

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE REEF

## 1996 – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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From the establishment of Long Reef Golf Club in the early 20's to the present day, thousands of golfers of all levels have set out to conquer what is one of the genuine links courses in this country. Few have truly succeeded but all have been captivated by the breathtaking scenery and most admit to enjoying its challenges even when the "breezes" blow.

This weekend, 20/21 June 1996, celebrates seventy-five years of fascination with and affection for this very special part of Australian Golf scene.

The major history of Long Reef was written ten years ago and this booklet is an addendum to that excellent publication. It brings together a number of anecdotes, reminiscences and wild tales and is intended as a souvenir of this weekend celebration.

We are grateful to all contributor

### TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

It has been a long time since Long Reef Golf Club has been able to hold a supper dance for \$5 per double - twenty five years to be exact, the occasion being the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration held in the Club house on Saturday 17 July 1971.

With a large contingent of members and associates in attendance the atmosphere was one of excitement as they and their partners rocked and rolled to the music and stomped their feet until the sprung floor bounced erratically.

Each lady was presented with a white handkerchief embroidered in one corner with a red rose as a memento of the event.

Perhaps there are not too many of the original 1971 group remaining in the Club as many have retired from golf for various reasons. However, the rest of us will be there "with bells on" to help in making the 75th Anniversary Celebration another night to remember.

A.Delaney

### MAJOR TROPHY DONORS AT LONG REEF

The annual trophies often form a hub around which the life of a golf club exists. Long Reef is no different and its trophy winners are not only remembered on our boards of honour but are often the subject of anecdotes and wild yarns many years after the event.

It is interesting to discover just why people at Long Reef have donated trophies over the years. Below are some of their explanations.

### WOMEN

Mrs Dorothy Leonard - Fourball Knockout

A very popular event, Dorothy Leonard decided to put her suggestion of having an Associates' Fourball Knockout to the Annual Meeting after her husband and his partner had won the members Fourball Knockout. This

suggestion was accepted and Dorothy Leonard still donates the trophy and the prizes for the runner-up each year.

**Mrs Mel Parnell - Long Reef Plate and Salver**

In 1970 it was decided that Long Reef Associates should have a Salver as did other clubs in the district. It is traditionally played in April and the 18 hole stroke event draws golfers from all over Sydney. At first it was not overly popular and was dropped until in 1991 it was brought back and Mrs Parnell felt she would like to donate the trophy as well as the Long Reef Plate for higher handicaps. Mrs Sally Woods donated the actual salver and Mrs Parnell still donates the annual trophies.

**Mrs Aileen McLelland - Long Markers' Knockout**

Originally called the 36 Markers Knockout. Mrs McLelland donated a trophy to be used. This was a similar competition to one known as the Rabbits Cup in the English Golf Club of which she had been a member. The Long Markers Plate itself was donated by Mrs Tibby Playfair.

**Mr & Mrs Bob & Barbara Johnson - Grandparents Trophy**

In 1992 Barbara and Bob decided to donate a trophy for a competition that would be the first in bringing Associates and Members together. A trophy is given to the grandmother and grandfather for winning their respective competitions and then they play against each other for the Grandparents trophy.

**Miss Pip Wiedersehn - Wiedersehn Trophy**

This trophy is for the eight best net stroke rounds during the season. Miss Pip Wiedersehn, now deceased, joined Long Reef in the 1970's when she retired from work but ceased to play within a year or so because of poor health. Because she had enjoyed her short time playing so much she wanted to make a donation to the ladies.

**Mrs Wilma McNicol - McNicol Trophy**

This trophy is for the four best par rounds during the season. Mrs Wilma McNicol, now deceased, joined the Club in 1971. The photo of the golfer in the Associates' lounge was donated by her family. They also donated a sum of money to be invested for a trophy in her memory. She was Club Champion and served on the Associates' Committee.

