They include Thelma Breen and Kitty Spriggs. As in most clubs the women

have also contributed more than their share of work in providing refreshment at social occasions like the Christmas carnival, which began in the 1960s when the camping area at Governor Phillip Park was filled with visiting golfers. Most people pick out Shirley Toms for continuing the carnival, but Shirley insists that people like Arch Simpson, Barbara Stevenson, Margaret Wilson, Jan Humphreys, and Irene Johnston are equally deserving of recognition. Other women with a special record of service to the club include long-serving treasurer Norma Geddes, captain and handicapper Barbara Stevenson and ex-president Joan Brunker. And of course, there are Shirley's fellow life members Joan Palmer, and Thelma Hopewell.

Since the 1960s, the ladies have organised the Christmas concert, which is one of the highlights of the year for the entire club. The concert usually takes the form of some of the more adventurous (or less inhibited) dressing up and miming to recorded music. Under the guidance of Yvonne Maclean, the concert took the form of an intimate review and was generally based on a theme, which the ladies decided on earlier in the year. A typical concert might embrace "Hollywood" when the idea would be to appear as a film star, male or female. Or the theme might be "the Hit Parade," when the audience was treated to entertainment by "Shirley Bassey" or "Marlene Dietrich."

Brian Levings a long-time member of the club and a connoisseur of these events, reckons the best show he ever saw was "Around the World" featuring the ladies of the club as members of the Folies Bergeres. Says Brian, "Who will ever forget Shirley Toms and Betty Cush as male and female (respectively) appearing as an Italian duo. These girls really let their hair down and with a few glasses under their belts, all inhibitions went out the window." The show ran for two nights. One was "Ladies Only." The other was open to both sexes. Both shows played to full houses.

Unfortunately, Yvonne Maclean (or Vonnie as she was generally called) took sick and did not produce a show for the club again. In 1990, the mantle of the job of producer fell to Yvonne Hammond, who followed the premise "the show must go on" with spectaculars extraordinaire. She even managed to hire the three tenors – Joan Palmer, Shirley Toms, and Barbara Stevenson – and that conductor magnifico, Judy Hock.

## **The Associates**

For many years the women played on an informal footing but on March 21, 1954, they held an inaugural meeting of associates at the clubhouse. There were 31 associates present. Ron Gassman took the chair initially and after Mrs D. Callahan was elected president, he handed the chair over to her. Mrs G. Lewis was elected vice-president with Mrs F. Nelson hon. Treasurer and Mrs J. Milne as captain. The hon. Secretary was Miss P. Mountford, who later became Mrs. Charles Gates. The newly formed committee resolved to seek affiliation with the Ladies Golf Union.

For many years the associates were divided into mid-week players and business girls who played at weekends. Since 1996, Palm Beach, like other clubs, has had to come to terms with changing laws governing discrimination and the term "associates" now applies to any player – whether male or female – who is a five-day member.

## **Golfers**

For a small club, we have produced some prestigious players. They include the following women:

**Dame Joan Hammond (1912 – 1996)**, the world-famous Australian opera singer, was the best-known female member produced by the club in its early days. She learned to play golf at Palm Beach in the 1920s when her family used to stay regularly at their holiday house in Beach Road where our clubhouse now stands. She credited her

father with teaching her the sport so well that she went onto win the NSW Ladies' Amateur Championship in 1932, 1934, and 1935 and represented Australia for many years in international team events.

**Pat Borthwick** was the leading associate at Palm Beach in the 1940s and 1950s. She could outplay most of the male members. Pat was associate champion at Palm Beach in 1940 and 1947. She won four Australian championships in 1948, 1949, 1953, and 1956 and was runner up in 1951 and 1960. She won the NSW championships in 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, and 1953.

**Ruby Watts** joined Palm Beach in 1939 and was associate champion in 1948, 1950, 1951, and 1952. She left the club in 1954 and went to play at Long Reef, where she had also been a member since 1940. She won seven championships there in the 1950s.

Dulcie Fouracre was associate champion at Palm Beach in 1953 and runner up on four occasions. She also left to go to Long Reef where she collected seven club championships.

Vicki Jellis played at Palm Beach as a junior but left at 18 to play at Monash. She was new South Wales champion in 1976 and 1987 and is currently champion at the Australian Golf Club, where she holds more titles than any other golfer. Most golfers on the Peninsula know Vicki as the lessee of "Royal" Avalon Golf Course. Her parents Col and Mary Jellis, who were long standing members of Palm Beach, had the lease of the Avalon course before her and Vicki grew up in the cottage that now houses the office.

Another outstanding player was Jo McLaughlin, who played grade one pennants, at times off a 2 handicap, despite serious illness that would have stopped most people. She was well known in the area as the local "postie." Joan was diagnosed with cancer and was told she would never walk again. She proved the doctors wrong by walking everywhere to deliver the mail.



Joan Hammond is farewelled by her family on her way to England and stardom in 1936. The photo shows Tony, Len, Joan, Samuel (father), Hilda (mother), and Noel Hammond.

*Courtesy Mrs. D.M. Hammond*

Then there was Claudia Moses, whom Joan Palmer remembers as a delightful lady and a good player with a low handicap. Claudia used to take special pleasure in coaching newcomers to the game in her beautiful, modulated voice.

The first ladies champion was Mrs S. B. Hooper, wife of the club's first secretary. She won from scratch at the club's first championship in 1929. Since then, as we have seen, there have been a couple of famous players and a few well above average golfers, including Marion Whittaker, who held the ladies' title for 10 years between 1976 and 1986 and won it again in 1991 and 1992.

In 1962, the Palm Beach team was undefeated in the interclub grade division 4 and defeated Woolaware 5/0 in the final match. The team consisted of B. Bonnett, Claudia Moses, June Thomas (captain), and Viva Mitchell. The Palm Beach team was also undefeated in the 1965 bronze interclub pennant. The winning team included Elsie Fraser (captain), Jill Ferguson, Gwen Bristow, Mary Jellis, Judi Hack, Kit Howarth, and Joan Berry (Alan's mum). At least six of the players in these teams have passed on. In 1975, Palm Beach was once again triumphant, winning the bronze interclub pennant. The winning team consisted of Madge Stockman, Jean Fitzpatrick, Gloria Ogden, Penny Gassman, Dorice Thompson, and Beryl Bonnett. The reserves were Poppy Dobinson, Molly Boland, and Wyn Martel. Since then, we have competed in countless interclub matches and have learned to become graceful losers.

### **Life Members**

The club has conferred the honour of life membership on three outstanding ladies.

**Shirley Toms** used to come down to camp at Palm Beach in the 1960s when she was working at Moree as a teacher. She was nominated by two other life members Roy Broomhead and Alan Berry Senior when she joined our club in 1971. She met her husband, the late Peter (Tiny) Toms on the golf course and they were married in 1972. (With typical Australian laconic humour, Tiny, of course, got his nickname because he was such a big man). Shirley became involved in committee work in 1974 and was made a life member in 1997.

**Joan Palmer** had been a member at Muirfield before she joined our club in 1966. Although, a busy office worker, she managed to make time for work on the general committee. She was captain for seven years and has served four years as president. Along with her pennant partner, Shirley Toms, Joan was made a life member in 1997.

**Thelma Hopewell** was born in Sydney in 1908. She and her husband, Doug, first came to the camping area in about 1945. They joined the golf club a few years later and began playing at weekends and holidays. In the early 1950s, Thelma was a foundation member of the associates when it formed in 1954 and was elected as the second associate president and held the office for 10 years. June Kenna (who later married Clive Thomas) was elected captain at the same time. Thelma was made a life member of the club in 1970. Thelma and Doug were keen playing members for over 30 years. When the camping area was abolished in the early 1970s, they bought a house in Avalon, where they lived until 1993. After she gave up golf, Thelma joined the Peninsula Bridge Club and was made a life member of this organisation too. Now aged 90, she lives in Pittwater Palms Retirement Village and enjoys playing solo and 500 three times a week. Although, she can no longer play golf, she still exercises every morning in the pool and continues to watch every golf tournament on television.

### **The Veterans**

The Veterans are a club within a club. Any woman club member over the age of 50 can join the vets. Out of the 180 female members of the club, 150 are members of the vets. The vets are affiliated with the Veterans Association of New South Wales and send delegates to the association's annual meeting. Dot Reid was the first delegate



Neil Edwards, Penny Gassman and Robert Maley present the Palm Beach version of the Mavis Bramston Show in 1965.



Life Member Thelma Hopewell  
*Courtesy David Kennedy*



Life members Joan Palmer and Shirley Toms.

but unfortunately had to resign during the year due to ill health. Gwen Brown kindly assumed the position. She was followed by Merle Andrews, Teddy McDougal, Sheila Shelton, Kath Hampton, Marilyn Guion, and Shirley Toms.

Most golf clubs have a fair representation of older players but perhaps Palm Beach is unique in a number of octogenarian ladies. It is rude to mention a lady's age, but our active senior members include Norma Windle, Marion Whittaker, a former club champion, and Fleur Rowley, who still plays to win at 87. In 1994, Sophie Kable and Madge Stockman were both in their eighties when they played in the final of the Sven Hallstrom Memorial Trophy. The match was televised and shown on Channel Nine Sports Show. Sophie, the elder of the two, won. She is still a member at Palm Beach and Madge Stockman, who lives on the Gold Coast, still keeps in touch with fellow members back at Palm Beach.

In 1986, after a couple of glasses of wine, Shirley and Sheila issued a challenge to members of Dad's Army threatening to "do them like a dinner." Since then, this twice a year event has been among the highlights of the vets' calendar. To date the threat to "do Dad's Army like a dinner" has not been achieved on every occasion. The current record stands at 14 wins for Dad's Army and 10 win for the vets, with one match in 1998 drawn.



The Lady Vets Team that tied with Dad's Army in 1998.  
*Courtesy David Kennedy*

## Chapter Eight

### CLUBS WITHIN THE CLUB

Palm Beach Golf Club, like most other clubs, has its own groupings among members. They include Dad's Army, the Royals, and the Hackers.

#### Dad's Army

Dad's Army is the oldest of the groupings within our club. It was born of a desire of the older members to meet, play golf and enjoy the companionship which comes at that time of life. The current membership includes former doctors and dockyard workers, engineers and editors, and mechanics and managing directors. Men who once worked in advertising now play alongside men who used to work on the buses. In other words, the group represents a fair cross section of Australian society. In retirement they are all united by a love of golf and the pleasure they take in each other's company.

The current Dad's Army is an amalgam of two groups. One was formed in 1973 under the guiding hand of Arthur Stockman. Its members included Bert Cook, Gordon Fraser, Geoff McCausland, Allen Poole, Arthur Todd, and others. There was also another group playing at the same time. It consisted of Tom Cragg, Bert Graham, Jack Large, Max Kemp, Gabe McDermott, Ian Moore, Albert Sims, Arthur Steel, John Stuart, and Erwin Burer. Both these groups played on Monday.

The current membership includes a number of men who served in the armed forces during World War II. But at that time, of course, they were all young men. So, how did the group come to be called Dad's Army? Obviously, this group was named after the British television show of the same name. But how and why? There are as many explanations as there are members. The most plausible one comes from Erwin Burer at that time a member of the younger group whose voice was mainly heard through Arthur Steel, who considered Stockman's group a mob of old timers and referred to them as Dad's Army. However, as time went by, many of Steel's group were attracted to Stockman's group because it was more formally led, and this ultimately led to one group being established in 1978 and this group was quite happy to accept the name Dad's Army as its formal title.

So, in 1978, in its full year of operation under the leadership of Arthur Stockman the group quickly increased to 40 members, and it was resolved at that time to limit the membership numbers to this figure. The annual fee for that year was \$30 and after modest expenses it was decided to use the surplus to have a Christmas party. So, 1978 saw the first of this group's Christmas parties which have remained a tradition to this very day. The members have traditionally met around midday every Monday throughout the year, except when public holidays fall on that day.

Apart from the Christmas dinner, which is held in mid-December, the other highlights of the year are the two matches that take place between Dad's Army and the Lady Vets. Whilst the spirit of competition has mellowed over time, the event is fought with great competitive interest and is much looked forward to by the members of both groups.

Because Dad's Army are retired when they join, the average age tends to be over 70. Members who reach the grand old age of 80 are presented with a bottle of whisky and the current membership includes a large proportion of players who have already received their presentation bottle of Scotch or who are looking forward to receiving it in the fairly near future.

As a result of having such a high average age, the duration of members' stay with the group tends to be fairly short. So, it would be difficult to reproduce the very long list that has made up membership over the last 25 years. To prove the above point, it is interesting to note that out of the first 40 members of the group established in 1978, Tom Cragg and Erwin Burer are the only two active golfers who are currently members of Dad's Army.

Over its 25-year history, Dad's Army has given great support to the club. Its members have supported club competitions and club facilities as much, or more so, than many general members. In particular, the flower beds that are such an adornment to our course have been lovingly tended by past and present members of Dad's Army over the years, none more so than Wally Edgar.



Arthur Stockman, originator and life member of Dad's Army, poses with Ted Hock, another original member of the club within our club. Ted is remembered by Edmund Hock Lane in Avalon.



The Dad's Army team that tied with the Lady Vets in 1998.  
*Courtesy David Kennedy*

## The Royals

The Royals consists of a group of men who traditionally meet on Friday afternoons to play 18-holes. The name "Royals," of course, is derived from the fact that they play at the "Royal Palm Beach Golf Course" rather than any monarchist or plutocratic tendencies of the members. The club boasts a cross section of professionals, real estate agents, brewery owners and quite a few who are dedicated to keeping the profits of the brewery owners at a consistently high level. There are also more than a sprinkling of builders, bricklayers, retirees, and a couple of mystery men among the membership.

This venerable and ancient club can trace its origins back to the dim and distant past – August 1977. It began when Jim Rawling took pity on a friend of his who was going through a divorce. To take his mind off the divorce and the loss of his millions, he suggested a game of golf. To make up the threesome, Jim invited a mutual friend, Maurice Timothy Daly, one of the club's best-known teetotalers. This casual Friday game of golf gradually developed into a tradition and finally into a club.

The early days were challenging. Club rules prescribed that the loser must shout the other two players two schooners each (plus chips and peanuts on demand). As numbers climbed from three to five to ten to anything up to twenty players on any one Friday, the Royals dutifully abided by the rules (they are that sort of bunch) despite the pain they had put themselves through. Then came RBT. Now \$5 in the middle is all the softer, modern generation has to face.

Present members, who are drawn from the crème de la crème of the Northern Beaches intelligentsia, come as much for the intellectual stimulation of their erudite peers as the golf, which, it must be said, varies considerably in standard from one player to another. Nevertheless, the club has captured one or two minor records. Jack McNeil, for example, holds the record for the second hole – 25 strokes (22 in the bunker). He finally completed this display by sinking a long putt. Then there are a few records on the 19<sup>th</sup> hole. One in particular, 13 rounds (all schooners) followed by a drive home, is unlikely to ever be beaten in these days of more general sobriety and random breath testing.

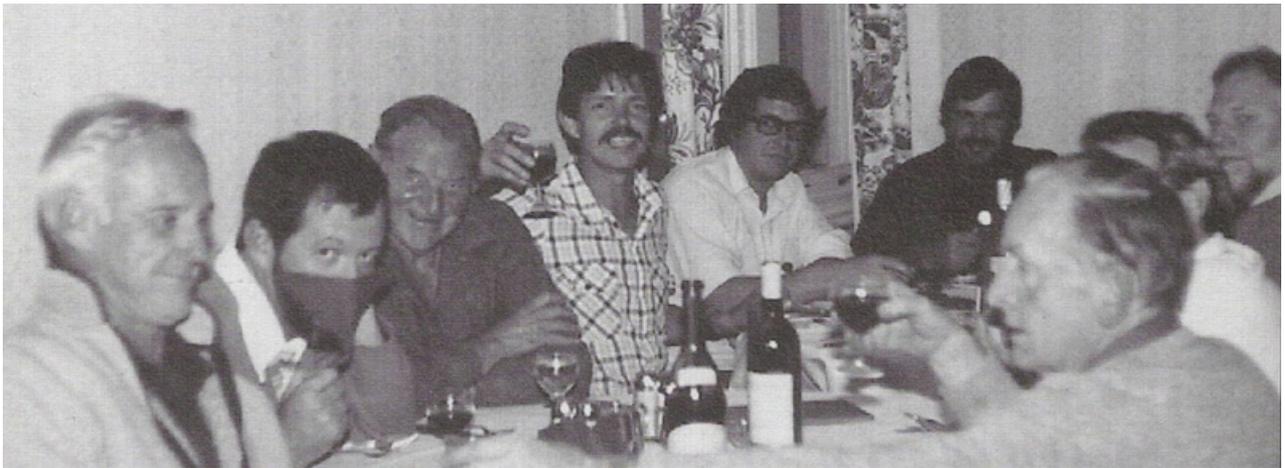
## The Hackers

There is some dispute as to whether the Hackers are primarily a golf club with an interest in drinking or a drinking club with a penchant for golf. Certainly, its members are known to be adept at both pastimes. The club is limited to some 30 members as this is the number that can comfortably be accommodated in a bus on the excursions to other golf courses that are a popular part of the club's program.

Members in good standing gather around the Palm Beach pro shop on Friday afternoons to play nine holes of golf. There are bets on every hole. Sandies, bogies, and bridies are all subject to frenzied gaming. Jostling, jeering, and general unsettling tactics during the course of play is not only encouraged, it is compulsory. Settling is done at the tenth hole in the clubhouse.

How did the Hackers originate and how did they achieve their enviable status as a social legend club? Apparently, it began one Friday afternoon in the early 1980s (nobody is too certain exactly when). The founders were Mike Nolan, John Williams, and Rob Skye, who were sitting in the Moby Dick Club when they decided to change their drinking habits. They agreed that in future they would always squeeze in nine holes of golf before their weekly four o'clock Friday binge.

But why the name, the Hackers? Mike Nolan and his neighbour, John "Beachie" Burrows both ran the Newport Surf Club Knackers. Therefore, Beachie realised that Knackers chasing their youth one day could end up being Hackers chasing lost golf balls the next day. And so the Hackers were born.



A group of the Royals indulging in a little regal feasting around 1987.



A group of the more mature Royals in 1999.



A group of the Hackers in pre-hit off mode in 1999.

## Chapter Nine

### THE LAST 25 YEARS (2000 – 2024)

The following is a history of the last twenty-five years of Palm Beach Golf Club. It builds on the work undertaken by Stewart Brown and Brian Kennedy, in 1999, when they collated the 'The History of Palm Beach Golf Club – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary'. Much thought was given to what a book to collate the history of our centenary would look like. In the end, we decided to leave Stewart's and Brian's work and offer up this addendum. The exception of course is the Club Honour Boards and the 'Clubs within the Club' sections, many of which continue.

#### Major Clubhouse and Course renovations

In 2003, we saw the beginning of a renovation which was essential to modernise the Club. At the time the Club was dealing with an ever-increasing yearly maintenance bill. In fact, the area at the rear of the clubhouse was structurally unsound because of dry rot and the bar area was in terrible condition caused by years of leakage through the floor coverings. It became apparent to the Board that it would simply be cheaper to renovate the Club rather than continuously patching the Club up, at great expense. The design of the new work was done gratis by then member and architect Rob Machon. The building was extended at the rear of the Club to provide a new Boardroom, office, and men's and women's bathrooms. The bar was relocated from the now members' lounge to its current location. The balcony was raised to be level with the interior and bi-fold doors were installed to allow for the entire club to be opened up, capitalising on one of our best assets, the view across the Pittwater. Geoff Marles was President during the planning and reconstruction phases and said the efforts of the membership and the Board as well as the cooperation of the members contributed to the success of the project. It was due to these renovations that the Club was able to survive with modern facilities that allowed for a greater number of wedding and functions. In 2003, the new clubhouse was opened by the then Member for Pittwater and State Opposition Leader, John Brogden.



