

Golf - BURKE & WILLS TROPHY

HISTORY OF THE "BURKE & WILLS" TROPHY

1979

During a round of golf at Moore Park in May, John Scoble was searching for his wayward golf ball when he found the head of a three iron lodged in the branch of a tree. It was presented as a "Bradman" trophy to Bob Adams.

Bob had the head mounted and after discussion with John Scoble decided that the new trophy should be a perpetual award for the most notable golfing achievement of the day.

WINNERS

VERNON WINLEY - LONGREEF GOLF CLUB, August 1979

~~Vernon split a golf ball in two and could not decide which half to play. He decided to play the half nearest the hole.~~

STUART ANTHONY - ASQUITH GOLF CLUB, November 1979

Using a recently acquired Wunderlich marked golf ball, Stuart played his tee shot onto the roof of a nearby home, breaking what we can only presume was a Wunderlich roofing tile. The ball rebounded on to the course and came to rest beside the gentlemen's toilet.

TIM KING - EASTLAKES GOLF CLUB, February 1980

While searching for a ball at the side of the tee, Tim was hit on the leg by a ball driven by Peter Graham.

ELAINE POLGLASE - CAMMERAY GOLF CLUB, May 1980

Elaine was playing down the fairway and complaining that she was unable to get any lift. Her partner pointed out to her that she was using her putter.

~~SPECIAL EVENT - HOLE IN ONE BY JIM BEVER - see CSR News item attached~~

MAURICE BIXENBURGH - 3RD HOLE CHATSWOOD GOLF CLUB, 10 Aug 80

Having lost his ball in the water in front of the tee, Maurice "duffed" his third shot. The ball ran around the angled stones surrounding the water, and came to rest on the front of the green.

MARK HEALEY - NORTHBRIDGE GOLF CLUB, Nov 80

Having already lost six golf balls, Mark drove with a two iron off the 10th tee. The head of the club came to rest, well placed about thirty yards down the middle of the fairway, twenty five yards in front of his ball.

MARK HEALEY - ASQUITH GOLF CLUB, March 81

The first successful defence of the Burke and Wills! Mark drove off the tee, across a lake and hit a goose in the rear end, on the first bounce. The goose, not impressed, tried to eat the ball. The valiant efforts of Hugh McConnell, who did a Zorro impersonation at the belligerent goose with his seven iron, allowed Mark to make his next shot to the green.

Once in a lifetime

OVER THE PAST three years, the people who work in the Divisional and Corporate personnel functions have been meeting occasionally for a game of golf. Most are rank amateurs, with handicaps ranging from 15 out to 54! It therefore came as a great surprise when one of

them recently had a hole-in-one.

Jim Lever had an "ace" on the 9th hole at Cammeray Golf Club on 4 May. Witnesses said he dropped both his club and his jaw! He also won the nearest-the-pin contest on the same hole.

The main event of the day—a team par round—was won by Peter Graham and David Brand with 13 up. The runners-up were Chris Love and Mark Healey with 10 up. Elaine Polglase won the Burke and Wills trophy for the most humorous event of the day. □

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STAN BENSON - EASTLAKES GOLF CLUB - 1981

Having watched two players with whom he was playing drive off the 15th tee into a lake between the tee and the green, Stan confidently sought a bet that he would not follow suit. There were no takers. Stan then drove his ball towards the lake and watched it skim across (3 bounces) before the ball came to rest adjacent to the green; a real dam-buster!

IAN ALDRIDGE - CASTLECOVE COUNTRY CLUB - SEPTEMBER 1981

Being in a bunker at the side of the 10th green and with one shot remaining for the Aldridge/Bastock team to score, Ian played a perfect sand-wedge shot. The ball left the bunker faster than a speeding bullet, slightly overshot the green and gaining height travelled across the next fairway. Still gaining height it cleared the trees lining the edge of the golf course, crossed the public highway and was about to disappear between two houses (detached) at the far side of the road when it hit a well placed telegraph pole and began its return journey. Following a similar flight path to that on the outward journey, the ball returned across the road, back over the trees and adjacent fairway, and finally came to rest at the edge of the green being played.

WARWICK WEBB - NORTH RYDE GOLF CLUB - DEC 81

The seventh hole is notable for at least two reasons - the lush grass on the fairway and a large ditch 50 yards short of the green. Being well short but with a reasonable lie on the springy grass Warwick selected a 4-wood to carry the hazard. Unfortunately the lie was too good, the shot was skied and seemed headed for certain disaster - the ditch. However, in the event, the ball landed just short of the ditch, took a 90 degree turn, landed on the centre of the foot bridge crossing the watercourse, and then bounced to the far side in front of the green.