**Miss Ruby Watts & Mrs Sally Woods - Singles Knockout**

In 1963 Miss Ruby Watts and Mrs Sally Woods decided they would donate a trophy together. This became the Committee Cup for the Singles Knockout and was given because, in Sally's words "Long Reef Associates have given me so much happiness and friendship since joining nearly 20 years ago - not to mention the involvement with golf, I wanted to do something for the Club. Giving a perpetual trophy seemed to be the most appropriate way of expressing my appreciation." Mrs Ruby Watts is of course our most famous lady golfer and an article on her was written in the 65 years booklet by Ross Lanes.

**FROM THE WOMENS PRESIDENT**

1996- Long Reef Golf Club's 75th Anniversary year will be remembered by the Associates for several highlights. This is the last year we will be called Associates, we will become full members of the golf club with all the rights, responsibilities and privileges this entails. As Associates we have had a very special position and have always appreciated the many advantages we had. As full members of the Club, in whatever category we elect, we will take our extended rights seriously and play our part in the harmonious progress of Long Reef Golf Club.

However, for all the women golfers of Long Reef Golf Club our fondest memory of this, our 75th year, will be the winning of the N.S.W.L.G.U. Grade III Pennant. The Long Reef Associates previously won the pennant in 1968 and again in 1970 - 26 years ago. We still have many members of these winning teams at Long Reef today. Ruby Watts and Bunny Akehurst (sisters) are Life Members of our Club. Rene Haire still plays regularly and holds a 19 handicap, and Bebe McLean still holds a 22 Handicap. Joyce Machar has taken up bowls but remains a staunch supporter of Long Reef Golf Club. Dulcie Fouracre who was a member of these teams still plays off a 19 handicap. Dulcie, who has won 8 Club Championships claims that her greatest joy, however, was winning the Pennant. As a member of this year's team, I can only agree. For many of this year's team it was our third play off final - we made the final in 1988 and 1993 only to lose narrowly. In

1993 we lost 4 and 3 with the deciding match going to the 20th hole. It was an even greater thrill this year as many of the players who represented us in these finals played and had a decisive win over Kogarah Golf Club at Wakehurst.

This year's winning team was Rebecca Goldsmith, Pam Martin, Chris Riddle, Sandra Gillies, Jann Driver, Robin Dwight and Patsie McConnell, and we congratulate them all.

S Gillies

## 75TH YEAR - REFLECTIONS

The early 1950's were interesting times. Australia had experienced a National Coal Strike which affected industry quite dramatically. Electricity was in effect rationed and many blue and white collar employees were working restricted hours to conserve power. In my case I worked a four day week and this naturally took away one fifth of my earnings. As a young married man, social activities were limited, however, Dee Why Beach Surf Club provided cost free entertainment.

As the economy improved, the challenges of Long Reef Golf Course beckoned and a number of Dee Why ites had regular meets, hitting off at day break. The Golf Course at that time was popular and many a time we would hit off in complete darkness, colleagues finding our ball hopefully somewhere up the middle at first light. Some of my colleagues (the more affluent) decided to join the Golf Club. I recall Gordon Miller, Richie Bourke and Bill Radford

becoming early members. Two very prominent Dee Why citizens were members, Laurie Radford and George Boyt. These two gentlemen provided the vehicle for nomination and support. Many of my Dee Why friends joined in subsequent years, these included Cameran Copland, Merve Eyles, Ken Woolf, Ned Diggins, Brian Kruger, Kevin Cauley, Ray Smyth and Clive Monty. A clique developed and we would all play around the same time, adding to the day's enjoyment by having our own little competition. Two bob, two shillings or twenty cents per head on the result. Green fees were four shillings. How times have changed. My formal acceptance as a Class "A" member, entrance fee was 21 pounds and subscription 16.16 pounds per year.

*Long Reef Golf Club Ltd*

*Secretary*

20th Sept., 1958

K.C. Huntingdon Esq.,  
39 Tanna Avenue,  
DESWHY

### *Memorandum of Fees Due*

*Entrance Fee* 20.9.58 21 - -

*Subscription to* 30.6.59 16 16 -

*Taken Paid*

*Long to*

*Total, £* 37 16 -

Members' attention is drawn to the following:-

Article 24 of the Company's Articles of Association:  
"A Member may at any time, by giving one month's notice in writing to the Secretary, resign his membership of the Company, but shall continue liable for his subscription for the month covering the period of such notice and all arrears due and unpaid at the date of his resignation."