The newly renovated club house in 2003.

In 2020, the Club was successful in being awarded nearly \$800,000 under the NSW Government's Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund. This grant was to allow a greater level of accessibility for our current and future members. It allowed us to redesign all nine greens and surrounds as well as the practice green. All tees were redesigned, new paths and gardens were installed. Our new golf course design was provided by Golf Pro, Craig Parry. Craig was heavily involved in the redesign and was on the course most days providing direction. In fact, he was also known to jump in the machines and spend hours moving dirt around. Mostly for the fun we think. The course hadn't had a significant redesign since the 1960s.

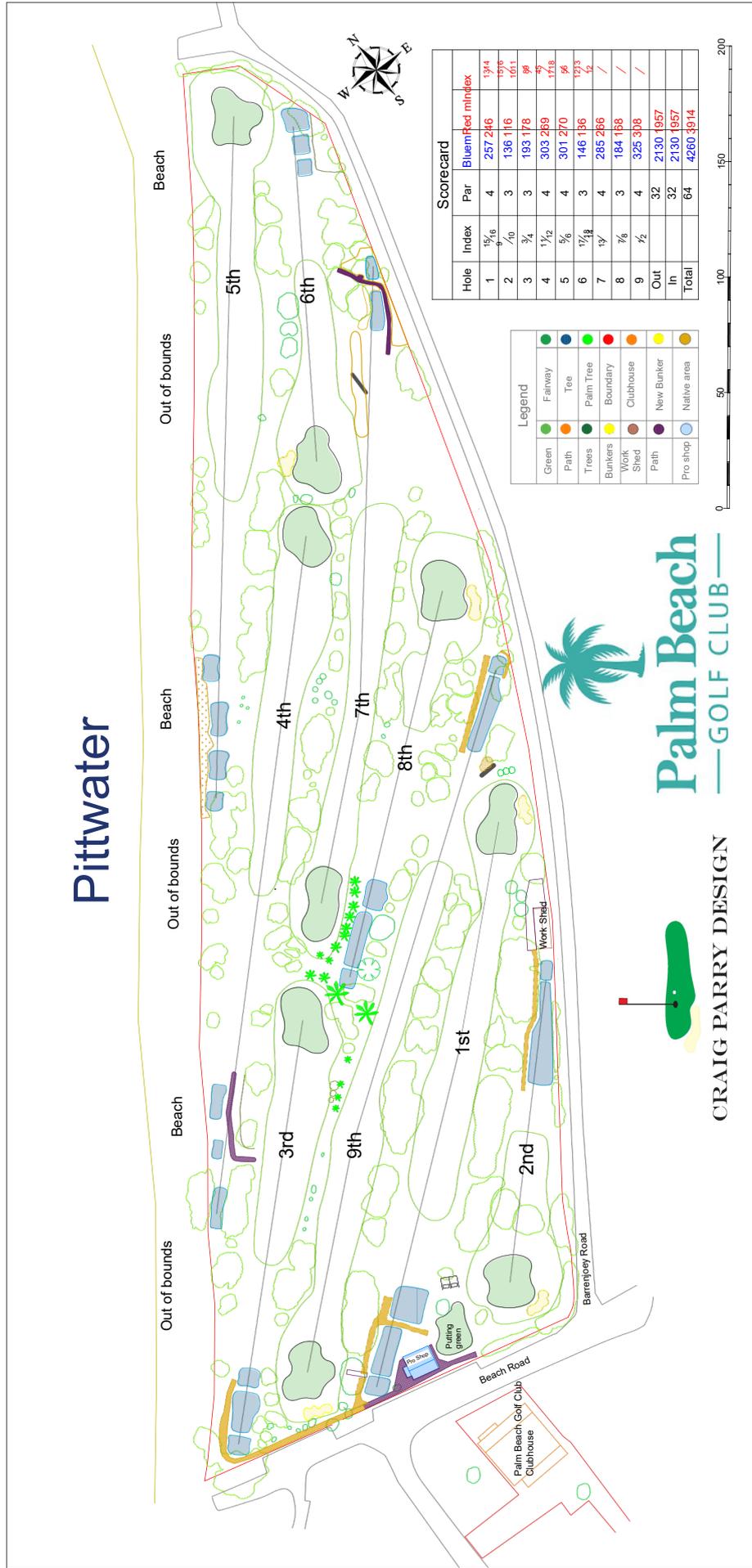
It was not just the course that had the benefit of this grant. The Clubhouse also received a major upgrade. We saw the installation of our glass lift. Which was no small feat. The lift itself continues to serve our ever-ageing demographic and allows our club to be utilised by all of our community. The grant also allowed for the installation of two accessible bathrooms, one of each level of the Club, and new glass sliding doors at the entrance to the Club.

The works were completed by the end of 2022 and were officially opened by the Hon. Rob Stokes MP, Member for Pittwater, Minister for Infrastructure, Cities, and Active Transport at the Club's Presentation Night.



Minister Rob Stokes, Member for Pittwater and President Daniel Hill unveil the plaque to mark our course and clubhouse renovations in 2022.

# Pittwater



In 2020 Craig Parry, professional golfer and golf course architect, was commissioned to redesign the greens, surrounds, and tee complexes. This is his plan.

In 2023, the Club decided to install solar panels in hope of reducing our electricity bills. This proved to be a great success with some serious thought going into expanding the project to the Pro Shop and Greens Shed.

Also in 2023, the Club undertook significant works in the locker rooms, including new timber lockers, gyprock ceilings and downlights, replacing the old vermiculite ceilings, and new carpet. By 2024, there was also a new glass door entrance on the western side of the building that was operational by fob. Further ensuring the security for our members. This much needed refresh will see us in good stead for the coming years.

By 2024, the Club has once again undertaken a Water Sustainability Program and in December 2024, the Club replaced the kikuyu with couch in an attempt to have more water resilient and durable grass.

## **Life Members**

**William O'Brien** (Captain - 1984 - 1985) joined the Club in 1962 and was elected as a Life Member in 2000.

**Alan Berry Jnr** (Club Professional - 1980 - 2020) joined the Club in 1970 and was elected as a Life Member in 2009. AB has a long association with the Club. His father, Alan Berry Snr, was also a life member, and was the President between 1971 and 1973. Further information about AB can be found below.

**Judy Warner** joined the Club in 1955 and was elected as a Life Member in 2011. Judy is the wife of past Life Member Bob Warner, who still holds the record of most Club Championships.

**Max Walker** (President - 1997) joined the Club in 1966 and was elected as a Life Member in 2013. Max is the only person to represent both Australia and New Zealand in soccer at an international level. Max has held several senior positions on the Board including Director, Chairman of Greens, match committee member, Vice President, and President.

**Bob Head** (President - 2008 - 2011) joined the Club in 1997 and was elected as a Life Member in 2013. Bob's tenure as President saw the Club through difficult financial times and Bob put his hand up to assist the Club in any position needed from pouring beers, to working in the office and even acting as the Club's cleaner together with his wife, Robin Head who gave up their valued time particularly in the early hours of Sunday mornings. All in the name of reducing outgoings.

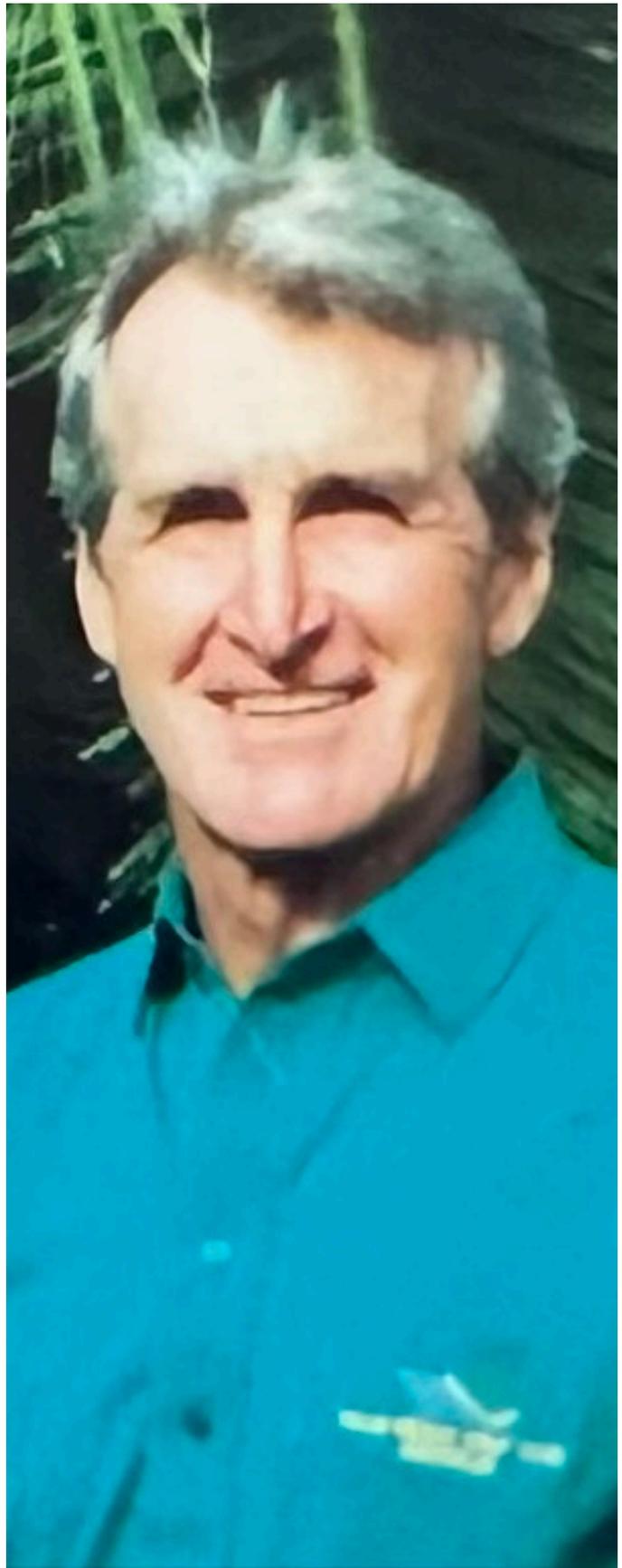
**Joe Kerr** (President - 2014 - 2016; Captain - 1990 and 2007) joined the Club in 1974 and was elected as a Life Member in 2014. As mentioned earlier in this book, Joe is the only member to get a hole-in-one both righthanded and lefthanded. He one of only four people to be both President and Captain, the others being Andy Lewis, A. Roebuck, and Ron Brightwell.

**Mark Houlder** (Captain - 1997 - 2003) joined the Club in 1985 and was elected as a Life Member in 2021. Blocker, as he is well known, is the Club's longest serving Captain. He was a part of the victorious 1992 Warren Team who won us the pennant and to this day still participates in the interclub competitions.

**Geoff Marles** (President - 2001 - 2004) joined the Club in 1992 and was elected a Life Member in 2023. Geoff has held several senior positions on the Board including Director, Senior Vice President, Vice President, Chairman of Greens, Head of House and Social Committee, as well as a member of the Match, Finance, and Handicap committees. During his presidency, Geoff spearheaded the 2003 clubhouse renovations. A much needed project for our club to succeed.



Judy Warner was made a life member in 2011.



Former President, Max Walker, was made a life member in 2013.



Our former Pro, Alan Berry Jr, was made a life member in 2009.



Mark Houder is our Club's longest serving Captain with seven years service



Bob Head was the glue that held our club together between 2008 - 2011



Joe Kerr served as both President and Captain during his time at our Club



Patron, Club Solicitor, and former President, Chris Shaw was made a life member in 2024.



Rhonda Mortimer was made a life member in 2024 after more than 12 years on the Board and counting.



Geoff Marles, President in the early 2003, spearheaded our clubhouse renovations.

**Chris Shaw** (President 1996; Senior Vice President 1999 – 2000; Treasurer 2001 – 2002 and 2008 – 2009) joined the Club in 1978 and was elected a Life Member in 2024. Chris is well known as the Club's Patron and Solicitor. Chris's long term support of our Club has seen us overcome some difficulties and become a stronger club.

**Rhonda Mortimer** (Vice President 2017 – 2024) joined the Club in 1996 and was elected a Life Member in 2024. Rhonda also held the position of Lady President in 2014 and 2015. Rhonda has served on the Club's Board for 12 years and continuing.

### **Signing of new Leases**

Palm Beach Golf Club has a very long history with liaising and negotiating with the various forms that our local council has taken over the past one hundred years. We have been stewards that have maintained and developed a community asset in which quality open space has been at the heart of Palm Beach and surrounding suburbs for a century. The current lease secures our tenure of the course to 2040. In 1999, we resigned a lease with the then Pittwater Council. This lease provided the Club with a further twenty-one-year tenure of the golf course.

In 2020, we resigned a lease with the Northern Beaches Council and ensured our long-term tenure of the golf course. A working committee was established in 2018 in order to put the Club in the best position to negotiate with Council. Council initially offered the Club a mere five-year term. The Board refused to accept such a short length of time and was eventually successful in obtaining a twenty-year lease.

### **Major Pennant Champions (Division 4) 2017**

In 2017, we won our first Major Pennant since 1970, some 47 years between drinks. After an undefeated season in their group, the team defeated Warringah Golf Club in the semi-final. They went on to defeat Asquith Golf Club in the final at Terrey Hills Golf and Country Club.

Jackson Upton, who was 15 at the time, secured the win, going to a fifth play-off hole.

On 5 April 2017, when in Parliament, Member for Pittwater, Rob Stokes, congratulated the team and the Club for their success and read out the following statement onto Hansard. Hansard is the Parliament's official records, ensuring that this victory is kept for the ages.

*Today, I congratulate the 2017 Division 4 metropolitan pennant winners from Palm Beach Golf Club. After being undefeated, the mighty Palmy Army went on to defeat Warringah Golf Club in the semi-final and, ultimately, the Asquith Golf Club in the final this past Sunday 2 April. It was a well fought final with 15-year-old, Jackson Upton going to a fifth play-off hole. This is the first time that a nine-hole golf club has qualified for Division 3; it will play alongside the likes of Royal Sydney and Manly Golf clubs. I recognise the team captain Olli Hugill, team manager Mark Upton and the rest of the team, including Matt Gordon, Scott Ebsary, Tommy Clinton, Kieran Clough, Jackson Upton, Chris Seymour and Phil Rudd. Well done, boys, and good luck next year*



Our Major Pennant team won the Club's second Major Pennant in 2017. Our photo shows back row left to right: Matt Gordon, Scott Ebsary, Ollie Hugill, Tom Clinton, Mark Upton, and Kieran Clough. Front row left to right: Jackson Upon, Chris Seymour, and Phil Rudd.

### Club Juniors and the Major Pennants

Palm Beach has always had a proud history of encouraging our juniors. Over the years we have had a number of juniors join our ranks and become part of our club. After a few years they may leave us for the larger course but their time with us leaves its mark and they usually return once they are a bit older and start to have a families.

This support was evident in 2008 when our Major Pennant team made the final for the first time in a number of years. The final was played at Warringah Golf Club and we lost against Randwick Golf Club 4/3.

In the team that year was Chris Seymour, Phil Rudd, Matt Gordon, Blake Aroney, Ollie Hugill, Harrison Jones, Scott Ebsary, and Mark Upton. Apart from Mark, the team ranged from 18 to 25 years old. Mark graciously sat himself out of the team for the final resulting in a very young but able team.

So great was the support for our young team that 40 - 50 of our members descended on Warringah to watch our boys in the final.

As some stories go, it wasn't to be but the clubhouse was opened up on the Sunday night where the supporters came down and celebrated the great season regardless of the final result.



Former President Bob Head was captured by artist Jeff Hoffman in 2009 displaying the many tasks Bob undertook when president.

## Rediscovery of Club Records

In 2020, our Club's original Board minutes were rediscovered in the ceiling of the Pro Shop. The leather-bound volume contains the original papers between 1926 to 1946. They are signed by the Presidents of the time and provide an invaluable insight into our Club's history, especially during the second World War.

These records are now securely locked in the safe to ensure they are retained well into the future. Other Club records that have been collated in the lead up to our centenary were:

The original leases for the golf course dated between 1945 – 2020. They all have original signatures and even stamps affixed to them for stamp duty. They provide an understanding on the Club's relationship with Council and how public space has been view over time.

An old 16mm film reel which is a mock film of a golf competition at Palm Beach. It shows the course and members in the early 1960s. It allows us to look at the Clubhouse and the course in the 1960 and see how much has changed, particularly how small the figs in front of the second green were. This has now been digitised for prosperity.

The original Deed for Debenture Holders (Second Series) dated 7 June 1954, which is annexed at the end of this book, shows the generosity of our members in raising funds for our Club. This together with the first series debentures secured the funds to purchase our clubhouse.

A green pennant player jacket from the early 1950s was also rediscovered. This jacket is one of the four displayed in the member's room in our Clubhouse.

## Alan Berry Jnr retires after 40 years

On 31 October 2020, we said goodbye to the Club's longest serving Pro. AB, as he is affectionally known, faithfully served the Club for 40 years as Pro and has been part of the family for much longer, winning the C-Grade Championship in 1972. The Club welcomed Lisa Newling as our new Head Professional. Lisa fitted in straight away and has been a great additional to our Club.

Around this time, the Pro Shop was given a new lease of life. Due to the efforts of Bob Quin and Mark Hill, the Pro Shop was patched up and painted. This was a much overdue refresh and dramatically modernised the outside of the Pro Shop.



Our course superintendent, Craig Bevan with AB at his retirement party.

Following Lisa's arrival, she completely renovated the internal space of the Pro Shop into what we have today. This renovation resulted in a free flowing, light and modern Pro Shop. The Pro Shop is the front line of the golf course, and both these renovations were very much welcomed by members and guests.

### **COVID 19 and the global pandemic**

2020 was a year that saw everything from bush fires which blanketed the community in smoke, to heavy rains, floods, and the emergence of COVID19. These events have had a large impact on our Club, including our club house being shut down for months. The Board took steps to adapt and modify our practices, and as a result we were able to keep our course open and functioning. In fact, we saw a dramatic increase in the number of people playing golf at Palm Beach. Clubs like ours rely upon the support of our members and our Members stood up and provided much needed ongoing support that ensured we made it through the unprecedented time.

If we are looking for a silver lining from these difficult years, we only need to look to the increase in golf participation. Figures released by Golf Australia showed that New South Wales lead the rest of the country with a 22.6% growth in local club competitions. With the 20-30-year-old age group growing by up to 50%. More than 42,000 new members joined clubs across Australia, and here at Palm Beach we saw that growth first hand. During the pandemic we also saw a large increase in the number of the public playing on the course. These increased numbers on the golf course immeasurable helped the Club with cash flow during the many different lockdowns that occurred, resulting in the Clubhouse being shut.

It would also be remiss of us not to acknowledge the financial assistance both the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments provided during this difficult time. The Club would have struggled to survive without it.

### **A change to our structure**

We saw quite the shift in operations of our kitchen. After many years of leasing the kitchen to various restaurateurs, in December 2020, we farewelled Andrew and Amy after many years at the Club. We thanked them for their contribution and wished them well in the future. Phillip Martin then joined the ranks as head chef. Phillip was the head chef and owner of Starfish in Avalon. Starfish was an institution in Avalon for many years and Phillip continues to be a huge asset to the Club. Since joining the team, the restaurant has never looked back. We are seeing more and more come to the Club and enjoy everything we have to offer. Long may this continue.