STAN BENSON/VINCENT LOYE - ASQUITH GOLF CLUB - FEB 82

The competition was 4BBB. Having hit a brilliant "best" ball only slightly off the fairway we were prepared to take the risk of hitting at the flag (50M away on a par 4) which was visible from between the trees. Despite each other's encouragement - "have a go" - we took 6 shots to finally emerge.

Total distance travelled by the ball:

- stroke 1 = 250 metres, strikes 2-7 - 6 inches!!

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FRED BASTOCK - CARNARVON GOLF CLUB - AUG '82

Famous Carnarvon - scene of many memorable struggles. Bastock and partner (Peter Goodenough) were trailing their opponets when the four reached the eighth hole. The opposition proceeded to put one ball into a neighbourhood front yard and the other ball into a fairly deep ditch. B and G, in their usual impeccable manner were "down the middle" with their drives. Goodenough's third shot sat comfortably on the green. The opposition was still floundering but slowly catching up when Bastock played his third (a brilliant eight iron -swing-contact -loft-etc) DISASTER! Instead of going into the hole as planned, Bastock's orange ball, hit Goodenough's white ball on the full- and proceeded to (a) knock G's ball into a substantial bunker and (b) itself continue on some 30-40 metres off the green. Regretfully neither B or G were able to recover their momentum - nerves of steel went off with a twang, visions of great triumph disappeared, an appropriate series of expletives were heard near an orange golf ball and the opponets won yet another hole.....

The final ignominy was that under the rules of golf Goodenough was entitled to replace his ball on the spot on the green from which it had been "knocked off".

GRAHAM PEARSON - GORDON GOLF CLUB - DEC 82

The setting was a rather short par 3. Behind the green was a high wire fence which was strategically placed to stop the odd high shot ending up on the road. Pearson's wedge shot went nowhere near the green. The ball travelled much harder and higher than necessary. The fence did not do its required job that day because Pearson's ball found the one and only gate in the fence which, unfortunately, was open. The ball took one hop through the gate and proceeded to put a modest dent in the rear door of a Corolla sedan parked in the adjacent street.

Pearson received the coveted award, not on this occasion for the talented play, but for his courage in proceeding to recover the ball whilst the alleged owner was in his garden nearby. It is also believed the now, slightly modified vehicle, was owned by a sumo wrestler.

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STANFORD B BENSON - CHATSWOOD GOLF CLUB - 1983

This achievement could not be recorded by order of the Anti-Discrimination Board, Literature Censorship Board and humanity generally.

IAN EVERETT - ASQUITH GOLF CLUB - DEC 83

Burke had been out in the merciless sun and horrible heat for 13 days. Food and drink had all gone. He approached the 14th day with fear, yet he was still able to maintain his majestic stance as he bent over the golf ball, divining rod in hand.

The swing was clean and contact was made. Burke's immediate thought after contact was that his sight had left him - for the golf ball was nowhere to be seen! His parched pondering was disturbed by an hysterical cackle of laughter from Wills and his other partners on this terrible journey (Scoble, James and Henry). Burke turned to find his companions writhing in agony, clutching their innards with one arm whilst their other arms were thrust rigidly out, pointing to a spot between Burke's legs.

Burke's eyes lowered to find.....

PETER GOODENOUGH - NORTH RYDE GOLF CLUB - (about) NOV 87

Hit off final hole - huge hook to left over the fence out of bounds, hit medium strip on the full; hard right, hit footpath from which it flew back over fence lobbing on back part of the green (sic).

There after the trophy lay dormant to return following a garage clearance (Vaughan Kirkby) and reappear at Oatlands GC on a CSR PEA golf day Frid 28 April 2018. In view of the almost 40 year history of the award and the PEA golf days in Spring and Autumn, those gathered decided it fitting to continue the award and thus keep the legend alive. Hence,

JOHN REID - OATLANDS GC - Apr 2018

Having recently survived back surgery, JR 36 handicap scored 5 points, assisted by Bob McGregor 36 handicap contributing 4 points, adding a total 9 points to their team score on the back 9. Bob was no less 'handicapped' with his plastic eyes (2), and alloy hips and knees (2 of each). There is some doubt these handicaps will survive the spring scrutiny.