Rule 18 of the Company's rules:

"All subscriptions shall be paid yearly in advance, and shall become due and payable on the first day of July in each year."

Long Reef already had a reputation as a "Gentlemen's Club", the bar was patronised. However, many members would "don" their Club Blazers and enjoy tea after their round of Golf.

During the early fifties and through to the late sixties Des Lofthouse

dominated the Club Championships and one only has to view the Honour Boards to recognise what a great champion this man was. There were other great champions as members of our club, Sid Barnes, Keith Miller and Jim Burke to name a few. Members at that time played in three's and I recall the story of a new member (obviously a cricketing enthusiast) who saw an opportunity to place his name on the start sheet with Miller and Burke. Gordon Miller and Richie Burke enjoyed their round with him but couldn't live up to the expectations of the perceived Keith and Jim.

In recent years many of us have discussed varying the course layout. During the earlier years the existing eleventh was the first, the fifteenth was the fifth, the eighth was the sixth and so on. The sixteenth (no longer in existence) was a most interesting par three. The tee was somewhere near our current 17th Green and you hit due south to a beautiful large green situated in the middle of the sand hills. To the course staff it was a nightmare. Southerly winds would blow sand all over the green, making its maintenance costs very high. Any wayward shot would certainly require a sand iron and many an event was lost on this hole. When I joined, the Club President was Gus Widmer and what a respected gentleman Gus was. Members were well aware of his presence, apart from a friendly smile, Gus smoked cigars and boy could he smoke! Another good smoker was Captain Tom Hollingsworth, also cigars, which never left his mouth even when putting. He was a local chemist who displayed many an ash burn

down the front of his attire. Wally Smith followed Gus Windsor as President of our club in 1961, and Wally was certainly a gentleman. He performed well on the Golf Course being not only Club Champion but also our first Champion of Champions. Wally's unique style endeared him to all members. A gentleman he was, always wearing a shirt and tie not only in the club house but also while playing golf.

Finally Jim Alderice must be recalled during these earlier times. Jim was the Secretary of Long Reef for some eighteen years. Members respected Jim both by encouragement and by demand. Club records of meetings were all hand written impeccably by Jim. As many other young members will attest, you co-operated with Jim and his requests. To cause the wrath of Jim was not the risk anyone would dare run. Presentation of trophies was a ritual on Saturdays. If you played Saturday morning and looked like winning the event Jim would telephone your home advising you to be at the club at 5.00pm to accept your trophy. You attended.

Keith Huntingdon  
President

## LONG REEF BRIDGE CLUB

Congratulations to the Long Reef Golf Club on its 75th Anniversary.

Our Bridge Club commenced in 1975 with three tables of playing Associates, paying table money of 50 cents per person. In 1977 we had an enquiry from Associates of Monash Golf Club and agreed to admit them providing they became

social members of the Golf Club, and so our numbers grew and we increased table fee to \$1 to cover extra costs.

In 1988 a well known Director ran classes at the Golf Club and many Associates and Members took advantage of learning the game of bridge and in time many women joined us. It was suggested at this stage to increase table money to \$2 and make donations to the Golf Club to help with furnishings, etc. At this date we have contributed \$14,299 over a period of time, plus \$1,400 to charities - mainly Mona Vale Hospital and Alzheimers Association.

All Golf Club playing members, with a good knowledge of the game of Bridge will be made welcome to our Club.

May Golf and Bridge continue to enjoy the long association in one of Sydney's most delightful settings.

Joyce Machar

## THE FRIDAY CLUB

The Friday Club has a fairly lengthy history. It is really a social group within the Club and was started around 1933 by Charlie Hadlow when there was no other mid-week competition.

Charlie, a bookmaker and ex-jockey, and the other original members of the group were horse racing identities. They were usually involved in a race meeting each Saturday and sought a week day for their golf. The Friday Club suited their particular purpose, but quickly became popular among a wider group. Some jockeys

participated in the competitions, as well as members, and Norman Von Nida also played a few times.

The Friday Club suspended operations during the war but resumed soon after.