After many years, we disbanded with our course maintenance contract with Bayview Golf Club and brought the work back inhouse. Our Course Superintendent, Craig Bevan, who continues to keep the course in good condition was brought across from Bayview and employed directly by Palm Beach. This move saw the Club in control of our course budget and allocation of resources for the first time in over a decade. It also provided the Club the ability to determine which projects or parts of the course we would like to tackle and improve.

The team initially expanded to include Les Rourke who acted in an ongoing volunteer basis and his efforts and time was very much appreciated by all. Les worked in this capacity for a number of years before his son, Josh Rourke became our apprentice.

Following Josh's departure, the team expanded to include Ben Haymes, who originally came from Royal Wimbledon Golf Club for a summer work program but ended up becoming indispensable and remains here to this day. Long time member, Mark Upton also joined to round out the team. By having this robust inhouse team, the Club regained control to push again with large projects such as the couch replacement throughout the course.

## Successful resolution of the Alfresco area.

With the view of how to better use our existing facility, the downstairs outdoor area, formerly our old practice green, was transformed into the current Al Fresco area. The area was flagged in sandstone and a timber deck was installed. This new area was sheltered by a series of shade sails. At the same time an unused part of the same area was converted into our garden bar. The bar is heavily used over the summer months especially when holiday makers descent on Palm Beach for their Christmas break.

However, this development was not without controversy. Through a series of noise complaints from a divisive neighbour and the lack of a development application the Club ended up in the Land and Environment Court. A debate arose over the hours of use, the number of patrons and what activities we could use it for. We successfully negotiated our way through these issues and continue to gain the benefit of this outdoor space. Special acknowledgement needs to be given to the Club's Patron, solicitor, and past President, Chris Shaw, who led us through this uncertain process.

## A changing of the guard – staff members

**David Lemon**, our Club's Secretary Manager, left the Club after several years at the helm. David's departure saw a number of staff fill his positions over the last 25 years, including Scott Hawkins, Mike Nixon, Roy Smith.

Our current General Manager, **Renaë Fitzgerald**, has been in the chair since 2019. Renaë joined the Club in 2006 and has had various roles and responsibilities over the years and she continues to steer the ship on a steady course.

**Nikki Lowe** is our formidable Finance Manager. Having joined the Club in 2005, Nikki is currently our longest serving member of staff. No problem is too big or small. We would surely be lost without her.

**Mike Nixon** served as our General Manager for a number of years whilst Bob Head was president. Together, Bob and Mike saw the club's then financial misfortunes being corrected. At the time, the Club saw an exodus of members as the club was restructured. A far cry from the increasing membership we see today, with thanks in part to their hard work.

**Lisa Newling** joined the Club as our head professional in November 2020. Having certainly left her mark on our club in a short time, she sadly departed in June 2023 for coaching role at Royal Sydney Golf Club.

**Michael Brown** joined the ranks as our Pro in June 2023 and is still with us to this day. Mike has very quickly become part of the furniture and we can't imagine the club without his steady hands in the Pro Shop.

**Robin Head** not only worked in the Pro Shop for many years. She now continues to contribute to our club in the office a couple of days a week. Robin Head was also Lady Captain, Lady President, Club Captain, and Lady Club Champion. Robin was the first woman in Australia to be a Club's Club Captain. A testament to Robin and the faith that the Members had in her back when she was elected in 2008.

**Sam Phillips** was our Club's trainee pro under the excellent tutorage of AB. Sam is remembered for many things, not the least of which was his hole-in-one on the seventh. When teeing off on the seventh, the group in front were already on the green, and Sam, who was likely encouraged by his playing partners hit an enormous drive straight down the middle. Meanwhile, AB, who was in the group in front, pulled the flag from the hole as Sam's golf ball casually hit the green and rolled into the hole. Much to the surprise of everyone on the green who had no idea where the ball had come from. Sam now lives in Orange.



Nikki Lowe is currently our longest serving member of staff with close to two decades and counting.



Renae Fitzgerald, our current General Manager, continues to steer the ship.



Robin Head continues to serve as a member of staff from many years in the Pro Shop with AB to now in our Club's office.

## Changing Finances

Like most clubs across Sydney, our finances during the early turn of the century saw a decline in our profitability. We saw a decline in the number of members, as well as the number of people using the Club.

In 2007, the Clubhouse was on the verge of being sold as agreed to by the then Board of Directors. An Extraordinary General Meeting was held, and a new Board was voted in and Bob Head became President.

Over the ensuing four years, Bob Head and the Board of Directors, together with General Manager Mike Nixon, proceeded to reverse the Club's financial misfortunes. As a result of the of this financial dilemma, the Club had an exodus of membership to other local clubs.

In 2017, so grave was the Club's financial position, that serious consideration was given by the Board to strike a deal with Bayview Golf Club for some type of amalgamation. Luckily, this deal was never struck, and we continue to stand on our own two feet. It does, however, demonstrate the need for the Club to have a long-term view on our future. As already stated elsewhere in this book, our finances have gone up and down over the past 100 years.

Even in the midst of the global pandemic, in 2020 we recorded the largest net profit in the Club's history. It was only the third net profit the Club had made in nearly two decades. This was largely due to the hard work and dedication of our Club's longest serving Treasurer, Stephen Farr. It was through Stephen's steady hands that ship was righted.

2021 saw the increase in the number of members joining the Club. This welcomed increase not only saw more golfers using the Club, but it had the added benefit of increasing the Club's bottom line. In fact, by 2022, membership had grown the number of playing members in one year by 41.5%.

## Competitions

In addition to our traditional perpetual trophies, many of which are mentioned throughout this book, the last 25 years have seen the introduction of the Barrenjoey Cup, which was donated by Treasurer Stephen Farr, and Alan Berry Cup. Both the Barrenjoey Cup and the Alan Berry Cup are perpetual trophies that run on Saturdays and Thursdays respectively, and award points each week towards the end of year total. They reward those members who turn up week on week regardless of how many of the other major trophies they may have their names on.

In 2020, the Club welcomed the repatriation of the Presidents' Cup. The Presidents' Cup was returned to the Club after an 84-year absence. Beverly Hemming (née Hitchcock), the great-granddaughter of foundation member George Hitchcock, very kindly donated the trophy to the Club. The Hitchcock name is familiar to us due to Hitchcock Park in Avalon, which was named after George. The Trophy was present to Mr Hitchcock in 1937 by then President, E. R. Moser, Esq. It has already taken its rightful place in our trophy cabinet. On behalf of the Club, I wish to thank Beverly and the Hitchcock family for their generous donation to our Club.

In 1999, Palm Beach competed in the Group C Cup. This tournament saw the Group C clubs across Sydney come together at Barnwell Park Golf Club. The other clubs included Gordon, Bardwell Park, Bardwell Valley, Rosnay, Lane Cove, Castle Cove, Royal Australian Engineers (RAE), and Bondi golf clubs. The clubs were represented by two players from A-Grade and two from each B and C-Grade. The team from Palm Beach was Matt Smith (A-Grade), Greg Stanford (A-Grade), Mark Houlder (B-Grade), and Matt Gordon (C-Grade). The team put in a strong effort and were the runners-up with the team from Rosnay taking out the honours. As far as we know, this was the only time this tournament was hosted.

In further endeavours to unite the Club, the inaugural Presentation Night was held in January 2021 for the 2020 year. For the first time, both men and women members held a combined Presentation Night to award those who had been successful throughout the year. It was also the first year we capped our Major Pennant Players and presented them with baggy greens. In honour of those members who have represented the Club in the past, the numbers on these caps started at 100.

New perpetual trophies were donated to the Club in recent years. Mark and Daniel Hill donated the B-Grade and C-Grade Club Champion Trophies, respectively, and the Club provided new Match Play trophies for A, B, and C-Grades. At the time there was a feeling from the Board that the Club needed to ensure that more of our members felt included in the major competitions. These new perpetual trophies were donated in an attempt to satisfy this. In fact, over recent years, participation in our major competitions are once again over subscribed.

To mark our centenary, the Club purchased two new trophies named 'The Centenary Cup', a new trophy each for the men's and ladies competitions. The inaugural winners in the men's and ladies competitions were Blake Upton and Marie Bynon respectively.

In 2023, with the passing of Life Member, Mark Houlder, a new trophy was dedicated in his memory for the Super Senior Champion in the Men's Club Championship. Our Club has a proud history of recognising past members in this way including the Reg Richardson Memorial Bell, the Ron Brightwell Fourball Championship, Staveley Shield, the McDougall Stevenson Shield, the Mary Fraser Shield, the Joyce Thompson Trophy, the Kit Lewis Salver, the Thelma Hopewell Salver, and many more.



President, Dan Hill and Mark Hill after their Reg Richardson Memorial Bell win.



Captain, Justin Zieren with Steve Brown and Bill Hutchinson after their Ron Brightwell win.



Former Ladies Captain, Gina Pearce with the Mary Fraser Shield Bronze I Championship in 2005.



Former Ladies President and Captain, Robin Head with several trophies, including the Joyce Thompson Trophy.



Mary Brown and Audrey Brightwell with the McDougall Stevenson Shield Foursomes Premiership in 2007.

## Representative Golf

Our members have proudly represented our Club over the decades, whether it be in Major Pennants, Mixed Pennants, Warren and Gibson Shield, Master Pennants, Eric Apperly, Encourage Shield, or Womens Pennants.

We have also a great tradition of playing against other clubs outside of these organised competitions. In the past we have had regular competitions against Bayview, Asquith, Gosford, and Avalon.

In fact, our lady members have a long standing annual competition against Avalon Ladies Golf Club.

Long may this continue at Palm Beach!



The Warren and Gibson teams representing our mighty club.



Our Ladies looking like winners against Avalon Ladies Golf Club.



Our Major Pennant Team and their caddies

## Volunteers

Clubs like ours do not survive for a century without the hard work and dedication of many, many volunteers. Be they members of the Board of Directors, Ladies Committee, part of our regular monthly volunteers group, or those that contribute on a particular project or several projects, all of your contributions to our club continues to be greatly appreciated. Each and every volunteer is greatly appreciated by the entire Club.

Some notable members, in last 25 years, that haven't yet been mentioned include:

**Bob Quin** who served on the Board between 2017 to now. He currently serves as Chairman of House and served on the Match, Junior Development, and Greens subcommittees. He also ably represented the Club in various pennants teams. There is no job is too big or small and Bob has certainly left his mark on our Club.

**Jan Watts** who served as our Ladies President for four years and six years as Ladies Captain. Jan continues to be an active part of our Club and we can't imagine the place without her. To hold two positions demonstrates her commitment and passion for her club.

**Gina Pearce** who served as our Ladies Captain for 10 years. Like Jan, Gina has been a stalwart with the lady captaincy. A job that requires a lot of work and dedication, Gina carried it out with diligence and passion. Gina was the Club's Vice President and served on the Board of Directors between 2010 and 2013, including on the Match, House, and Junior Development subcommittees.

**Joan Lester** who served as our Ladies President for six years. Joan sadly passed away recently but she leaves a lasting legacy at our Club for years to come.

**Daniel Hill** who continues to serve as our President since 2019, resulting in being our second longest serving president in the history of our Club.

**Justin Zieren** who served as our Club Captain for six years. Our second longest serving Club Captain in our history. Justin's stewardship saw revitalised and larger participation in our competitions. He also ably represented the Club in various pennants teams.

**Kevin Dennis** who served on the Board between 2001 and 2003, and again between 2012 and 2016. He was Captain, the Chair of the Match Committee. He served on the Greens, Finance, Junior Development, and Election subcommittees.

**Steve Wannell** who ably lead the monthly volunteers for the past number of years and **Doug Oliver** who stepped up to take the reins, presently.

**Jeanette Whitting** who served on the Board between 2000 and 2005. She served on the Election and Promotion, Greens, House, and Social subcommittees.

**Mark Hill** who served on the Board between 2000 and 2003, and again in 2015. He was Vice President, Treasurer, the Chair of the Junior Development Committee and Head of Greens, he served on the Match, Handicap, House, Social subcommittees. He also ably represented the Club in various pennants teams.

**Peter Aroney** who served on the Board between 2005 and 2007. He was the Chair of House and served on the Match committee. He also ably represented the Club in various pennants teams.

**Jeff Miles** served on the Board between 2005 and 2007. He served on the Greens, House, and Finance subcommittee.

**Warren Burgess** who served on the Board between 2003 and 2006. He was President and Vice President, the Chairman of House and served on the Finance subcommittee.

**Rob Machon** who served on the Board in 1996 and again between 1998 and 2003. He was Treasurer, the Chair of the Junior Development, Finance, and House subcommittee and served on the Match, Handicap, Greens, and Election and Promotion subcommittees.

**Tony Burley** who served on the Board between 1994 and 2001. He was Senior Vice President, Vice President, the Chairman of House, Chair of the Election and Promotion subcommittee, and served on the Match, Finance, Greens, and Junior Development subcommittees.

**John Burrows** who served on the Board between 1996 and 2004. He was Senior Vice President, the Chairman of House, Head of Greens, and served on the Match, Finance, Social, House, and Handicap subcommittees.

**Tony Wright** who served on the Board between 2003 and 2004. He was Treasurer, the Chair of Finance subcommittee, and served on the Match subcommittee.

**Alan Overvliet** who served on the Board between 2006 and 2012. He was Senior Vice President, Vice President, the Chairman of Greens, and served on the Match and House subcommittees. During his time on the Board, he and Jeff Stuart were instrumental in thinning out the trees on the course which had not occurred for some years and was much needed for sun light.

**Norma Dennis** who served on the Board in 2008 and again between 2011 and 2012. She was Head of the House Services subcommittee and served on the House, Membership, and Junior Development subcommittees. Norma also served as Ladies President for two years.

**Reg Nesbitt** who served on the Board between 2000 and 2005. He was Vice President, the Chairman of House, and served on the Finance, Match, Election and Social subcommittees.

**Jeff Stuart** who served on the Board between 2009 and 2011. He was Captain, the Chair of Match and Junior Development subcommittees, and served on the Greens subcommittee.

**Lex Mitchell** who served on the Board in 2012 and again from 2019 to now. He has served on the Finance, Greens, and House subcommittees.

**Justine Paul** who served on the Board between 2017 to now. She has served on the Membership and Marketing, Finance, and House subcommittees.

**Charles Mayson** who served on the Board between 2020 to now. He is Chair of the Welfare and Community Relations subcommittee and has served on the Finance and Match subcommittees.

**Bill Hutchinson** who served on the Board between 2005 and 2006. He served on the Match and Greens subcommittees. In 2025 he was elected as Captain.

**Deuel Droogan** who served on the Board between 2001 and 2005. He served on the Finance, Match and Handicap, Election and Social, House, and Greens subcommittees.

**Mark Blake** who served on the Board between 1996 and 2000 and again between 2012 and 2014. He was President and Treasurer. He served as Chair of the Finance and Junior Development subcommittees and served on the Match, House, Greens, Handicap, Membership and Marketing, and Election and Promotion subcommittees.

## **Storm Damage**

Storm damage to the course is nothing new at Palm Beach. In fact, we have seen severe storm damage nearly every decade our club has been in existence. For exact dates, reference should be given to the addenda of 'The History of Palm Beach Golf Club – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary' book.

2019 was no different in this regard. A large storm cell moved across the course causing significant damage. The waves from the Pittwater saw erosion all the way along the western boundary of the course. At parts, we lost up to 9 metres of the course. It took years for the sand to be properly secreted back onto the course. Much thought has been given over the years to how best mitigate future storm damage. The installation of a stand stone sea wall has been discussed several times with the Council. These discussions have been met with the same areas of concern, namely costs and environmental impact.

## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events**

To celebrate the Club turning 75, there were many events held throughout 1999 to mark the occasion.

One such event was an 18-hole tournament that was hosted at Palm Beach which saw the Presidents, Captains, and Club Champions from golf clubs across the Northern Beaches compete to take out the honours. They included Palm Beach, Mona Vale, Bayview, Cromer, Monash, Wakehurst, Long Reef, Manly, and Balgowlah golf clubs. Our Club put up the prize money for the Club Champions and from what we have been told the crowds certainly followed them around. Oddly, the crowd seemed a little scarce for the Presidents and Captains. A large dinner was held in the Clubhouse after the tournament and Mark Houlder, who was the captain at the time, said that the team from Mona Vale certainly enjoyed themselves. They proceeded to do the right thing and catch the bus home. The only problem was when they all woke up in the morning, they realised that they had left their clubs on the bus. There is nothing quite like Palm Beach's hospitality.

## **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events**

On Saturday, 10 February 2024, Craig Parry unveiled our Centenary Garden and plaque. This garden and plaque commemorates our Clubs one hundred years and will stand as a permanent reminder of what we have accomplished as a Club, together. The garden was constructed by one of our Directors, Lex Mitchell.

In the evening, the Club continued the festivities with our Centenary Dinner. One hundred and fifty members gathered to celebrate and remember the last 100 years of our Club. There was live music and speeches to mark the occasion. The later of which can be found in the Addendum to this book.



The unveiling of our Centenary Plaque to mark our Club's 100 years.



Our Centenary Plaque

## Palm Beach and other local clubs

In September 2022, our Club played host to presidents and general managers from 14 local clubs between Palm Beach and Avalon Beach with the hopes of sharing resources, ideas, lessons, challenges, and opportunities.

The clubs that were invited included Palm Beach Golf Club, Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club, North Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Club Palm Beach and Palm Beach RSL Sub Branch, Palm Beach Sailing Club, Whale Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Avalon Soccer Club, Avalon Bulldogs, Careel Bay Tennis, Avalon Beach RSL, Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Avalon Sailing Club, Avalon Bowling Club, and Avalon Golf Club.

As local community-based organisations, these clubs are all run by dedicated volunteers. The idea behind the event was to make sure the clubs support one another to be successful, grow, and remain part of our communities.

It is hoped that this initiative will be an annual event with other clubs to host in the coming years.



Local president and general managers

## **Modern Technology**

The Club evolved in the way we put our names down for our competitions. We went from the old A3 sheets which were placed up in the club (with a bottle of white out for the inevitable mistakes) to an online booking system. This new system certainly paid dividends during the COVID19 pandemic where bookings were shifted around to adapt to whatever restrictions were in place at the time.

The Club has always tried to move with the time in relation to technology and we continue to develop our website. Members are now able to logon and book, not only for golf, but for dinner, concerts and any other event that may be hosted at the Club.

2022 saw the introduction of both MiClub and MiScore to Palm Beach Golf Club. For the first time, our members were able to book online and on our Club App.

This technology has also meant that our members now have accessibility to Club records on Club's website and App. Members can now look up our trophies, history, honour boards, competitions guides, and fixtures whenever they like.

## **The Club and Government Grants**

In addition to the \$800,000 grant mentioned previously, we have also been successful in a number of other grants. Namely, a \$30,000 NSW Government Community Building Partnership grant which saw the replacement of the balcony roof in 2017.

The Club also saw another \$5,000 grant to refresh our alfresco area down stairs with new furniture and plants.

The Club will continue to look towards partnering with the Government to further enhance our community facility.

## **The Club on display**

Palm Beach Golf Club has a rich history as demonstrated throughout this book. During 2024, we displayed various club records and memorabilia in the Member's lounge, including original leases of the golf course, monthly medals, key rings, lapel pins, old club magazines, bag tags, the original board papers, and an old film reel.