From its very small beginnings, the club has grown to its present healthy following by some 80 to 100 members. There are a number of popular associated activities such as chicken raffles, the "blind ball" competition, and the annual Friday Club Cup event in December.

Whilst all Long Reef members are eligible to play with the Friday Club, some of the "benefits", which include distribution of any funds surplus in the form of Christmas Hampers, are restricted to "eligible" members, ie: who have competed a minimum of twenty times over the year.

If popularity and member support are any guide, the Friday Club has a continuing future as part of the Long Reef Golf Club.

## THE INNER SANCTUM

It is a time of celebration. 1996 not only brings the 75th Birthday of Long Reef Golf Club, but also heralds in a real time of change - a change to the membership structure.

Let's take a minute (disregarding anti-discrimination laws and political correctness) to say a big Thank you to all those associates who have gone before us, creating a History and atmosphere that is quite unique to the Long Reef Golf Club.

Tucked down below the Associated locker room is the "Inner Sanctum", where the committee performs! What makes these reasonably good golfers seek such high office? Of course, it's an honour - in this land of great volunteering and selfless sacrifice and the need to contribute to the Club spirit and "mateship". With one eye on the clock the Committee member hurries her lunch, to get down to the "sanctum", to greedily check the cards, to challenge their Basic Primary School arithmetic. It's a time to wonder at great scores and sympathise with others. Women take their golf seriously - you really have to earn that ball. In friendly co-operation, like bees around the honey pot, the Committee work. The presentation tablecloth is laid, donated trophies arranged, books balanced, eclectic scored, open days sent, draws decided like Bingo and handicaps chopped.

The past Committees would marvel at the new wonder aid - the computer!!! Can it really be trusted to add 3 or deduct 1, to know it's a Tuesday or Thursday - do we want scores ascending or descending? It shows no compassion.

How many hours of "meetings" have been had over 75 years? The "Inner Sanctum" is such a cosy place on meeting days - sitting thigh to thigh, kneecap to kneecap, decisions are made - one movement could set off the domino theory with dire consequences.

Every year brings special times - representing your club at your first Pennant game, feeling good in the

Club colours and hoping that if you lose, it's not a good hiding - which in time gives you the right to attend the Players / Caddies lunch and hear the "bluest" jokes of all.

The dignity and order of the Christmas Dinner is a great contrast to the show that follows - normally quite refined ladies are dressed to kill and bring the house down.

Networking may be a buzz word but the ladies of Long Reef have been doing this for years, showing concern and sympathy for those that are ill, encouraging beginners as they grapple with the game, and sharing the joy as a handicap is broken, or thanking those who have donated trophies for the day. It's not quite so much fun when acting as referee in the rain or shivering in the wind for two hours acting as a starter for a visiting Pennant match. Friendships made on the course extend into Bridge days, supporting Charity days, going away to Orange and Bathurst. The Associates at Long Reef have always been real "Club people".

We look up at the Honour Boards to all those gifted golfers, but let's now say thankyou to all the Associates' Presidents and Captains who have created their own eras of excellence and leadership. The hours they give to the club cannot be counted. We may now only be called 5, 6 or 7 day members but may the differences between the sexes still be celebrated and hope that over the next 75 years the club moves forward meeting everyone's needs.

Sandra Mellowes

## MEMORIES OF LONG REEF

My memories of the Reef are long and varied but all are of a great bunch of members and associates and a great Golf Course.

Among many incidents which come to mind, one concerns a regular player of the late sixties.

He was a single figure marker who was never happy to play above his handicap. He had been having a bad trot for some time but finished it all in a midweek competition when his drive from the 14th (these days the 16th) was drawn a little to the left and with the aid of a stiff north Easter the ball was sent over the cliff face. Amazed as they were that he didn't hit a second ball his partners followed as he walked to the cliff edge and with one push despatched his bag, buggy and clubs into the Pacific covered rocks below before returning to the club house, collecting his remaining gear and heading for home.

His golfing career was over as were his clubs - we didn't see him from that day on.

Delusion of grandeur have caught up with many a golfer.