## **The Future – 'The next 100 years'.**

Who knows what the future holds for Palm Beach Golf Club. With the rapid development of technology, the scarcity of public open space, and the evolution of the game we love, anything is possible. What we should be sure of is, if we continue to have members like we had over the past 100 years, Palm Beach Golf Club's future will continue to remain bright. A club is only as strong as its members, and we at Palm Beach have some of the best.



## Life Members

1934	G. Hitchcock	1979	A. Berry Snr
1938	S.B. Hooper	1987	R. Warner
1940	A.A. Oxlade	1992	R. Brightwell
1957	A. Bowman	1995	C. Gates
1957	P. Cavill	1997	Mrs J. Palmer
1957	R. Gassman	1997	Mrs S. Toms
1957	D. Hodgins	1999	K. Cush
1962	G. Kidd	2000	W. O'Brien
1962	R. Copp	2009	A. Berry Jnr
1962	W. Chapman	2011	J. Warner
1964	J. Lewis	2013	M. Walker
1964	R. Richardson	2013	R. Head
1969	L. Gosper	2014	J. Kerr
1970	Mrs T. Hopewell	2021	M. Houlder
1970	L. Uren	2023	G. Marles
1972	R. Broomhead	2024	C. Shaw
1974	R. Trevor	2024	Mrs R. Mortimer

## Foundation Members

C. Broughton	S. B. Hooper
C. R. Crossman	B. L. Houghton
S. H. Hammond	E. R. Moser
G. H. Hitchcock	A. Oxlade
H. Whiltshire	H. L. Tress



## Presidents

1924	C. R. Crossman	1964	A. P. Lewis
1925	C. R. Crossman	1965	A. P. Lewis
1926	C. R. Crossman	1966	R. Broomhead
1927	S. H. Hammond	1967	R. Broomhead
1928	S. H. Hammond	1968	R. Broomhead
1929	S. H. Hammond	1969	R. Broomhead
1930	S. H. Hammond	1970	R. Broomhead
1931	S. H. Hammond	1971	A. Berry Snr
1932	S. H. Hammond	1972	A. Berry Snr
1933	E. R. Moser	1973	A. Berry Snr
1934	E. R. Moser	1974	W. Johnston
1935	E. R. Moser	1975	K. Cush
1936	E. R. Moser	1976	K. Cush
1937	A. A. Oxlade	1977	A. Roebuck
1938	A. A. Oxlade	1978	D. McLeod
1939	A. A. Oxlade	1979	W. Johnston
1940	J. W. Hayes	1980	W. Johnston
1941	A. Bowman	1981	W. Johnston
1942	A. Bowman	1982	W. Johnston
1943	C. Kemmis	1983	W. Johnston
1944	C. Kemmis	1984	R. Brightwell
1945	C. Kemmis	1985	R. Brightwell
1946	C. Kemmis	1986	R. Brightwell
1947	A. Bowman	1987	R. Brightwell
1948	A. Bowman	1988	R. Brightwell
1949	C. Kemmis	1989	R. Brightwell
1950	P. Cavill	1990	R. Brightwell
1951	P. Cavill	1991	R. Brightwell
1952	P. Cavill	1992	R. Brightwell
1953	R. Gassman	1993	R. Brightwell
1954	R. Gassman	1994	R. Brightwell
1955	R. Gassman	1995	R. Brightwell
1956	R. A. Copp	1996	C. Shaw
1957	R. A. Copp	1997	M. Walker
1958	R. A. Copp	1998	A. Burgess
1959	G. Kidd	1999	A. Burgess
1960	G. Kidd	2000	A. Burgess
1961	J. Lewis	2001	G. Marles
1962	J. Lewis	2002	G. Marles
1963	A. P. Lewis	2003	G. Marles



## Presidents

2004	G. Marles
2005	W. Burgess
2006	W. Burgess
2007	C. Abercrombie
2008	R. Head
2009	R. Head
2010	R. Head
2011	R. Head
2012	M. Blake
2013	M. Blake
2014	J. Kerr
2015	J. Kerr
2016	J. Kerr
2017	S. Misdale
2018	S. Misdale
2019	D. Hill
2020	D. Hill
2021	D. Hill
2022	D. Hill
2023	D. Hill
2024	D. Hill



## Captains

1936	A. Staveley	1976	R. Brightwell
1937	A. Staveley	1977	R. Brightwell
1938	A. Staveley	1978	R. Brightwell
1939	A. Staveley	1979	R. Brightwell
1940	D. Fullerton	1980	J. Simpson
1941	D. Hodges	1981	K. McKeown
1942	H. G. Harris	1982	K. McKeown
1943	H. J. Bentley	1983	K. McKeown
1944	H. J. Bentley	1984	W. O'Brien
1945	D. Hodgins	1985	W. O'Brien
1946	D. Hodgins	1986	A. Simpson
1947	D. Hodgins	1987	A. Simpson
1948	D. Hodgins	1988	K. McKeown
1949	J. Rigney/R. Doolin	1989	D. Hatch
1950	D. Hodgins	1990	J. Kerr
1951	D. Hodgins	1991	K. McKeown
1952	F. Reynolds	1992	C. Gates
1953	S. Dinsmore/T. Fouracre	1993	C. Gates
1954	W. Milne	1994	G. Baillie
1955	W. Milne/ R. Thomas/ R. Whiting	1995	G. Baillie
1956	R. Whiting/ J. Fraser	1996	G. Baillie
1957	W. R. Milne	1997	M. Houlder
1958	W. R. Milne	1998	M. Houlder
1959	G. Retford/ L. Hutton	1999	M. Houlder
1960	L. Hutton	2000	M. Houlder
1961	R. Trevor	2001	M. Houlder
1962	A. Lewis	2002	M. Houlder
1963	R. Richardson	2003	M. Houlder
1964	R. Richardson	2004	G. Baillie
1965	R. Richardson	2005	G. Baillie
1966	R. Richardson	2006	K. Neilsen
1967	R. Richardson	2007	J. Kerr
1968	R. Workman	2008	R. Head (Mrs)
1969	R. Workman	2009	R. Head (Mrs)
1970	R. Workman	2010	J. Stuart
1971	R. Clark	2011	J. Stuart
1972	R. Clark	2012	K. Dennis
1973	E. D'Arcy	2013	K. Dennis
1974	A. Roebuck	2014	K. Dennis
1975	G. Parsonage	2015	K. Dennis



## Captains

2016	K.Dennis
2017	J.McLean
2018	J.McLean
2019	J.Zieren
2020	J.Zieren
2021	J.Zieren
2022	J.Zieren
2023	J.Zieren
2024	J.Zieren



## Men's Club Champions

1929	M. Gonsalves	1978	P. Sampson
1935	W. S. Anderson	1979	J. Simpson
1936	H. Gonslaves	1980	R. Warner
1937	R. Trevor	1981	N. Allsopp
1938	R. Trevor	1982	N. Allsopp
1939	W. G. Bown	1983	D. McFarlane
1940	H. Gonslaves	1984	R. Warner
1941 – 1945	<b>Not Played</b>	1985	R. Owen
1946	I. G. Phillips	1986	N. Allsopp
1947	T. Brien	1987	R. Warner
1948	C. East	1988	G. Baillie
1949	T. Brien	1989	N. Styler
1950	T. Brien	1990	K. Neilsen
1951	R. Warner	1991	T. Schoeffell
1952	L. Uren	1992	K. Neilsen
1953	L. Uren	1993	W. Bosley
1954	R. Warner	1994	S. Lascelles-Smith
1955	D. Dinsmore	1995	M. Smith
1956	R. Trevor	1996	W. Bosley
1957	R. Trevor	1997	P. Edgar
1958	R. Warner	1998	R. McMahon
1959	R. Warner	1999	G. Stanford
1960	R. Warner	2000	M. Smith
1961	R. Warner	2001	K. Neilsen
1962	R. Warner	2002	J. Kerr
1963	R. Warner	2003	O. Neave
1964	J. Benn	2004	O. Neave
1965	R. Warner	2005	J. Dalgleish
1966	R. Thomas Jnr	2006	K. Neilsen
1967	R. Warner	2007	J. Kerr
1968	W. Flanagan	2008	B. Aroney
1969	R. Warner	2009	P. Rudd
1970	R. Warner	2010	P. Rudd
1971	I. Tabrett	2011	M. Gordon
1972	W. Boots	2012	S. Rigney
1973	R. Warner	2013	S. Player
1974	S. McQueen	2014	S. Rigney
1975	R. Warner	2015	O. Hugill
1976	T. Farrell	2016	C. Seymour
1977	W. Flanagan	2017	O. Hugill



## Men's Club Champions

2018	C. Seymour
2019	K. Clough
2020	C. Seymour
2021	J. Upton
2022	M. Upton
2023	Z. Telfer
2024	C. Bevan



## B Grade Club Champions

1965	R. Waterman	2004	G. Lewis
1966	S. Race	2005	R. Yendle
1967	R. Harriman	2006	I. Thom
1968	D. Waterman	2007	R. Garland
1969	J. Workman	2008	T. Lodge
1970	S. McQueen	2009	A. Hillier
1971	E. Fryer	2010	T. Lodge
1972	B. Rosewarne	2011	R. Garland
1973	N. Maux	2012	P. Marchant
1974	K. Walker	2013	P. Aroney
1975	W. Wallace	2014	T. Montefiore
1976	N. Maude	2015	J. McFarlane
1977	K. Whiting	2016	J. Whitehead
1978	R. Poulton	2017	S. Misdale
1979	D. Withers	2018	J. Whitehead
1980	W. O'Brien	2019	M. Hill
1981	R. Buckingham	2020	P. Aroney
1982	R. Freestone	2021	K. Neilsen
1983	K. Lever	2022	L. Wicks
1984	E. Fryer	2023	A. Kent
1985	M. Walker	2024	B. Upton
1986	D. Hastie		
1987	M. Walker		
1988	P. Bourne		
1989	E. Fryer		
1990	M. Walker		
1991	E. Fryer		
1992	E. Fryer		
1993	J. Rubulis		
1994	J. Essenstam		
1995	G. Rider		
1996	S. McMahan		
1997	K. Williams		
1998	C. Wormersley		
1999	M. Walker		
2000	M. Kennedy		
2001	P. Aroney		
2002	S. Misdale		
2003	A. Yendle		



## C Grade Club Champions

1965	N. Twight	2004	R. Cooley
1966	B. Maley	2005	B. Simpson
1967	W. Grist	2006	R. Retford
1968	N. Timbs	2007	T. Underwood
1969	P. Elliott	2008	P. Bourne
1970	M. McIntosh	2009	L. Griffiths
1971	R. Woodward	2010	R. Quin
1972	A. Berry Jnr	2011	A Cosgrave
1973	P. Buckingham	2012	K. Dennis
1974	P. Toms	2013	S. Deane
1975	H. Mayne	2014	M. Blake
1976	M. Eagleston	2015	S. Deane
1977	J. Wilson	2016	P. Elliott
1978	R. Woodward	2017	J. McFarlane
1979	R. Owen	2018	L. Mitchell
1980	L. Fisk	2019	D. Hill
1981	E. Body	2020	J. Mclean
1982	J. McIntyre	2021	J. Parker
1983	M. Kemp	2022	H. Webster
1984	G. Waterman	2023	A. Yendle
1985	L. Fisk	2024	L. Martin
1986	J. Wallis		
1987	N. Anderson		
1988	E. Klever		
1989	A. Calvert		
1990	A. Calvert		
1991	R. Barnett		
1992	M. Howe		
1993	B. Lawson		
1994	B. Lawson		
1995	P. Stone		
1996	B. Sirotic		
1997	A. Fender		
1998	P. Donald		
1999	J. Edmonds		
2000	E. Burer		
2001	J. Cooley		
2002	M. Cima		
2003	B. Simpson		



## Junior Club Champions

1965	W. King	2004	O. Neave
1966	J. Murdoch	2005	R. Yendle
1967	P. Waterman	2006	M. Gordon
1968	D. Waterman	2007	M. Gordon
1969	D. Waterman	2008	C. Seymour
1970	J. Schilling	2009	P. Rudd
1971	S. McQueen	2010	P. Rudd
1972	P. Sampson	2011	P. Rudd
1973	P. Sampson	2012	J. Maclean
1974	S. McQueen	2013	J. Upton
1975	T. Farrell	2014	J. Upton
1976	T. Farrell	2015	Z. Farquharson
1977	R. Rowley	2016	J. Upton
1978	R. Poulton	2017	J. Upton
1979	W. Tyler	2018	<b>Not Played</b>
1980	R. Owen	2019	<b>Not Played</b>
1981	R. Rowley	2020	L. Warrener
1982	R. Owen	2021	L. Wicks
1983	M. Neave	2022	L. Wicks
1984	S. Connors	2023	L. Wicks
1985	S. Allsopp	2024	L. Wicks
1986	P. Edgar		
1987	S. Wilson		
1988	M. Goddard		
1989	M. Goddard		
1990	M. Goddard		
1991	M. Goddard		
1992	L. Ryan		
1993	L. Ryan		
1994	L. Ryan		
1995	L. Ryan		
1996	J. Dagleish		
1997	A. Lever		
1998	R. McMahon		
1999	J. King		
2000	J. Ryan		
2001	O. Neave		
2002	C. Seymour		
2003	O. Neave		



## Senior Club Champions

1992	E. Fryer
1993	W. Bosley
1994	W. Bosley
1995	W. Bosley
1996	W. Bosley
1997	W. Bosley
1998	W. Bosley
1999	L. Bignall
2000	G. Baillie
2001	G. Baillie
2002	J. Kerr
2003	K. Neilsen
2004	J. Kerr
2005	S. Player
2006	K. Neilsen
2007	J. Kerr
2008	J. Kerr
2009	K. Neilsen
2010	J. Kerr
2011	K. Neilsen
2012	S. Player
2013	S. Player
2014	K. Neilsen
2015	J. Kerr
2016	K. Neilsen
2017	K. Neilsen
2018	J. Whitehead
2019	M. Upton
2020	S. Player
2021	T. Devault
2022	M. Upton
2023	T. Devault
2024	G. Hunt



## Bicentennial Shield

1988	E. Klever
1989	E. Fryer
1990	I. Thom
1991	E. Fryer
1992	E. Fryer
1993	J. Rubulis
1994	J. Essenstam
1995	M. Blake
1996	S. McMahon
1997	C. H. Shaw
1998	E. Fryer
1999	J. King
2000	M. Kennedy
2001	J. Dalgleish
2002	M. Cima
2003	A. Yendle
2004	G. Lewis
2005	R. Yendle
2006	R. Upton
2007	T. Underwood
2008	C. Guard
2009	L. Griffiths
2010	L. Kavanagh
2011	C. Mayson
2012	A. Livingston
2013	S. Player
2014	T. Underwood
2015	S. Deane
2016	C. Seymour
2017	C. Seymour
2018	K. Clough
2019	M. Hill
2020	M. Hill
2021	C. Bevan
2022	L. Wicks
2023	T. Ryan
2024	B. Upton



## A Grade Match Play Champions

1984	N. Allsopp	2023	Z. Telfer
1985	R. Owen	2024	C. Bevan
1986	N. Allsopp		
1987	J. Simpson		
1988	R. Brightwell		
1989	G. Bainbridge		
1990	S. Lascelles-Smith		
1991	K. Neilsen		
1992	K. Neilsen		
1993	W. Bosley		
1994	G. Randall		
1996	G. Randall		
1997	M. Smith		
1998	K. Neilsen		
1999	J. King		
2000	K. Neilsen		
2001	L. Ryan		
2002	J. Kerr		
2003	J. King		
2004	J. Kerr		
2005	K. Neilsen		
2006	J. Dalgleish		
2007	B. Aroney		
2008	B. Aroney		
2009	O. Hugill		
2010	M. Gordon		
2011	M. Gordon		
2012	M. Upton		
2013	S. Player		
2014	S. Gillespie		
2015	S. Rigney		
2016	O. Hugill		
2017	O. Hugill		
2018	C. Seymour		
2019	S. Gillespie		
2020	T. Montefiore		
2021	T. Hunt		
2022	M. Hill		



## B Grade Match Play Champions

1984	A. Simpson	2023	L.Mitchell
1985	M. Walker	2024	J.Nolan
1986	P. Deka		
1987	M. Houlder		
1988	E. Fryer		
1989	E. Fryer		
1990	M. Houlder		
1991	E. Fryer		
1992	S. Rigney		
1993	M. Walker		
1994	J. Ryan		
1996	J. Essenstam		
1997	B. Blake		
1998	S. Esbury		
1999	D. Strong		
2000	J. Gonsalves		
2001	P. Aroney		
2002	G. Lewis		
2003	S. Misdale		
2004	S. Misdale		
2005	I. Thom		
2006	P. Aroney		
2007	J. Stuart		
2008	E. Fryer		
2009	W. Hutchinson		
2010	W. Hutchinson		
2011	R. Garland		
2012	J. McFarlane		
2013	M. Thompson		
2014	T. Montefiore		
2015	I. Thom		
2016	J. McFarlane		
2017	J. Whitehead		
2018	D. Montefiore		
2019	J. Essenstam		
2020	D. Hill		
2021	R. Quin		
2022	J. Mclean		



## C Grade Match Play Champions

1984	S. Sablatnig	2023	R. Porter
1985	M. Sablatnig	2024	G. Marles
1986	K. Cush		
1987	N. Anderson		
1988	D. Fleming		
1989	A. Calvert		
1990	A. Cosgrave		
1991	B. Walker		
1992	M. Howe		
1993	J. Dalglish		
1994	A. Homer		
1996	E. Burer		
1997	J. King		
1998	A. Veevers		
1999	N. Driffill		
2000	M. Kadwell		
2001	O. Neave		
2002	G. Loadsman		
2003	C. Papallo		
2004	T. Willis		
2005	J. Cooley		
2006	J. Cooley		
2007	R. Retford		
2008	J. Gouldthorpe		
2009	J. Cooley		
2010	P. Bourne		
2011	R. Wood		
2012	P. Elliott		
2013	M. Connors		
2014	J. Mclean		
2015	A Galway		
2016	J. Woodward		
2017	D. Fitton		
2018	T. Underwood		
2019	J. Zieren		
2020	G. Warner		
2021	R. Mielnik		
2022	P. Evans		



## Men's Foursomes Championship

1950	T. Brien; J. McDonough	1989	N. Allsopp; D. McFarlane
1951	J. Lane; J. W. Purse	1990	M. Goodard; G. Bainbridge
1952	L. Uren; S. Dinsmore	1991	T. Schoeffel; G. Randall
1953	L. Uren; S. Dinsmore	1992	G. Bainbridge; E. Fryer
1954	L. Uren; S. Dinsmore	1993	J. Simpson; W. Bosley
1955	L. Uren; S. Dinsmore	1994	K. Neilsen; G. Bainbridge
1956	L. Uren; S. Dinsmore	1995	S. Player; S. Lascelles-Smith
1957	W. Milne; R. Warner	1996	G. Randall; T. Schoeffel
1958	W. Milne; R. Warner	1997	R. Mearns; S. Randall
1959	T. Fouracre; R. Trevor	1998	K. Neilsen; P. Edgar
1960	T. Fouracre; R. Trevor	1999	S. Player; S. Lascelles-Smith
1961	S. Dinsmore; L. Uren	2000	M. Smith; J. Ryan
1962	S. Dinsmore; L. Uren	2001	L. Ryan; K. Neilsen
1963	C. Gates; R. Warner	2002	S. Player; R. Chessell
1964	J. Benn; J. Haysom	2003	J. Kerr; S. Potter
1965	R. Warner; C. Gates	2004	K. Neilsen; P. Edgar
1966	R. Lloyd; R. Thomas Jnr	2005	K. Neilsen; P. Edgar
1967	R. Malley; R. Thomas Jnr	2006	K. Neilsen; S. Player
1968	R. Trevor; R. Thomas Snr	2007	B. Aroney; M. Gordon
1969	W. Boots; R. Thomas Jnr	2008	O. Hugill; P. Thomas
1970	R. Burke; W. Flanagan	2009	P. Rudd; O. Hugill
1971	R. Warner; C. Gates	2010	P. Rudd; B. Aroney
1972	W. Boots; R. Thomas Jnr	2011	M. Gordon; S. Ebsary
1973	R. Warner; C. Gates	2012	M. Upton; T. Devault
1974	R. Warner; C. Gates	2013	J. McFarlane; S. Rigney
1975	W. Boots; E. D'Arcy	2014	K. Neilsen; S. Player
1976	P. Sampson; R. Trevor	2015	M. Gordon; S. Ebsary
1977	P. Burke; W. Flanagan	2016	K. Clough; O. Hugill
1978	P. Burke; W. Flanagan	2017	J. Upton; O. Hugill
1979	P. Sampson; R. Trevor	2018	K. Clough; O. Hugill
1980	R. Warner; C. Gates	2019	J. Upton; T. Hunt
1981	K. Walker; E. Fryer	2020	L. Edkins; K. Clough
1982	J. Osborne; T. Osborne	2021	L. Warrener; T. Hunt
1983	N. Allsopp; B. Allsopp	2022	K. Clough; C. Bevan
1984	S. Connors; S. Allsopp	2023	C. Seymour; S. Wannell
1985	K. Klever; M. Neave	2024	M. Upton; T. Devault
1986	S. Allsopp; P. Edgar		
1987	A. Simpson; J. Simpson		
1988	W. Cooper; W. O'Brien		





## Men's Gold Medal

1983	A Grade	I. Thom	2003	M. Kadwell
	B Grade	B. Vickerman	2004	D. Mckinnon
	C Grade	J. Philipson	2005	P. Akehurst
1984	A Grade	W. O'Brien	2006	P. Aroney
	B Grade	K. Klever	2007	J. Stuart
	C Grade	G. Warner	2008	J. Stuart
		W. Harding	2009	T. Rudd
1985		S. Player	2010	C. Guard
1986		P. Dekka	2011	W. Hutchinson
1987		D. Imison	2012	R. Quin
1988		W. Cooper	2013	M. Connors
1989		W. Cooper	2014	S. Player
1990		E. Fryer	2015	J. Zieren
1991		J. Simpson	2016	O. Hugill
1992		W. Cooper	2017	C. Seymour
1993		S. Potter	2018	T. Devault
1994		A. Gaebel	2019	J. Zieren
1995		G. Warner	2020	K. Clough
1996		G. Warner	2021	G. Smith
1997		R. McMahon	2022	J. Nolan
1998		G. Warner	2023	R. Wood
1999		E. Fryer	2024	P. Wootten
2000		M. Willcock		
2001		T. Ryan		
2002				



## Reg Richardson Memorial Bell

1968	G. Douglas; R. Hattersley	2007	S. Player; K. Neilsen
1969	D. Waterman; K. Whitting	2008	
1970	R. Broomhead; G. Parsonage	2009	C. Sutherland; D. Gilligan
1971	A. Berry; C. Thomas	2010	J. Friend; B. Stewart
1972	R. Clarke; L. Uren	2011	P. Elliot; B. Vickerman
1973	W. Boots; G. Stevenson	2012	P. DeBeyer; C. Mayson
1974	E. D'Arcy; R. Thomson	2013	P. Aroney; J. Miles
1975	A. Edgar; H. Wright	2014	W. Hardwick; L. Mitchell
1976	B. Westwood; G. Belonogoff	2015	M. Hill; D. Hill
1977	A. Simpson; J. Simpson	2016	J. Essenstam; R. Quin
1978	J. Hayburn; G. Parsonage	2017	J. McLean; S. Misdale
1979	J. Hayburn; G. Parsonage	2018	C. Seymour; S. Wannell
1980	W. Boots; W. Dobson	2019	P. Bourne; A. Yendle
1981	P. Bourne; P. Haymen	2020	M. Upton; T. DeVault
1982	C. Gates; R. Warner	2021	G. Marles; J. Brown
1983	D. Tarrant; A. Burgess	2022	M. Hill; K. Clough
1984	R. Ross; D. Ross	2023	G. Marles; M. Houlder
1985	J. Simpson; J. Gouldthorpe	2024	G. Marles; W. Hutchinson
1986	N. Blackburn; G. Reid		
1987	S. McEvoy; N. Anderson		
1988	M. Walker; P. Freestone		
1989	N. Stronach; G. Balstrup		
1990	G. Verrills; J. Edmonds		
1991	G. Heiron; D. Fleming		
1992	G. Baillie; G. Verrills		
1993	G. Heiron; G. Henderson		
1994	S. Lacelles-Smith; P. Donald		
1995	B. Cross; C. Cross		
1996	R. Barry; J. Simpson		
1997	P. Bourne; G. Meehan		
1998	E. Fryer; S. McEvoy		
1999	J. Essenstam; J. McIlroy		
2000	C. Womersley; P. Johnson		
2001	P. Aroney; T. Burley		
2002	D. Droogan; G. Lewis		
2003	P. Bourne; M. Walker		
2004	K. Sadlier; C. Twells		
2005			
2006	R. Quin; W. O'Brien		



## Ron Brightwell Fourball Champions

1993	D. Nevell; L. Otto
1994	A. Eason; D. Johns
1995	M. Kay; J. Quinn

### Renamed Ron Brightwell Fourball Championship

1996	R. Stretton; G. Laucher
1997	C. Cross; J. Black
1998	E. Fryer; S. McEvoy
1999	J. Gonsalves; D. Gonnard
2000	T. Williams; S. Misdale
2001	R. Jahnsen; A. Stevenson
2002	J. Eggington; L. McDivitt
2003	A. Veevers; H. Montigue
2004	R. Coles; R. Retford
2005	D. Strong; E. Fryer
2006	I. Thom; E. Fryer
2008	M. Houlder; W. Hutchinson
2011	P. De Beyer; N. Warren
2012	P. De Beyer; R. Ellis
2013	<b>Not Played</b>
2014	P. Elliott; B. Vickerman
2015	L. Ling; S. Farr
2016	J. Parker; D. Fitton
2017	L. Mitchell; B. Vickerman
2018	M. Hill; D. Hill
2019	P. North; P. Bailey
2020	J. McLean; S. Demeio
2021	T. Parker; L. Rourke
2022	W. Hutchinson; S. Brown
2023	G. Hunt; T. Hunt
2024	A. Yendle; R. Yendle



## Albert Staveley Honour Shield – All Services Day

1946	D. Hodgins	1985	B. Stewart
1947	A. Peters	1986	B. Wall
1948	A. Peters	1987	D. Hastie
1949	S. Smith	1988	T. Gilbert
1950	J. Lane	1989	S. Clarke
1951	J. Lane	1990	J. Gonsalves
1952	R. Thompson	1991	D. Hampson
1953	W. Flowers (Carnarvon)	1992	G. Mason
1954	R. Broomhead (Oatlands)	1993	J. Wilson
1955	K. Cush	1995	J. Simpson
1956	R. Verrender (East Lakes)	1996	B. Coles
1957	W. Hilton (Beverly Park)	1997	W. Edgar
1958	R. Broomhead (Oatlands)	1998	N. Stronach
1959	N. Tritton (Cumberland)	1999	J. Phillipson
1960	A. Williams (Muirfield)	2000	G. Gaven
1961	F. Krane (St Michaels)	2001	B. Harbutt
1962	R. Angus (Botany)	2002	B. Coles
1963	T. Fouracre	2003	G. Hounsell
1964	A. Whitlock	2004	G. Rider
1965	L. Whittall	2005	T. Wright
1966	A. Grant (Windsor)	2006	W. Burgess
1967	J. Sykes (Wollongong)	2009	T. Brown
1968	S. Walker	2011	W. Burgess
1969	W. O'Brien	2021	D. Oliver
1970	W. G. Cooper	2022	D. Oliver
1971	J. Burley (New Brighton)	2023	D. Oliver
1972	K. Elvy	2024	D. Connelly
1973	J. Creaney		
1974	J. L. Thomson		
1975	A. Simpson (Castle Hill)		
1976	Pearce		
1977	A. Heathcote (Mona Vale)		
1978	R. Trevor		
1979	T. L. Thomson		
1980	A. Iveely		
1981	P. Lewis		
1982	E. Setchell		
1983	E. Setchell		
1984	D. Imison		



## President v Captain – Reg. Copp. Geo. Kidd Commemoration Trophy

1967	President – R. Broomhead	2020	Captain – J. Zieren
1968	President – R. Broomhead	2021	Captain – J. Zieren
1969	Captain – J. Workman	2022	President – D. Hill
1970	President – R. Broomhead	2023	President – D. Hill
1971	President – A. Berry	2024	President – D. Hill
1972	Captain – R. Clark		
1973	Draw – A. Berry (P) E. Darcy (C)		
1974	President – W. Johnston		
1975	President – K. Cush		
1976	Captain – R. Brightwell		
1977	President – A. Roebuck		
1984	President – R. Brightwell		
1985	Captain – W. O'Brien		
1986	President – R. Brightwell		
1987	Captain – A. Simpson		
1988	President – R. Brightwell		
1989	Captain – D. Hatch		
1990	President – R. Brightwell		
1991	Captain – K. McKeown		
1992	Captain – C. Gates		
1993	Captain – C. Gates		
1994	President – R. Brightwell		
1995	President – R. Brightwell		
1996	Captain – G. Baillie		
1997	Captain – M. Houlder		
1998	President – A. Burgess		
1999	President – A. Burgess		
2000	Captain – M. Houlder		
2001	Captain – M. Houlder		
2002	Captain – M. Houlder		
2004	President – G. Marles		
2005	President – W. Burgess		
2011	Captain – J. Stewart		
2012	Captain – K. Dennis		
2013	Captain – K. Dennis		
2014	Captain – K. Dennis		
2015	President – J. Kerr		
2018	Captain – J. McLean		
2019	President – D. Hill		



## Greenkeeper's Cup

1985	R. Waite
1986	G. Taylor
1987	M. Walker
1988	B. Lawson
1989	L. Gill
1990	S. Jones
1991	K. Stott
1992	P. Schrier
1993	S. Randall
1994	G. Cottam
1995	R. Berczelly
1996	S. Chessell
1997	P. Edgar
1998	M. Walker
1999	P. Akehurst
2000	C. Twells
2001	P. Rudd
2002	R. Barry
2003	G. Hounsell
2004	C. Twells
2005	G. Hounsell
2011	M. Hill
2013	R. Ellis
2014	B. Meek
2015	J. Zieren
2017	S. Deane
2018	A. Yendle
2019	J. Whitehead
2020	L. Mitchell
2021	R. Jahnsen
2022	J. Dieters
2023	R. Wood
2024	L. Mitchell



## Viking Cup

1936	S. G. Watson	1980	A. Burgess
1937	K. Smith	1981	P. Burke
1938	D. R. Fullerton	1982	K. Poulton
1939	C. P. Kemmis	1983	J. Dieters
1940	H. Gonslaves	1984	V. McCauley
1941 – 1945	<b>Not Played</b>	1985	E. Fryer
1946	W. Collins	2022	Z. Telfer
1947	D. Hodgins	2023	K. Stebniki
1948	T. Fouracre	2024	R. Yendle
1949	T. Fouracre		
1950	G. Stimson		
1951	G. Knispel Snr		
1952	J. Cragg		
1953	B. Thomas		
1954	W. Milne		
1955	R. Copp		
1956	A. Blundell		
1957	E. Flowerdew		
1958	L. Nelson		
1959	P. Truscott		
1960	K. Maley		
1961	A. Whitlock		
1962	G. D. Reid		
1963	D. Bullough		
1964	C. Burgess		
1965	C. Thomas		
1966	J. McQueen		
1967	E. Fryer		
1968	J. L. Thomson		
1969	B. Dunlop		
1970	C. Gates		
1971	A. Berry		
1972	P. Toms		
1973	A. Cowdell		
1974	W. Thorp		
1975	S. Race		
1976	J. Johnson		
1977	A. McIntosh		
1979	A. Burgess		



## Mixed Foursomes Championship

1950	T. Brien; O. Watts	1989	J. Simpson; B. Cush
1951	R. Warner; O. Watts	1990	K. Neilsen; M. Whittaker
1952	L. Uren; D. Hodgins	1991	G. Bainbridge; V. Peachey
1953	L. Uren; D. Hodgins	1992	K. Neilsen; M. Whittaker
1954	T. Fouracre; E. Casey	1993	K. Neilsen; M. Whittaker
1955	T. Fouracre; E. Casey	1994	W. Cooper; B. Stevenson
1956	L. Uren; D. Hodgins	1995	S. Lascelles-Smith; T. Cook
1957	C. Gates; P. Mountford	1996	R. Mearns; B. Neiman
1958	S. Dinsmore; E. Casey	1997	S. Lascelles-Smith; A. Blake
1959	S. Dinsmore; E. Casey	1998	J. Kerr; K. Byrne
1960	T. Fouracre; D. Fouracre	1999	J. King; H. Corben
1961	D. Bonnett; D. Bonnett	2000	S. Lacelles-Smith; G. Pearce
1962	S. Dinsmore; E. Casey	2001	J. Kerr; R. Smith
1963	S. Dinsmore; E. Casey	2002	J. Kerr; R. Smith
1964	R. Warner; D. Fouracre	2003	K. Neilsen; G. Finch
1965	R. Warner; D. Fouracre	2004	J. Kerr; R. Smith
1966	R. Warner; D. Fouracre	2005	P. McDermott; R. Head
1967	R. Warner; D. Fouracre	2006	J. Kerr; R. Smith
1968	T. Fouracre; C. Moses	2007	J. Dalgleish; R. Head
1969	R. Thomas Jnr; M. Jellis	2008	J. Dalgleish; R. Head
1970	R. Trevor; J. Thomas	2009	O. Huggill; R. Head
1971	R. Thomas Jnr; I. Miller	2010	B. Aroney; R. Head
1972	P. Burke; M. Whittaker	2011	M. Gordon; R. Head
1973	W. Boots; E. Jones	2012	M. Upton; R. Head
1974	E. D'Arcy; E. Deane	2013	M. Upton; R. Head
1975	S. Sampson; B. Stevenson	2014	M. Upton; R. Head
1976	E. D'Arcy; D. Deane	2015	M. Upton; R. Head
1977	E. D'Arcy; D. Deane	2016	O. Huggill; M. Maimone
1978	S. Sampson; B. Stevenson	2017	C. Seymour; J. Watts
1979	E. D'Arcy; D. Deane	2018	C. Seymour; J. Watts
1980	D. McFarlane; D. Deane	2019	S. Gillespie; M. Gee
1981	R. Trevor; T. Cook	2020	C. Seymour; J. Watts
1982	F. Zander; B. Zander	2021	T. Devault; L. Hutchison
1983	S. Connors; B. Stevenson	2022	B. Bradley; G. Pearce
1984	D. McFarlane; D. Deane	2023	S. Gillespie; M. Gee
1985	D. McFarlane; D. Deane	2024	S. Gillespie; M. Gee
1986	R. Brightwell; A. Brightwell		
1987	M. Cooke; J. Cooke		
1988	D. McFarlane; D. Deane		



## Broomhead Trophy

1970	R.Thomas (Snr); Mrs A. McDougall
1971	R.Thomas (Snr); Mrs A. McDougall
1972	W.Hall; Mrs A. Hall
1973	W.Eames; Mrs R. Hume
1974	W.Combes; Mrs. A. Martens
1975	G.Stevenson; Mrs D. Deane
1976	S.Hayburn; Mrs. N. Grant Sir
1977	Horace; Lady Niall
1978	W.Stapleton; R. Stapleton
1979	I.Swain; B. Cush
1980	G.D. Reid; G. Reid
1981	T.Cragg; M. Mason
1982	D.Wood; P. Gates
1983	R.Warner; J. Warner
1984	J.Osborne; F. Osborne
1985	R.Rose; I. Maley
1986	D.Tarrant; M. Tarrant
1987	J.Roberts; N. Roberts
1988	A.Lowe; J. Warren
1989	G.Akers; S. Toms
1990	E.Fryer; T. Breen
1991	M.Hollyer; G. Klever
1992	A.Ogden; M. Whittacker
1993	G.Reid; G. Reid
1994	P.Hibble; G. Hibble
1995	K.Pye; G. Flynn-Pye
1996	M.R. Smith; A. Blake
1997	J.Ryan; A. Blake
1998	E.Burer; J. Burer
2023	J.Zieren; C. Dennett
2024	T.Goodman; M. Shennen



## Ladies Presidents

1954	D. Callaghan	1994	M. Wilson
1955	D. Callaghan	1995	M. Wilson
1956	T. Hopewell	1996	K. Hampton
1957	T. Hopewell	1997	J. Palmer
1958	T. Hopewell	1998	J. Palmer
1959	F. Nelson	1999	J. Palmer
1960	T. Hopewell	2000	J. Humphreys
1961	M. Lewis	2001	J. Humphreys
1962	M. Lewis	2002	J. Humphreys
1963	M. Lewis	2003	J. Humphreys
1965	T. Hopewell	2004	J. Humphreys
1966	T. Hopewell	2005	R. Head
1967	T. Hopewell	2006	R. Head
1968	J. Brunker	2007	N. Dennis
1969	J. Brunker	2008	N. Dennis
1970	J. Brunker	2009	N. Dennis
1971	E. Fraser	2010	J. Watts
1972	E. Fraser	2011	J. Watts
1973	E. Fraser	2012	J. Watts
1974	J. Brunker	2013	J. Watts
1975	J. Brunker	2014	R. Mortimer
1976	P. Nicholson	2015	R. Mortimer
1977	P. Nicholson	2016	J. Lester
1978	P. Nicholson	2017	J. Lester
1979	P. Nicholson	2018	J. Lester
1980	P. Nicholson	2019	J. Lester
1981	M. Johnstone	2020	J. Lester
1982	J. Brunker	2021	J. Lester
1983	S. Toms	2022	R. Blundell
1984	S. Toms	2023	R. Blundell
1985	S. Coggin	2024	R. Blundell
1986	S. Shelton		
1987	S. Shelton		
1988	S. Toms		
1989	V. Peachey		
1990	V. Peachey		
1991	J. Palmer		
1992	J. Palmer		
1993	J. Palmer		



## Ladies Captains

1954	J. Milne	1993	S. Toms
1955	J. Kenna	1994	S. Toms
1956	J. Kenna	1995	S. Toms
1957	M. Cooke	1996	J. Mclean
1958	M. Cooke	1997	J. Mclean
1959	B. Bonnett	1998	R. Head
1960	B. Bonnett	1999	R. Head
1961	J. Thomas	2000	R. Head
1962	J. Thomas	2001	D. Lawson
1963	J. Thomas	2002	R. Head
1965	C. Howarth	2003	R. Head
1966	C. Howarth	2004	R. Head
1967	W. Martin	2005	G. Pearce
1968	W. Martin	2006	G. Pearce
1969	J. Campbell	2007	G. Pearce
1970	J. Campbell	2008	G. Pearce
1971	J. Campbell	2009	G. Pearce
1972	B. Stevenson	2010	G. Pearce
1973	B. Stevenson	2011	G. Pearce
1974	B. Stevenson	2012	G. Pearce
1975	A. McDougall	2013	M. Little
1976	B. Stevenson	2014	G. Pearce
1977	M. Boland	2015	G. Pearce
1978	M. Boland	2016	J. Watts
1979	M. Stockman	2017	J. Watts
1980	M. Johnstone	2018	J. Watts
1981	J. Hallstrom	2019	J. Watts
1982	J. Hallstrom	2020	J. Watts
1983	J. Hallstrom	2021	J. Watts
1984	J. Hallstrom	2022	C. Dennett
1985	S. Toms	2023	C. Dennett
1986	S. Toms	2024	M. Shennen
1987	S. Toms		
1988	J. Palmer		
1989	J. Palmer		
1990	J. Palmer		
1991	S. Toms		
1992	S. Toms		