Many years ago we had an elderly member who couldn't bear being more than one over par on any hole and wasn't too fussy how he kept within his limit:- the leather wedge, an inability to count correctly and the replacing of his ball marker on the green being among his finest assets.

It was in a midweek competition however that he came up with the classic stroke saver. Playing the

long par five 4th, (now the 14th) he knocked his fourth shot into a right side green-side bunker and with his playing partners busy looking for a ball on the opposite side of the green the opportunity was too great. The elderly member stepped onto the green to examine his position.

While in the bunker his soft summer hat came off and fell, of all places, on top of the ball. He picked up the hat, complete with ball, and stepped onto the green where strangely enough the hat was dropped again and more strangely the ball fell out and was on the green - he proceeded to help his colleagues search for their ball before coming back to two putt and be in for one over six.

Everything had gone to plan with one exception. Four players waiting to hit off from the adjacent 3rd tee (now the 13th) had witnessed the entire performance, and since the guilty party was well known the matter was reported and the Captain was asked to take appropriate action.

Believe me it wasn't easy but after talking to the offender a sad story was revealed - he knew of his problem, had sought medical and psychiatric aid but couldn't help himself.

Over the years Long Reef Golf Club has had more than its share of sporting personalities, cricketers, footballers, surfers and both amateur and professional golfers. During the late 60's and early 70's we were blessed with a team of cricketers who would have done the Club proud at any level.

Headed by International stars such as Keith Miller, Sid Barnes, Stan Sismey and Jim Burke we also had a number of prominent grade players including a couple of Manly's best in Eddie Robinson and Merv Gillmer along with Mosman run machine Gordon Horsfield. Add to these a number of grade players and we would have been a match for any team.

I played a lot of fourball golf with Keith and Sid Barnes, our fourth a young chap learning his trade under John Kelly in the Pro Shop, Rodger Davis, who of course went on to International Glory.

One day Keith arrived with a new style ball he had just been given - it had a metal centre and was designed to go further and straighter. Always a long hitter he decided to give it a big wack going down 14 (now 16). He hit it well but the prevailing north Easter carried it towards the cliff edge and our last sight of the ball was as it headed directly for North Head. To this day I can still hear Keith's comments about metal centred balls.

My memories of Long Reef Golf Club are numerous, too numerous to relate, although some interesting tid bits come to mind.

One of our juniors playing a decisive junior pennant match lost all his followers when eight down after eight holes. Some time later news drifted back that he was making a comeback and so a few admirers went out to cheer him on.

By the time he got to 18 the green surrounded by fans, he had fought back to square the match and went on to win 18 and take the match.

A second event I haven't forgotten occurred in a championship semi-final many years ago between two members who were temperamental opposites, one calm and the other somewhat volatile.

With the match all square going into sixteen, in those days a memorable par 3, heading south towards the beach and surrounded by sand, the more volatile of the two hit off first and knocked his tee shot to within a couple of feet of the pin. The opposition overclubbed and with the aid of a following breeze was heading for a disaster when his ball became caught in the flag where it hung on for a few seconds before dropping down the stick and falling into the hole for a hole-in-one.

It proved the winning shot, the flag grabber went on to win 2 and 1, aided one would think by his opponent being putter-less after the sixteenth, where a five minute search failed to find the putter he had despatched to the sand dunes when he saw that "ace".

How times have changed - only the older members would remember those ex-service days when we had to send a truck out to the refreshment areas to collect those members lost in the darkness and unable to find their way back to the clubhouse for the big event of the day, the presentation of trophies and the annual ex-service dinner. It was all before RBT(Random Breath Testing).

Another of our one time identities was the now famous Tony Barber. Tony played a lot of golf and frequently took many of us to local clubs where he was performing as well as arranging a number of



parties at his North side home. He was a great character and a magnificent host, but a very dedicated golfer.

Vic Cropper

## I WAS JUST STROLLING BY

A few observations I made as I wandered around Long Reef Links over the past 40 years. Your observer - Ron Anthony

Best Player - Frank Maiolo

Frank not only won many championships at The Reef but also many open events at other courses.

Best Round - Frank Maiolo

Frank's course record 67 in the 1991 Long Reef Medal is the best round ever played at Long Reef, especially when it is considered that it was played under championship conditions.