## Ladies Club Champions

1929	S. B. Hooper	1979	M. Whittaker
1935	S. B. Hooper	1980	M. Whittaker
1936	D. R. Fullerton	1981	M. Whittaker
1937	D. R. Fullerton	1982	M. Whittaker
1938	G. Rowley	1983	M. Whittaker
1939	D. R. Fullerton	1984	B. Stevenson
1940	P. Borthwick	1985	B. Stevenson
1941 – 1946	<b>Not Played</b>	1986	M. Whittaker
1947	P. Borthwick	1987	D. Deane
1948	O. T. Watts	1988	D. Deane
1949	A. E. C. East	1989	B. Stevenson
1950	O. T. Watts	1990	B. Stevenson
1951	O. T. Watts	1991	M. Whittaker
1952	O. T. Watts	1992	M. Whittaker
1953	D. Fouracre	1993	B. Stevenson
1954	D. Hodgins	1994	M. Franklin
1955	D. Hodgins	1995	B. Stevenson
1956	J. Delaney	1996	B. Stevenson
1957	J. Delaney	1997	M. Turner
1958	E. Casey	1998	M. May
1959	E. Casey	1999	G. Finch
1960	B. Bonnett	2000	G. Finch
1961	B. Bonnett	2001	G. Finch
1962	J. Thomas	2002	G. Finch
1963	E. Casey	2003	G. Finch
1964	B. Bonnett	2004	G. Finch
1965	B. Bonnett	2005	S. Ross
1966	W. Martin	2006	S. Ross
1967	C. Moses	2007	G. Pearce
1968	J. McLaughlin	2008	R. Head
1969	J. McLaughlin	2009	R. Head
1970	J. McLaughlin	2010	R. Head
1971	D. Deane	2011	R. Head
1972	E. Jones	2012	G. Pearce
1973	B. Elvy	2013	J. Boreham
1974	B Elvy	2014	R. Head
1975	D. Deane	2015	J. Boreham
1976	M. Whittaker	2016	G. Pearce
1977	M. Whittaker	2017	J. Boreham
1978	M. Whittaker	2018	M. Gee



## Ladies Club Champions

2019	M. Gee
2020	G. Pearce
2021	N. Kempson
2022	L. Hutchison
2023	N. Kempson
2024	N. Kempson



## Ladies B Grade Champions

1957	F. Nelson	1964	M.Lewis
1958	C. Morgan	1965	K.Howarth
1959	C. Morgan	1966	D.Broomhead
1960	M. Lewis	1967	E.Penman
1961	M. Lewis	1968	J.Johnson
1962	M. Grist	1969	P.Gates
1963	M. Mason		

## Ladies C Grade Champions

1961	V.Wight	1975	V. Wight
1962	P.Sims	1976	N. Grant
1963	J.Davis	1977	J. Atkins
1964	J.Wagschall	1978	C. Harrison
1965	M.Witchard	1979	D. Woodward
1966	M.Witchard	1980	G. Whittaker
1967	M.Kuner	1981	J. Bruner
1968	J.Atkins	1982	N. Windle
1969	A.Hall	1983	T. Breen
1970	J.Atkins	1984	N. Windle
1971	B.Burnside	1985	V. Inglis
1972	K.Howarth	1986	L. Shore
1973	J.Jarvis	1987	N. Windle
1974	M.Bagnall		



## Bronze I Championship

1970	B. Elvy	2009	R. Head
1971	J. Smith	2010	R. Head
1972	O. Hingerty	2011	R. Head
1973	D. Thomson	2012	G. Pearce
1974	I. Tod	2013	<b>S. Ross</b>
1975	L. Clarke	2014	B. Menzies
1976	M. Jellis	2015	R. Head
1977	M. Mason	2016	G. Pearce
1978	M. Franklin	2017	J. Boreham
1979	G. Ogden	2018	M. Gee
1980	E. Gassman	2019	M. Gee
1981	M. Mason	2020	G. Pearce
1982	B. Zander	2021	N. Kempson
1983	G. Ogden	2022	L. Hutchison
1984	J. Bonifant	2023	M. Shennen
1985	K. Cornwell	2024	L. Hutchison
1986	W. Kelsey		
1987	S. Toms		
1988	S. Toms		
1989	S. Toms		
1990	T. Cook		
1991	D. Lawson		
1992	J. Rolley		
1993	M. Whittaker		
1994	M. Whittaker		
1995	S. Toms		
1996	T. Cook		
1997	M. Whittaker		
1998	A. Morrison		
1999	G. Finch		
2000	G. Pearce		
2001	K. Lubner		
2002	R. Head		
2003	R. Head		
2004	G. Pearce		
2005	N. Kadwell		
2006	R. Head		
2007	G. Pearce		
2008	R. Head		



## Bronze II Championship

1988	M. Stockman	2007	S. Beachley
1989	E. Read	2008	R. McMurray
1990	M. Stockman	2009	K. Cameron
1991	G. Ogden	2010	J. Warner
1992	L. Shore	2011	J. Warner
1993	A. Morrison	2012	L. Carter
1994	M. Mason	2013	R. Eilbeck
1995	G. Ogden	2014	J. MacDougall
1996	G. Ogden	2015	J. Watts
1997	C. Cannon	2016	N. Dennis
1998	P. Crowley	2017	B. Menzies
1999	G. Pearce	2018	V. Jones
2000	J. McDonagh	2019	R. Berczelly
2001	J. Warner	2020	C. Cannon
2002	J. Humphreys	2021	K. Finlay
2003	P. Gates	2022	V. Smith
2004	J. Taylor	2023	J. Lester
2005	P. Shephard	2024	R. Berczelly
2006	H. Bain		

## Bronze III Championship

1983	M. Colbourne	2000	R. Park
1984	B. Carver	2001	B. Williams
1985	M. Fraser	2002	B. Williams
1986	B. Carver	2003	J. Woodley
1987	J. Wagschall	2004	K. Hudson
1988	B. Carver	2005	R. Mortimer
1989	E. Langford	2006	K. Spicer
1990	G. Whittaker	2007	J. Watts
1991	E. Langford	2008	J. Boffa
1992	W. Martel	2009	J. Watts
1993	J. Tuck	2010	N/A
1994	M. Edwards	2011	L. Carter
1995	R. Hobbs	2012	N/A
1996	J. Esdaile	2013	L. Carter
1997	R. Hobbs	2014	N/A
1998	J. Whitting	2015	A. Warne
1999	F. Bennett		



## Ladies Foursomes Championship

1953	M. Leonard; J. Kenna	1992	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson
1954	J. Delaney; E. East	1993	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson
1955	E. Casey; J. Kenna	1994	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson
1956	D. Fouracre; J. Delaney	1995	B. Stevenson; B. Neiman
1957	D. Fouracre; J. Delaney	1996	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson
1958	D. Fouracre; J. Delaney	1997	D. Lawson; G. Reid
1959	E. Casey; D. Fouracre	1998	M. May; F. Hoffman
1960	E. Casey; D. Fouracre	1999	H. Corben; G. Reid
1961	E. Casey; D. Fouracre	2000	H. Corben; T. Cook
1962	B. Bonnett; J. Thomas	2001	R. Smith; J. Warner
1963	D. Fouracre; V. Mitchell	2002	G. Finch; R. Head
1964	D. Fouracre; V. Mitchell	2003	G. Finch; R. Head
1965	C. Moses; J. Thompson	2004	S. Ross; R. Eilbeck
1966	D. Deane; E. Jones	2005	S. Ross; R. Eilbeck
1967	D. Fouracre; V. Mitchell	2006	R. Head; R. Eilbeck
1968	E. Jones; D. Deane	2007	E. Hoffman; N. Kadwell
1969	J. McLaughlin; C. Moses	2008	G. Pearce; N. Kadwell
1970	J. McLaughlin; C. Moses	2009	G. Pearce; N. Kadwell
1971	J. McLaughlin; C. Moses	2010	B. Menzies; B. Pelling
1972	D. Deane; E. Jones	2011	G. Pearce; R. Head
1973	D. Deane; E. Jones	2012	R. Head; J. Boreham
1974	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson	2013	G. Pearce; N. Kadwell
1975	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson	2014	G. Pearce; N. Kadwell
1976	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson	2015	S. Ross; R. Eilbeck
1977	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson	2016	G. Pearce; N. Kadwell
1978	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson	2017	M. Gee; J. Boreham
1979	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson	2018	G. Pearce; N. Kadwell
1980	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson	2019	G. Pearce; N. Kadwell
1981	M. Whittaker; B. Stevenson	2020	J. Middleton; B. Pelling
1982	M. Whittaker; M. Mason	2021	J. Middleton; C. Dennett
1983	M. O'Connor; C. Edwards	2022	N. Kempson; M. Gee
1984	D. Deane; T. Cook	2023	L. Hutchison; G. Pearce
1985	D. Deane; T. Cook	2024	N. Kempson; H. Simmonds
1986	B. Stevenson; M. Whittaker		
1987	B. Stevenson; M. Whittaker		
1988	V. Peachey; J. Hock		
1989	B. Stevenson; M. Whittaker		
1990	B. Stevenson; M. Whittaker		
1991	B. Stevenson; J. Rowley		



## Kit Lewis Salver

1967	B. McDougall	2014	J. Warner
1968	R. Race	2015	D. Livingstone
1969	J. Thomas	2016	G. Flynn-Pye
1970	O. Dunlop	2017	V. Jones
1971	O. Dunlop	2018	J. Watts
1972	P. Flowerdew	2019	N. Kempson
1973	E. Trayler	2020	V. Jones
1974	E. Trayler	2021	M. Little
1975	J. Thomas	2022	G. Pearce
1976	A. Harris	2023	C. Dennett
1977	E. Kemble		
1978	S. Hayburn		
1979	M. Yen		
1980	G. Reid		
1981	F. Nelson		
1982	B. McIntyre		
1983	B. Bonnett		
1984	A. Brightwell		
1985	B. Lewis		
1986	J. Humpreys		
1987	J. Jones		
1988	R. Brightwell		
1997	C. Abercrombie		
1998	J. Boyle		
1999	J. Warner		
2000	J. Boyle		
2001	J. Warner		
2002	J. Boyle		
2003	R. Smith		
2004	J. Warner		
2005	G. Porter		
2006	M. Gee		
2007	T. McCurtayne		
2008	J. Warner		
2009	J. Warner		
2010	A. Brightwell		
2011	E. Moore		
2012	J. Boreham		
2013	V. Jones		



## Thelma Hopewell Salver

1968	J. Schilling	2007	J. Boreham
1969	J. Thomas	2008	M. Gee
1970	D. Michael	2009	R. Head
1971	O. Dunlop	2010	R. Head
1972	J. Thomas	2011	R. Head
1973	J. Thomas	2012	R. Head
1974	J. Palmer	2013	G. Pearce
1975	S. Toms	2014	J. Boreham
1976	D. Ogden	2015	R. Head
1977	S. Toms	2016	S. Berney
1978	S. Toms	2017	E. Moore
1979	S. Toms	2018	D. Livingstone
1980	A. Harris	2019	D. Livingstone
1981	A. Harris	2020	R. Berczelly
1982	A. Carlill	2021	G. Pearce
1983	S. Toms	2022	N. Kempson
1984	B. McIntyre	2023	C. Reid
1985	N. Farrow		
1986	N. Farrow		
1987	G. Finch		
1988	A. Brightwell		
1989	G. Finch		
1990	G. Finch		
1991	K. Shields		
1992	B. Lewis		
1993	B. Bonnett		
1994	C. Dunn		
1995	J. Humphreys		
1996	J. Humphreys		
1997	C. Dunn		
1998	J. Boreham		
1999	C. Dunn		
2000	G. Finch		
2001	G. Finch		
2002	G. Finch		
2003	J. Boreham		
2004	A. Blake		
2005	R. Head		
2006	R. Head		



## Verey-McIntyre Cup

1937	B. Broughton	1979	C. Skinner
1938	J. F. Giles	1980	S. Toms
1939	M. Watson	1981	B. McIntyre
1940	H. J. Bentley	1982	B. McIntyre
1941	H. J. Bentley	1983	H. Rawling
1942-45	<b>Not Played</b>	1984	B. McIntyre
1946	J. Callahan	1985	N. Farrow
1947	M. P. Davies	1986	B. Cush
1948	G. Stimson	1987	H. Rawling
1949	J. Lewis	1988	A. Brightwell
1950	H. Henry	1989	M. Flaherty
1951	M. Leonard	1990	B. Bonnett
1952	J. Lewis	1991	K. Shields
1953	G. Gordon	1992	B. Cush
1954	G. Lewis	1993	G. Finch
1955	I. Race	1997	B. Cush
1956	A. Thomson	1998	R. Smith
1957	M. Leonard	1999	R. Stuart
1958	G. Lewis	2000	K. Townsing
1959	P. Flowerdew	2001	D. Lawson
1960	R. Bonnett	2002	P. Gates
1961	E. Allison	2003	D. Livingstone
1962	M. Lewis	2004	P. Gates
1963	T. Hopewell	2005	M. Gee
1964	J. Thomas	2006	R. Smith
1965	P. Gulliver	2007	P. Wrench
1966	M. Fraser	2008	K. Johnson
1967	M. Edwards	2009	R. Head
1968	M. Douglas	2010	J. Hicks
1969	B. Thomas	2011	J. Boreham
1970	D. Harbour	2012	R. Head
1971	R. Race	2013	E. Moore
1972	Dragovich	2014	M. Gee
1973	J. Palmer	2015	H. Biven
1974	A. Thomson	2016	E. Moore
1975	J. Thomas	2017	D. Livingstone
1976	A. Harris		
1977	S. Toms		
1978	A. Martens		



## Hazel Trevor Memorial Trophy

1986	I.Johnston
1987	M.Boland
1988	M.Monk
1989	B.Cush
1990	B.Bonnett
1991	K.Shields
1992	C.Dunn
1996	G.Young
1997	K.Burke
1998	K.Burke
1999	B.Stevenson
2000	C.Dunn
2001	M.Tarrant
2002	R.Park
2003	B.Williams
2004	B.Langford
2005	A.Newman
2006	K.Johnson
2007	L.Barr
2008	K.Spicer
2009	B.Menzies
2010	J.Watts
2011	K.Middleton
2012	J.Bellamy
2013	J.King
2014	B.Menzies
2015	G.Pym
2016	J.King
2017	J.Watts
2018	J.Lester
2019	J.Lester
2020	J.Lester
2021	J.Paul
2022	M.Guerin
2023	J.Paul
2024	B. Wines



**Palm Beach**  
—GOLF CLUB—

## Holes-in-One

2 January 1962	W. Haysom	15	5 May 1966	D. Leigh	15
1 February 1962	A. Whitlock	11	17 August 1966	L. Gosper	11
3 June 1962	W. Flanagan	2	9 October 1966	P. Webster	2
4 December 1962	Mrs. T. Little	11	30 October 1966	Mrs. M. Mason	11
13 January 1963	Mrs. N. White	2	22 December 1966	E. Mackey	15
9 April 1963	Mrs. J. Thompson	11	4 January 1967	Mrs. L. Pierce	6
3 August 1963	R. Thomas Jnr	2	10 February 1967	Mrs. D. Fouracre	2
3 August 1963	A. Lord	11	27 May 1967	S. Lewis	11
13 April 1964	Mrs. J. Taylor	15	18 November 1967	F. Jones	2
13 June 1964	D. Leigh	2	20 December 1967	Mrs. V. Wight	2
2 August 1964	R. Sevenoaks	10	5 January 1968	T. Petersen	10
8 October 1964	H. Bushby	11	7 February 1968	J. Stuart	11
12 January 1965	R. Hosking	6	5 May 1968	G. Stevenson	15
28 March 1965	C. Jellis	11	6 June 1968	Mrs. P. Petersen	2
15 May 1965	P. Mackey	3	22 June 1968	E. Mackey	11
1 July 1965	Mrs. J. Campbell	11	11 January 1969	L. Uren	11
22 July 1965	P. Porter	3	25 February 1969	Mrs. T. Cook	16
20 January 1966	Mrs. O. Hingerty	11	20 September 1969	Mrs. J. Thompson	18
31 January 1966	R. Brunker	6	21 December 1969	Mrs. I. Maley	9
10 February 1966	H. Ward	2	31 January 1970	Miss J. McLaughlin	15
26 February 1966	Mrs. A. Thorp	15	30 June 1970	Mrs. R. Hallstrom	18
10 March 1966	D. Leigh	12	27 June 1971	M. McIntosh	15



# Palm Beach

—GOLF CLUB—

11 September 1971	Mrs. I. Maley	18	31 August 1977	M. Stockman	6
25 September 1971	B. Allen	13	9 August 1978	L. Powne	9
26 March 1972	S. Lewis	9	3 September 1978	A. Pove	6
24 April 1972	Mrs. R. Hallstrom	9	12 December 1978	Mrs. Y. Maclean	9
7 October 1972	R. McMillan	9	3 May 1979	P. Schrier	18
22 February 1973	Mrs. K. Flanagan	4	7 May 1979	D. McLeod	18
7 July 1973	Mrs. B. Stevenson	9	7 July 1979	E. J. Fyer	10
18 October 1973	Mrs. A. Somerville	18	15 July 1979	Mrs. M. Whittaker	18
24 October 1973	Mrs. I. Muller	10	5 November 1979	Mrs. W. Kelsey	18
2 June 1974	G. Waterman	18	12 December 1979	Mrs. M. Yen	9
6 July 1974	B. Roseworne	15	1 August 1980	R. Brightwell	9
30 September 1974	Mrs. M. Whittaker	9	2 August 1981	S. Allsopp	1
22 October 1974	Mrs. E. Fraser	9	5 October 1981	G. Mason	18
1 March 1975	J. Gouldthorpe	18	7 October 1981	W. O'Brien	6
3 June 1975	Mrs. D. Thomson	18	6 December 1981	W. Johnston	13
20 June 1975	T. Marvell	4	10 January 1981	J. Osborne	6
20 June 1975	J. Murdoch	9	9 February 1982	E. Burer	9
26 July 1975	R. Coleman	4	20 February 1982	Mrs. B. Kopetko	18
12 July 1975	A. Townsend	6	25 February 1982	Mrs. D. Deane	9
5 July 1975 27	M. Simpson	18	23 March 1982	Mrs. M. Whittaker	18
September 1975	E. D. Arcy	9	13 April 1982	I. Thom	4
10 January 1976	H. Mayne	9	30 April 1982	S. Connors	4
10 January 1976	M. Walker	15	25 May 1982	Mrs. J. Smith	18
12 March 1976	Mrs. D. Williams	9	28 December 1982	G. Reid	6
1 June 1976	Mrs. G. Cameron	4	26 February 1983	J. Moore	18
6 November 1976	A. McIntosh	9	19 May 1983	Mrs. D. Deane	6