Best Player To and On The Greens - Des Lofthouse

In his prime, Des was streets ahead of any player I saw in this area of the Golf game. Both his short and long putts headed towards the hole as if they were guided by radar. Des had the rare ability of stopping the ball quickly on very hard greens. As his records show in those days at Long Reef he was almost unbeatable.

Best Performer By a Men's A Grade Member - Des Lofthouse

Playing No1 for Long Reef in the late fifties, in a season of match play Des bested the following players who were at the height of their golf skills.

Harry Berwick - Australian Amateur Champion at his home course of St. Michaels.

Noel Bartell - NSW Amateur Champion at Avondale.

Des completed all other matches that season undefeated - a great performance!

Best Golf Swing - Ken Dewell

Ken's swing is the one to look at and emulate. A wide extension during back-swing and follow through. Ken observes all the classic fundamentals and swings with a smooth rhythm which gives his shots a high and repeating ball trajectory.

Longest Hitter - Brian Steel

While playing with Brian in a Saturday competition in the late fifties - with the white markers fairly well back on the tees - I observed three of the most powerful drives I have seen at The Reef. On the 6th hole - hitting into a slight north Easter - Brian drove a No 3 wood which carried the green on the full, landing between the two bushes behind and to the right of the green - a carry of 285 metres. On the 10th hole Brian drove a No 1 Wood through the green and onto the road - a hit of 325 metres. On the 16th hole Brian hit the ball so hard it came down like a shattered balloon 50 metres in front of the tee. As this was a regular occurrence with Brian, a special local rule had been made which allowed Brian to hit another ball from the tee without penalty.

## SPECTACULAR SHOTS AND GREAT EFFORTS

Scott Fitzgerald - Past Club Champion

In matches played in our Championships, Scott performed the following shots:

Hole in One: Scott scored an ace on the 12th hole in the final of a championship. Scott won the hole but lost the championship to Frank Maiolo.

Big Hit: Scott drove into the cross bunkers 40 metres from the green on the 8th hole - approximately 340 metres.

Back Spin: Playing his second shot to the 6th green, Scott's ball landed, hopped forward once and then backed up 10 metres as if on elastic - and the green was dry and bone hard.

Two Par Five Spectaculars

In a round in the late 80's, playing the 11th and the 14th, Karl Russell played a 4 Iron second on each occasion. On the 11th his shot grazed the hole while on the 14th the ball hit the flag. Karl Eagled 11 from 2 metres but missed Eagle from less than a metre on 14 (slick down hill putt).

7 Birdies in 14 holes

Strong left hander Mick Dunne recorded seven birdies in the first 14 holes in a Wednesday competition.

Longest Drive at Long Reef - 500 metres and Still Running

Mick Dunne drove out of bounds on the 14th hole with his ball landing on the road and disappearing out of sight around

the corner. Moments later the ball reappeared firmly fixed in the centre of the road and travelling back down the hill. The ball maintained its central road position and as it drew adjacent to Mick on the 14th tee, he stepped out on to the road and fielded the ball which was still travelling at 5mph and heading back to the club house. The ball had travelled over 500 metres.

#### Shortest Drive at Long Reef - Minus 50 Metres

Former Club Captain John Hall was driving with a No 1 Wood from the 13th tee into a westerly gale that was gusting up to 60mph. Just as he began his downswing, a violent gust blew him off balance causing him to miss-hit the ball which sailed skywards. Without hitting any object and rebounding, the ball sailed over his head and landed on the full 50 metres behind him next to the 15th green.

#### Windiest Day - Club Championship Qualifying Round in Late 80's

Left-hander John Tracy was putting on the 13th green from ten metres directly into a near typhoon from the south. John's putt (with a slight fade) just missed the hole and continued on its path back to him. The ball finished further away from the hole than when the putt was taken - and that's a flat green! On the same day, John Hall had a putt two metres below the hole. Five times John missed the hole and the ball came back to him each time. He finally made it.