# Palm Beach

—GOLF CLUB—

22 October 1983	A. Parker	18	6 November 1986	W. O'Brien	4
15 February 1984	Mrs. M. Mason	9	11 December 1986	R. Lester	4
17 March 1984	Mrs. J. Jones	9	11 December 1986	E. Body	9
27 March 1984	Mrs. J. Esdaile	18	20 December 1986	J. Swindells	9
21 June 1984	Mrs. W. Kelsey	9	21 February 1987	M. Freestone	4
22 September 1984	L. Gill	18	27 February 1987	J. Wallis	9
16 December 1984	J. Morrisey	13	11 June 1987	A. Nicholls	4
21 February 1985	M. Montgomery	4	21 June 1987	D. Hampson	4
1 March 1985	W. O'Brien	9	13 August 1987	R. Lester	13
6 March 1985	J. Simpson	13	29 September 1987	Mrs. O. Robinson	18
1 June 1985	G. Gaven	18	7 November 1987	B. Vickerman	15
9 July 1985	Mrs. W. Kelsey	9	3 December 1987	A. Simpson	9
8 November 1985	P. Longe	4	8 February 1988	A. Sims	4
7 December 1985	B. Lawson	4	17 March 1988	Mrs. V. Jarvis	18
18 January 1986	W. O'Brien	9	18 April 1988	R. Trevor	17
2 February 1986	W. Jones	6	17 September 1988	B. Manuel	11
11 December 1986	R. Lester	4	27 November 1988	A. Keating	8
6 March 1985	J. Simpson	13	1 December 1988	O. Randell-Smith	8
1 June 1985	G. Gaven	18	3 December 1988	M. Walker	11
8 November 1985	P. Longe	4	8 September 1989	Mrs. B. Stevenson	11
7 December 1985	B. Lawson	4	26 December 1989	W. Cooper	5
18 January 1986	W. O'Brien	9	9 March 1989	L. Mackenzie	15
2 February 1986	W. Jones	6	20 May 1989	P. Donald	2
6 March 1986	P. Edgar	18	24 June 1989	R. Lester	8
30 May 1986	K. Anderson	18	18 January 1990	L. Gill	15
28 June 1986	J. Simpson	9	15 February 1990	A. Berry	2



# Palm Beach

—GOLF CLUB—

1 March 1990	L. Skewes	6	25 May 1993	Mrs. P. Potts	2
24 May 1990	R. Hunter	8	1 April 1993	T. Schoeffel	11 <sup>^</sup>
14 June 1990	B. Lawson	15	22 April 1993	C. Gates	11 <sup>^</sup>
14 June 1990	A. Ogden	11	25 April 1993	A. Yendle	2 <sup>v</sup>
21 June 1990	J. McDonald	2	22 May 1993	J. Simpson	2 <sup>v</sup>
23 June 1990	I. Gillies	11	14 May 1993	M. Houlder	2 <sup>v</sup>
9 August 1990	M. Petrie	17	26 June 1993	R. Furner	8
16 August 1990	Mrs. L. Shore	11	1 July 1993	B. Whiteman	11 <sup>^</sup>
26 August 1990	W. Edgar	6	28 December 1993	M. Petrie	6
25 October 1990	P. Bourne	6	9 January 1994	R. Irwin	15
27 October 1990	J. Dolphin	6	29 January 1994	P. Akehurst	8
8 December 1990	T. Weymouth	2	5 February 1994	A. Simpson	11
16 February 1991	W. Cooper	6	9 June 1994	L. Skewes	17
15 March 1991	J. Gonsalves	2	10 August 1994	K. Anderson	8
1 April 1991	P. Brown	2	8 September 1994	J. Williams	12
11 May 1991	G. Verrills	12	1 November 1994	Mrs. J. Hock	15
16 May 1991	P. Smith	2	17 November 1994	R. Davies	6
22 May 1991	A. Berry	8	24 November 1994	T. Weymouth	15
5 September 1991	K. Matley	12	18 December 1994	Mrs. M. Franklin	6
14 September 1991	F. Hume	17	22 December 1994	B. White	8
3 October 1991	P. Bourne	6	31 December 1994	J. Fisher	3
1 December 1991	A. Simpson	6	11 February 1995	R. Menzies	12
10 August 1991	D. Strong	11	16 March 1995	M. Walker	2
25 June 1992	W. O'Brien	11	23 March 1995	S. Vidgen	11 <sup>^</sup>
11 April 1992	R. Berczelly	2	25 March 1995	R. Berczelly	11 <sup>^</sup>
11 March 1993	W. Rootham	2 <sup>v</sup>	22 April 1995	D. Hutchins	6



# Palm Beach

— GOLF CLUB —

22 April 1995	J. Dalgleish	12	31 December 1998	A. Gill	2
11 May 1995	D. Tarrant	2	11 February 1999	R. Barry	8
28 May 1995	R. Berczelly	6	28 February 1999	T. Johns	11
9 September 1995	M. Hennessy	6	27 March 1999	R. Nesbitt	8
21 October 1995	P. Freestone	2	24 April 1999	S. Player	11
10 February 1996	L. Cluster	8	17 July 1999	D. Randall	8
27 April 1996	C. Cross	8	25 November 1999	M. Young	2
6 June 1996	S. Lacellless-Smith	8	9 December 1999	Mrs. D. Lawson	2
5 October 1996	D. Guion	15	27 December 1999	I. Thom	2
2 November 1996	R. Stretton	15	27 April 2000	J. Hoffman	11
2 November 1996	J. Kerr	12	8 June 2000	G. Meehan	11
16 November 1996	M. Petrie	17	26 August 2000	B. Coles	15
28 December 1996	D. Chessell	2	30 November 2000	B. Cross	11
27 March 1997	J. Hackett	15	5 May 2001	B. Cross	6
3 April 1997	A. Barton	15	26 May 2001	E. Burer	6
9 June 1997	C. Shaw	15	31 May 2001	C. Cross	17
12 July 1997	Mrs. A. Brightwell	2	18 May 2002	P. Tubb	2
6 September 1997	A. Kanja	3	13 June 2002	J. Eggington	11
4 October 1997	J. Kerr	2	15 June 2002	S. Potter	2
23 October 1997	L. Beverley	15	13 July 2002	A. Vendle	6
22 November 1997	R. Berczelly	11	20 July 2002	M. Boyle	11
28 December 1997	C. Dalgleish	11	24 August 2002	A. Church	2
10 January 1998	P. Donald	6	2 November 2002	J. Coplestone	2
9 May 1998	N. Marrott	17	5 December 2002	T. McHugh	6
21 May 1998	J. Wilson	2	28 December 2002	R. Barry	2
1 September 1998	Mrs. J. McDonagh	14 <sup>v</sup>	11 January 2003	M. Albers	6



# Palm Beach —GOLF CLUB—

8 May 2003	A. Wright	12	20 May 2008	N. Kadwell	6
12 June 2003	G. Rider	2	18 October 2008	K. Horrell	6
6 March 2003	D. Randall	6	12 March 2009	A. Berry	11
3 July 2003	B. Coles	17	7 April 2009	Mrs. S. Ferguson	6
27 December 2003	S. Randall		19 November 2009	P. Brown	6
31 January 2004	M. Willcocks		3 December 2009	R. Cornwell	15
12 February 2004	K. Anderson	11	4 March 2010	B. Vickerman	15
20 March 2004	G. Mitchell	11	16 May 2010	K. Neilsen	2
3 April 2004	P. Rimmer	15	26 August 2010	I. Pelling	15
19 June 2004	R. Lester	11	14 October 2010	A. Berry	11
23 November 2004	Mrs. G. Pearce	15	28 October 2010	S. Phillips	7
28 April 2005	J. Lloyd	11	25 November 2010	M. Ryan	6
23 June 2005	A. Kelly	17	5 February 2011	M. Hill	2
30 June 2005	M. Kadwell	8	5 March 2011	T. DeVault	17
2 December 2005	A. Kelly	6	20 October 2011	J. Stuart	6
25 May 2006	T. Brown	15	29 October 2011	W. Hutchinson	8
5 October 2006	G. Youell	12	31 December 2011	M. Smith	3
23 December 2006	E. Fryer	11	5 January 2012	T. Brown	8
17 January 2007	W. Lubke	6	16 February 2012	R. Simmons	6
17 February 2007	S. Brooks	11	1 March 2012	A. Berry	2
10 May 2007	W. Kearney	11	24 June 2012	P. Elliott	11
30 June 2007	N. Kadwell	6	20 October 2013	A. Berry	2
18 December 2007	Mrs. J. MacDougall	2	28 March 2013	J. Kerr	2
17 January 2008	W. Lubke	6	24 May 2013	P. Elliott	2
19 February 2008	R. Upton	6	27 July 2013	M. Hill	8
23 February 2008	W. Lubke	15	13 August 2013	S. Player	6



# Palm Beach

—GOLF CLUB—

5 September 2013	P. Aroney	3
14 December 2013	O. Webster	6
21 August 2014	G. Blomley	17
11 September 2014	C. Hughesdon	15
31 January 2015	T. Hunt	17
9 May 2015	S. Player	3
8 August 2015	K. Neilsen	8
22 August 2015	C. Seymour	2
5 September 2015	D. Fitton	6
26 December 2015	D. Montefiore	17
7 May 2016	J. Whitehead	8
1 December 2016	J. Oliver	15
14 June 2017	A. Berry	17
17 September 2017	I. Thom	8
14 June 2018	A. Berry	8
16 June 2018	S. Deane	8
5 July 2018	M. Ryan	6
21 July 2018	J. Upton	3
28 July 2018	P. Bourne	6
3 January 2019	Z. Rochester	8
26 September 2019	A. Berry	6
14 November 2019	C. Hughesdon	15
27 August 2020	M. Upton	8
31 December 2020	J. Mclean	2
1 May 2021	R. Lester	2 <sup>v</sup>

29 May 2021	S. Gillespie	8
26 June 2021	I. Sablatnig	15
3 July 2021	W. Dickerson	15
8 July 2021	G. Marles	2 <sup>v</sup>
11 September 2021	N. Kempson	11
18 September 2021	R. Quin	17
4 December 2021	G. Marles	11
29 January 2022	P. Tate	17
26 May 2022	C. Searl	3 <sup>v</sup>
16 July 2022	R. Ellis	15
11 October 2022	G. Pearce	8 <sup>v</sup>
31 December 2022	G. Marles	15
23 November 2023	I. Pelling	17
1 February 2024	D. Pearce	6
30 March 2024	W. Hutchinson	2
12 December 2024	R. Cornwell	6
14 December 2024	Z. Telfer	17

## **Acknowledgements**

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary acknowledgements**

As with all books, this history of Palm Beach Golf Club owes a great deal to the help of many people. In particular, the authors would like to thank the following past and present club members (in no special order) who contributed their time and memories: Thelma Hopewell, Shirley Toms, Joan Palmer, Joan Bruncker, Judy Warner, Tommy Cragg, Bill Brennan, Alan Berry Senior, Charles Gates, Les Uren, Roy Broomhead, Walter Gale, Peter Ballard, and Tony Weymouth. Special mention should be made of our secretary manager David Lemmon and our club professional Alan Berry Jr. Brian Levings supplied material on Dad's Army. Michael Young and Maurie Daly contributed material on the Royals and Mike Nolan gave us information on the Hackers. Special tribute due to Yvonne Hammond, who kept so many photos in an album in the Clubhouse. Many of them have been used in this book. The authors would also like to thank club president Ashley Burgess, former president and present senior vice-president Chris Shaw and committee member Geoff Marles for reading through the completed manuscript and making many helpful suggestions and corrections.

Descendants and relatives of early club members due for special thanks for photos and other help include Tony Hammond, Roger McIlroy, Jane Strang, Ken Hitchcock, Monti Hammond, Betty Everingham, Shirley Crossman, Joyce Mildwater, Juanita Laird, Alf Webster, the law firm Tress, Cocks and Maddox and Frank Guini of Rentokill. Special mention must be made of help given by Laurie Seaman of Palm Beach Historical Society and Jervis Sparks of Barranjoey Lighthouse. Jervis insisted on spelling the name Barranjoey but we have stuck by the Place Names Board spelling. Mention should be made here of Jervis Sparks' book Tales from Barranjoey, the Palm Beach Association's book Palm Beach 1788 – 1988 and Sean Brawley's book Beach Beyond: a history of the Palm Beach Surf Club 1921 – 1996. Avalon photographer John Stone of John Stone Pty Ltd went way beyond the call of his normal business interests in copying old photos for us.

Several members of Warringah and Pittwater councils also went way beyond simply doing their jobs. In particular, we would like to thank general manager Angus Gordon and local history librarians, Virginia McLeod of Pittwater Library, and Tina Graham of Dee Why Library. We also had help from the staffs of the National Library in Canberra and the Mitchell Library in Sydney who supplied photos and the State Archives at the Rocks and at Penrith.

David Kennedy took the photo on the cover and the picture of the old clubhouse was loaned to us by Bernie Whiteman. The back cover photo is by Peter Freestone.

### **100-year Special mentions and acknowledgements**

Collating any Club's history is no easy feat. It takes time, effort and determination. Our Club's history over the last 25 years was made easier to collate by the works already undertaken in 1999 by Stewart Brown and Brian Kennedy.

Special mention needs to go to many, many members who have taken the time to ensure that we accurately captured what has happened over the last 25 years. I acknowledge Geoff Marles, Mark Houlder, Mark Hill, Joe Kerr, and Bob and Robin Head who painstakingly reviewed several early versions of this chapter. For the first time, we have a complete record of all our major trophies in one place, a large expansion of what was captured in 1999. In collating these records, various documents were hunted down and reviewed. These included the existing honour boards, the perpetual trophies, Annual Reports, and researching the metropolitan newspapers. The latter which was very diligently undertaken by William 'Woody' Hutchinson. A task which must have taken some time.

## ADDENDA

### List of shareholders

#### Palm Beach Recreation Club December 1937

Amphlett, P A Crows Nest Rd North Sydney Surveyor  
Blaxland, Gregory University Rd Camperdown Engineer  
Brigden, Harry J 19 Cartwright St Sydney Accountant  
Brown, Emily Miller T and G Bldgs Elizabeth St Sydney Widow  
Brown, James W Emily Miller Brown (executrix) Deceased  
Byles, Ida Wilham Rd Beecroft Married Woman  
Craig, James B 365 Sussex St Sydney Merchant  
Craig, Maria Martin Rd Centennial Park Married Woman  
Crossman, Charles R Bennet St Neutral Bay Merchant  
Curnow, Ellen Ferbank Flats Edgecliff Married Woman  
Daurey, Flora Macleay St Sydney Married Woman  
Daurey, George Macquarie St Sydney Radiographer  
Gray, Edward Wentworth Rd Vacluse Merchant  
Greatrix, Charles New South Head Rd Rose Bay Accountant  
Greatrix, Lewis New South Head Rd Electrician  
Garran, Helen Roslyn Ave Darlinghurst Spinster  
Hammond, Samuel Hood Castlereagh St Sydney Broker  
Hodge, Edith Union Bank George St Sydney  
Hooper, Ida 78 Bayswater Rd Darlinghurst Married Woman  
Hooper, Sidney S Same Address Retired  
Hordern, A. J. c/Perpetual Trustees Hunter St Deceased  
Houghton, Bernard 2 Bridge St Sydney Contractor  
Hunter, Percy Locksley St Killara Manager  
Learayd, Fred 7 Phillip St Sydney Woolbuyer  
Mayor, DBH 11 Parsely Rd Vacluse  
Mayor, Beryl Same Address Married Woman  
Michell, Theophilus 92 Pitt St Sydney  
Moser, Eldred 44 Bridge St Sydney Wool Merchant  
Mc Carthy, Ellen c/ Perpetual Trustees  
Mc Corquodale, Norman 282 Sussex St Sydney Flourmiller  
Nott, Charles 57 York St Sydney Merchant  
Nott, Ronald ditto  
Oatley, Keith 235 Macquarie St Dentist  
Old, Richard 16 Spring St Sydney Solicitor  
Oxlade, Arthur A 76 Marshall St Manly Engineer  
Palm Beach Land Co Pitt Street Sydney (30 Shares)  
Peters, Georgina Victoria St Ashfield Married Woman  
Peters, Thomas Same Address Contrator  
Ralston, John 115 Pitt St Sydney Solicitor  
Robson-Scott, Charlotte Southdean Killara Married Woman  
Robson-Scott, James Same Address Retired  
Simpson, Edward c/ Perpetual Trustees Deceased  
Stewart-Dawson, Percy Pitt St Sydney Solicitor  
Thring, Edward Cleveland St Wahroonga Surgeon  
Tress, Herbert 107 Pitt St Sydney Solicitor  
Webb, Arthur Kent St Rose Bay Engineer  
Wilson, Edward Ben Boyd Rd Neutral Bay Printer  
Wiltshire, Bowen B 11 Phillip St Sydney Shipping Agent  
Wiltshire, Dudley B Darling Island Stevedoring Co Shipping Agent  
Woodley, E J Tunks Rd North Sydney Engineer  
Woodley, M M Bay Rd North Sydney Engineer  
Wolstenholme, Edith Junction Rd Wahroonga Widow  
Wolstenholme, Harry Deceased

## List of Debenture Holders (Second Series)

### Palm Beach Golf Club 7 June 1954

S. J. Roberts, 195 Fargo Rd, Girraween, £10  
F. Simpson, 127 Eevaling st, Campsie, £50  
A. Grant 564 Miller St, North Sydney, £10  
Mrs. M. Kenna, 4 Glenwood Ave, Coogee, £10  
Mrs. R. Blatchford, 422 Punchbowl Rd, Belfield, £10  
Mr. R. Blatchford, 422 Punchbowl Rd, Belfield, £10  
W. G. Montgomerie, 251 Condamine St, Balgowlah, £20  
R. Rose, 15 Lloyd Avenue, Cremorne, £20  
Miss Judith Lewis, Barrenjoey, Palm Beach, £200  
W. S. Lewis, Barrenjoey, Palm Beach, £150  
Mrs. G. Lewis, Barrenjoey, Palm Beach, £150  
Miss Jill Lewis, Barrenjoey, Palm Beach, £20  
Miss Dale Lewis, Barrenjoey, Palm Beach, £20  
Peter Lewis, Barrenjoey, Palm Beach, £20  
A. E. C. East, 52 Macauley St, Alexandria, £50  
L. C. Jones, 7 Rosewall St, Willoughby, £10  
Mrs. M. F. Phillips, Macleay Regis, Macleay St, Potts Pt, £20  
Mr. D. G. Hopewell, 11 Norman St, Five Dock, £50  
R. S. Gassman, 6 Turner St, Balmain, £20  
A. Bowman, Waratah Road, Palm Beach, £50  
Mrs. E. Mountford, 116 Norton St, Ashfield, £20  
D. L. Nelson, 116 Norton St, Ashfield, £20  
Miss June Kenna, 4 Glenwood Ave, Coogee, £10  
Mrs. E. Magill, 2 Stanley Ave, Mosman, £50  
W. J. Chapman, 33 Mount St, Hunters Hill, £20  
G. Kidd, 2 Clubb St, Rozelle, £10  
W. Kidd, 2 Clubb St, Rozelle, £10  
G. Nyman, 2 Newcastle St, Rose Bay, £50  
Mrs. D. Callahan, 136 Gipps St, Rose Bay, £50  
Mr. J. W. Black, 4/119 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury, £10  
Mrs. E. Black, 4/119 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury, £10  
R. G. W. Kenna, 4 Glenwood Ave, Coogee, £10  
W. Weymouth, 13a Robert St, Ashfield, £50  
S. W. Race, 287 Bexley Rd, Bexley North, £20  
E. R. Rogers, 795 New Sth. Head Rd, Rose Bay, £10  
A. J. Thomas, 4 Loftberg St West, Pymble, £10  
R. J. Thomas, 57 Laurel St, Willoughby, £10  
C. B. Thomas, 57 Laurel St, Willoughby, £10  
A. L. Casey, 73 Brown St, Paddington, £30  
Barry Thomas, 17 Lord St, North Sydney, £10  
F. Dickin, 20 Cliff Rd, Epping, £50  
T. Cragg, Pittown Rd, Windsor, £20  
K. Mathews, 12 Horsell Ave, Dulwich Hill, £100  
W. E. Duncan, 58 Kings Road, Five Dock, £20  
J. Bowman, Waratah Road, Palm Beach, £50



**Centenary Dinner – Celebrating 100 years  
President’s Speech  
Saturday, February 10th, 2024**

Tonight, we are here to celebrate the 100 years of Palm Beach Golf Club.

From our humble beginning in 1924, we have grown in size, membership, and in our competitions.

Yet, even with this change, we have always remained at the heart of the Palm Beach community.

Over the past few months, I have reflected on the enormity of this occasion. Being able to celebrate a centenary is no small feat. We all stand on the shoulders of the many, many generations that came before us, with each generation leaving their mark on the Club.

There have been 32 Presidents, 42 Captains, dozens of Directors, and countless volunteers who have all helped shape the Club – many of whom are here with us tonight.

I wish to recognise some special guests including our local Member for Pittwater, Rory Amon, our former Member for Pittwater, the Hon. Rob Stokes, Councillor Karina Page and former councillor Kylie Ferguson. All of whom have shown unwavering support over the years to our Club.

I also wish to recognise the Club’s Board, including Vice President Rhonda Mortimer, Club Captain Justin Zieren, Treasurer Stephen Farr, and directors Bob Quinn, Justine Paul, Lex Mitchell, and Charlie Mayson. I wish to also pay special tribute to Ladies President Robyn Blundell and her entire committee for their ongoing support of the Club.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Crain Parry. Craig did us the honour of unveiling our Centenary Plaque earlier today. Many of you would remember that Craig was instrumental in the redesign and redevelopment of our course. This was a once in a generation investment funded by the former government, into our course and will see us in good stead for decades to come.

It is not an easy task to try and fit 100 years of our history into a couple of minutes of a speech.

2024 signifies 100 years from when nine friends came together to found Palm Beach Golf Club. It was a time when access to Palm beach was still very difficult. A journey from Sydney involved travel by train, punt, and boat and a return trip took the best part of a day. It wasn't always smooth sailing.

There have been many highs and lows, as is the case for any institution who has been lucky enough to attain such a milestone.

Together, we have seen the Great Depression of the late 1920s, The Second World War, and more recently COVID, where golf was one of the only activities you could do.

Over this time our Club has grown, declined, and grown again. And through all this we, as members of this great Club, are merely custodians for the generations yet to come. We have an imperative to leave our Club in a stronger place than we found it.

There have been particular moments in time that have helped to shape our Club. From our first Club Championships held in March, 1929, to the election of our first Club Captain in 1936, Albert Staveley.

The Staveley family's association with our Club continues today with Albert's great, great grandson, Josh who currently works at the Club.

Another milestone was in 1950 when our members put their hands in their pockets and raised the first funds to purchase the Clubhouse. Prior to this the Clubhouse was leased from member and former President, Alan Oxlade. Without this generosity from our members, there is a significant chance that we would not be here today.

Other milestones include:

- The 1965 and 2003 major renovations of the Clubhouse.
- The 1970 and 2017 Major Pennant wins - and I wish the boys the best of luck tomorrow against Beverley Park Golf Club.
- The 1992 Warren Shield win.

And in 1996, when the Club voted for the Men's and Ladies Club to join together to form one unified and expanded Club.

There are many more that make up the fabric of our Club but given the time I may leave it there and, instead, spend the time to thank all the wonderful staff for pulling tonight together. Your efforts are genuinely appreciated. Particularly Renae and Nikki who have both been here for nearly two decades.

You will have noticed the gift packs that have been put together for our members. These gift packs are given in an attempt to mark our Centenary in some small way. They include specially designed centenary items such as a bag tag, a ball marker, a golf ball and tees. You will also have noticed that there is also an order form which provides an opportunity to purchase some additional memorabilia, including wine and beer glasses, the Centenary History book and our Centenary flags.

I appreciate everyone being here tonight, including those who have travelled some distance to join us. The band "Nothing Too Serious" has informed me that they will be picking up the tempo after dinner and I encourage you to all get up and enjoy yourselves.

Later in the evening we will hear from our Vice President Rhonda Mortimer, our Patron and former President Chris Shaw, and Life Member and former President Geoff Marles.

So, sit back, relax and enjoy your night.

**Dan Hill**  
**President**



**Centenary Dinner – Celebrating 100 years  
Vice-President’s Speech  
Saturday, February 10th, 2024**

Good evening, ladies & gentlemen, fellow golfers, and distinguished guests.

Welcome to the 100-year celebration of this great little golf club at the very end of the Northern Beaches.

My name is Rhonda Mortimer, and I am the Vice-President.

I have been a member here for 28-years, I had the membership papers for Mona Vale Golf Club signed and seconded but because my husband had been playing here and having a wonderful time I thought what the heck we might as well belong to the same club.

I have never regretted my decision. However, I had second thoughts on several occasions playing in mixed events with him when he tried to tell me how to play during the entire round.

I would like to draw your attention, if you will indulge me for a few minutes, to some of our members of the Palm Beach Golf Club Board.

The Board does not want accolades that is not why we serve but some individuals deserve your applause.

**Daniel Hill** our illustrious President, he guides, he reasons, he informs and he is almost never wrong.

**Stephen Farr**, our Treasurer, holds the purse strings so tightly but what a fabulous job he does. Alas he cannot be here tonight. We send him our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Then we have our Captain, **Justin Zieren**. He keeps us all guessing as to what colour hair he is going to turn up with next. He looks like a Smurf at the moment, but he is a great Captain.

**Bob Quin**, what a man, he has guided the club through our recent big renovations and continues to do so with much vigour. You ask him to do a task and he does it uncomplaining. Poor Sue, you will get all those chores done around your home one day.

**Lex Mitchell** – he can turn his hand to any task. He is so clever. He has slaved away in all the recent heat building that beautiful plinth near the putting green, driving eons of miles into the western suburbs to source stone at the best price so Stephen wouldn't wince at the cost.

**Charlie Mason**, his role is to chase any and every grant put out by the Government or Northern Beaches Council. He is tenacious and we have landed a number of grants not the least the one that enabled the club to alter the course and install our lift.

**Justine Paul** – always willing to help do any task, not the least being working to get new members. The nine hole membership has been a great success thanks to Justine. She plays with them when they join, coaxing them to get better, and ultimately become 18-hole members if they wish.

Last but not least, our wonderful Women's Committee led by **Robyn Blundell**, always trying to make playing golf at Palm Beach a happy experience. Welcoming new members making sure they are looked after and raising money with raffles to help get all the necessities needed to make playing golf here a pleasant experience.

Please give them all an applause because without them we would not be the great club we are today.

**Rhona Mortimer**  
**Vice-President**



**Centenary Dinner – Celebrating 100 years  
Patron’s Speech  
Saturday, February 10th, 2024**

I would like to thank our President Daniel for inviting me to address you this evening.

Any club is only as successful and resilient as its members. 2024 is a very special year because it celebrates 100 years of our members showing commitment, innovation and resilience in their care of Palm Beach Golf Club. The past 100 years have given us a wealth of truly remarkable characters who have contributed significantly to make the club what it is today. Some took on the commitment of official duties but others contributed in an equally important way through their personality, inclusiveness and ability to make a game of golf, or a drink afterwards, very enjoyable for their fellow members.

I became a member of Palm Beach Golf Club 45 years ago. I thought I would share with you this evening memories I have of just a few remarkable and significant characters whose contribution made such an impact.

**Roy Broomhead** – President 1966–70, Life Member and Patron for 30 years– a big man with a big character, always ready to tell a story and have a shout. He told me he played second row for Drummoyne in his younger days. He struck me as a very generous man always ready to provide counsel and assistance.

**Ron Brightwell** – Captain 1976 – 79 and later President 1984 – 95 – & his wife Audrey – a man with great big hands that would envelop all who shook them. Always filling divots as he walked down each fairway. A man that had time for people. He would drink Bright (half Tooheys New and half Light) I still don’t know if the drink was because it was smart, drinking such a mix at a time when random breath testing had just been brought in, but I like to think it was named after Ron. He was also one for clubhouse activities. On a Thursday after golf, Ron was the one who would roll out the indoor bowls mats and he would nominate teams. Great times and late nights we had playing indoor bowls and carrying on. He would also, along with **Alan Roebuck** – Captain 1974 , President – 1977 walk the fairways with the juniors after having played in the Saturday competition so that the juniors could learn the game.

**Bill (the Banker) Johnston** (President) 74, 79–83 & his wife Irene. A man who liked a bet and who was married to Irene, an elegant and statuesque lady who could have been a model. Both very caring people and encouraging of the junior members of the Club. I recall the 1984 election for President, both Billy the Banker and Ron Brightwell were keen on being President. A lot of lobbying took place and there was division in the club between the groups supporting each candidate. Ron Brightwell had success at the AGM and Bill, being the gentleman he was, smoothed over any residual divisions in the Club.

**Dick Trevor** – along with **Bob Warner** were dominant Club Champions in their day. Dick was junior and later Club Champion four times (1937, 38, 56, 57), he became Captain 1961, and later a Life Member. Bob Warner – Club Champion seventeen times (1951, 54, 58 – 63, 65, 67, 69, 70, 73, 75, 80, 84, 87). Bob had a smooth and textbook perfect swing. Dick and Bob were such good golfers but they always had time to assist anyone who wanted to improve. This has been a notable characteristic of Palm Beach Golf Club members and one Dick and Bob would be very proud of.

The Norfolk Island pine between the 9<sup>th</sup> green and the 1<sup>st</sup> tee was planted by Bob back in 1979. I remember the day he put it in the ground, it was not much more than 2m tall back then.

Of course, Bob's son **Greg Warner**, still plays with us today. Greg was also a fine young golfer. Greg played Junior Pennants for Palm Beach and won the Gold medal 3 times (1996, 97, 99). Unfortunately, Greg met with an accident as a youth which changed his golfing future somewhat but not his love of the game or his contribution to the club.

**Billy O'Brien** – well remembered to many of you. Captain 1984–85 and later as Life Member. I have never met anyone who loved the game more than Bill. I caddied for him in many Masters Pennant games when Bill was suffering from diabetes. He eventually lost both feet but that didn't stop him from painfully hobbling around on his stumps, his swing had to change but he wouldn't have it any other way. Billy led the charge to rid what is now the fifth hole of parramatta grass. Bill brought along a bobcat one Sunday and scraped any parramatta grass from the fairway. The result lasted some years.

**Sir Horace Nyall** – was another character. If you were paired with Horry, you were always warned to make sure that you always watched his ball. He was almost blind and thus you would have to take him to his ball and point him in the right direction. Another lover of golf that played until the end.

**Max Walker** – Life Member, President 1997 – Max was a gifted sportsman. I first met him because I went through school with his children. He often drove me and his daughters to Chippindale on a Saturday morning so that we could play in an orchestra there. I still remember Max being challenged by Eric (the Crow) Fryer when I first joined the club to do a backwards summersault on the first tee. Max, being modest refused a number of times until Eric's teasing got the better of him and from a standing position up and around he went, in a perfect backwards summersault. Eric just laughed. I was amazed. Max was a true guardian of the Club. He spoke out when he saw injustice and when he saw what he identified as a potential waste of money. Even when he was off the Committee, he would have his opinion heard.

**Shirley Toms** – Lady Captain – (1985 – 87, 1991 – 95) President (83,84, 88). A kind and interested lady whose concern for the wellbeing of junior members made a big difference, and she never failed to give an encouraging word.

**Robin Head** – Lady Captain (1998–2000, 2002–04), Lady President (2005, 06), Club Captain 2008 – 2009, Lady Club Champion (2008 2011, 2014). A great lady with a great husband, Bob Head. Robin has her point of view and her way of doing things that you argue with at your peril. Never doubt though that she always has the very best interests of Palm Beach Golf Club in mind. Robin was the first woman in Australia to be a Club's Club Captain. A testament to Robin and the faith that the Members had in her back when she was elected in 2008. Robin of course was Captain immediately after Carolyn Abercrombie's Club Presidency in 2007. Carolyn was also the first female of any Golf Club in Australia to be the Club's Club President. Palm Beach Golf Club leading the way!

**Mark (Blocker) Houlder** – Captain, Warren Shield champion, all round good bloke and gone too soon. All who knew Blocker were careful not to make any distractions even when three fairways away as his missed putt, or duffed shot would instantly have his gaze looking for a blameworthy cause and if he fixed his eyes on you, look out.

There are so many characters that should be mentioned. I started going through an old Program of Competitions that had contact details at the back and I realized how many members made an impact and have contributed enormously to this great Club. Time prevents me mentioning them all. However, those that I do mention I know would be humble about their contribution which speaks of the typical character of our members.

Over the past 100 years the members have been tested and have responded.

- There was the time in the 70s when the NSW government wanted to reclaim the golf course. The members rallied and led by Roy Broomhead the course was saved.
- Later in the 90s there was the time that Pittwater Council did not want to renew the lease but rather wanted to commercialise the course and grant a lease to a commercial operator who was also managing swimming pools. Again, a band of members led the charge and Council was convinced that the Course should stay in locals' hands.
- There was the time in the 1990's when a change to the Constitution to allow lady's to be full members, rather than merely being Associate members. This proposed change was emotionally debated leading up to the General Meeting and at the General Meeting, which I chaired, which changed the constitution to allow Lady's to be the full members they are today.
- There was the time when the clubhouse was refurbished at what some felt was a significant cost and a great many members felt that it was the wrong thing to do, and the clubhouse should stay as it was. Friendships were tested but eventually recovered, and the Club house was remodeled to great success.

- In more recent times (2016) a significant part of the course was lost into Pittwater following a storm. Parts of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> fairways were swallowed with waves crossing the 5<sup>th</sup> fairway. The course is still scarred by those 2016 storms today. The members again rallied and saved what could be saved.

The survival and progress of the Club is a testament to its members. Palm Beach Golf Club's members are willing to contribute, offer each other support and they don't take themselves too seriously. This has allowed the Club to be resilient and continue to thrive for 100 wonderful years.

Congratulations to all members past and present on our first 100 years. I am a very proud member of the Palm Beach Golf Club.

Long may its success continue!

**Chris Shaw**  
**Patron**  
**Former President**



**Centenary Dinner – Celebrating 100 years  
Life Member’s Speech  
Saturday, February 10th, 2024**

I had the very great honour of being granted Life Membership of this Club last year & I think that I now have a responsibility to ensure that the Club’s rich & iconic history & culture is preserved for another hundred years, or for that part of it that I’m still here anyway.

I want to put into perspective the significance of this Club being 100 years old and compare its relevance to some other Australian icons. But before I do, it’s worth noting that the first indications that this place would become a golf course are much older than 100 years.

In March 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip sailed into Broken Bay. This was only 5 weeks after arriving in Sydney and he was on an exploratory visit to find a better water supply. After rounding Barrenjoey Headland he is reported to have said ‘this is the finest piece of water I ever saw’ and honoured it with the name of Pitt Water after the British Prime Minister William Pitt, the Elder. Apparently, he then looked over here and said “that would make a great golf course!”

25 years later, in May 1813, Blaxland, Lawson & Wentworth set out to cross the Blue Mountains. They couldn’t get the train to Penrith in those days so they sailed up the Hawkesbury River. As they were about to turn left at West Head, William Lawson, who was a surveyor is reported to have also looked over here & said “Arthur Phillip was right, that would make a great golf course”.

But moving on.

Massive thanks must go to Stewart Brown & Brian Kennedy for their fantastic book on the history of the first 75 years of the Club. If you don’t have a copy, try to get one. According to Stewart & Brian ... Palm Beach Golf Club was founded in 1924 as a course for affluent Sydneysiders who could afford weekend cottages in this beautiful remote place. Does that sound familiar?

Let’s look at 1924 when the official foundation was done. I wasn’t here in 1924 of course but Bob Head has told me all about it.

In 1924, King George V was the monarch and Stanley Bruce was the 8<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Australia.

King George V was not a golfer preferring stamp collecting.

PM Stanley Bruce however has been described as an avid Presbyterian golfer from St Kilda, whatever that means. He was independently wealthy & drove a Rolls Royce to show off. His father was one of the founders of the Royal Melbourne Golf Club. Stanley Bruce himself became the first Australian captain of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews in 1954. It is believed that Stanley Bruce would certainly have driven his Roller to Palm Beach at some time & played golf here.

In 1924 there were four golf clubs either operating in or in planned for our area. Manly Golf Club was founded in 1903, Long Reef Golf Club was founded in 1921, Mosman Golf Club & Palm Beach Golf Clubs were both founded in 1924.

Mosman Golf Club was established on Middle Head, in Mosman overlooking Sydney Heads & Clifton Gardens. A 9-hole golf course built on land acquired from the Commonwealth government under a lease on the condition that, if required, the land could be repossessed without compensation. This occurred with the onset of World War II, when the Australian Government resumed the land and the clubhouse for military use. My father was stationed there for training with the Army Signal Corp in 1940.

To my mind, Palm Beach Golf Club is well & truly an Australian icon. But where does our golf club stand in relation to some other 100 years old Australian icons? I'll tell you about 3 other icons.

### **The ABC**

Sydney's first national radio station officially went to air in 1924. Those of you old enough may recall that it was originally called 2BL which incidentally stood for Barrenjoey Lighthouse. It originally transmitted from a mast at Willoughby so that it could be clearly heard on the course at Palm Beach.

According to our President, the ABC is now a haven for left-wing socialists and should be ignored at all cost.

### **Sydney Harbour Bridge**

Construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge commenced solely for our affluent Eastern Suburbs members to get to their weekend cottages in beautiful Palm Beach. PM Stanley Bruce probably used it to get here in his Rolls Royce. The bridge has proved to be useful to Sydney & is now also used as a transport corridor and as a location for exhibiting fireworks on New Years Eve.

## **Vegemite**

Vegemite celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. When the grossly inferior British marmite became unavailable during World War 1, the leftover brewer's yeast from Carlton United brewery was used to create Vegemite for golfers to enjoy on their sandwiches. If it wasn't for our member's using the Carlton United products, there probably would not be Vegemite & we wouldn't have had all those happy little vegemite's !

I could keep going for ages but I prefer to speak to people while they're awake, so I'll finish with a few other facts from the year of our foundation:

- In 1924, Balmain won the rugby league premiership defeating South Sydney.
- Backwood won the Melbourne Cup.
- Victoria won the Sheffield Shield.
- The Olympic Games were in Paris & Andrew "Boy" Charlton won a gold medal.
- The Holden Bros were granted the right to assemble General Motors cars in Australia.
- Australia's first Woolworths store opened,
- Sydney's population passed 1 million.
- Marble Bar in WA recorded 161 successive days above 100 degrees.
- Nellie Melba retired for the first time.
- The racehorse Drongo, who never won in 37 starts was retired and a new word describing my golf entered the lexicon.

Thanks very much.

**Geoff Marles**  
**Life Member**  
**Former President**