The "Ace" - John Ryan  
John has holed in one five times on the 15th hole. Congratulations Ace. On one occasion I hit the ball

into that hole on the full in a Medal round playing into a southerly with driving rain. The ball almost destroyed the hole and came back out finishing centimetres short of the cup - I'll have to speak to the "Ace".

Twos! Twos! Twos!

Michael Whitton - a two on the 11th (holed with 4 wood)

John Eyre - a two on the 18th (drive and one putt)

John Kelly (pro) - a two on the 18th (drive and one putt)  
(N.B. - the 18th tee at the time was where the present fourth tee is.)

#### What Control - Ruby Watts

Former Associate Champion Ruby Watts was the straightest hitter I saw among our many good lady players. Ruby exhibited great ball control at all times, demonstrating that you can swing slowly and smoothly and still be a champion.

#### To Coin a Phrase

My pal, Life Member Geoff Wheatley coined this one. After playing from the rough, bunkers and bushes he would often sink a 20 metre putt for his par. When asked: "What did you have, Geoffrey?" he would answer "Whatever the par is"! I've since heard this expression widely used in the club vocabulary.

#### A Spectacular Player

Kevin Nelson playing the Par 5 14th. Second shot into bunkers 50 metres short of the green. Third shot into green side bunkers. Fourth into bunkers on the other side of the green. Fifth shot into hole. "Whatever the par is".

Playing with Kevin recently I had the honour hitting off the third tee. Birdied the hole and lost the honour to Kevin's Eagle 2.

#### Excuse Me !

A popular medico member - a strong hitter of the ball - drove with great vigour on one occasion. To his horror he saw his ball floor a lady golfer in the distance - striking her on the upper body. He very quickly arrived on the scene of the accident and, after announcing that he was a doctor, he proceeded to examine the lady's bruised area. Still in shock the woman exclaimed: "Please no! I'll go and see my own doctor." Our embarrassed medico replied: "But I am your doctor!" and he was.

#### Rare Doubles - That's Golf !

Playing in the qualifying rounds of the Club Championship (36 holes in one day), I birdied the 4th hole morning and afternoon. Meanwhile, it took me 40 years to score my first "2" on the 10th hole. I scored my second '2' three weeks later.

#### This Boy Could Concentrate.

I was strolling along the 14th fairway with former NSW wicket-keeper Stan Sismey when a golf ball hit from the 13th tee by former Club Champion Eddie Robinson collected me just above the left eye - splitting my head open even through my hat ! Eddie hurried up and helped stop the blood flow before he went to play his next shot. The ball had ricocheted from my head 50 metres back towards the bunkers 40 metres from the 14th green. With great skill Eddie played a wood to the 13th green



and sank the putt for a birdie three. I retired hurt.

Foursome High jinks! - It's a great game.

1960-61 Club Championship qualifying round. This fancied pair, both playing off handicaps of 5, took eleven shots to get on the 15th green (Par 3) and two putts for a 13. They were playing with the defending champions who were reduced to tears of laughter - a reaction that was understandably not well received by the fancied pair. (It took some time to rekindle their former friendship). The defending champs, after beginning their round with an eagle 3 on the 1st hole did not qualify for the match play. Oh well!

## THE CROPPER YEARS

Vic and Patricia Cropper like to do things together, whether it be filling the senior office bearers positions at Long Reef Golf Club or getting struck by lightning while playing the sport they love.

They'll both tell you that the former was much more enjoyable than the latter, but the fact is neither likes to be outdone by the other. So it came as no surprise to Patricia to see her husband elected as the Long Reef Captain in 1971, halfway through her three-year term as President of the Associate Members.

It also came as no surprise to Patricia when, after a week she was struck by lightning on Long Reef's 11th fairway in 1985, Vic was struck while playing the 4th at Manly. "I guess if we can both live through that we are pretty lucky

people," Vic said. We have a habit of doing things together as you can see from the days Pat was Associate President and I was Club Captain at Long Reef at the same time." It's not often you get a Husband and Wife as Club Captain and Associate President at the same time and at the same Golf Club.

Of course while there was nothing humorous about the freakish lightning "yarn" at the time - apart from a few headaches Patricia was fine and while Vic had to undergo eye surgery a couple of times he also emerged healthy - both are now happy enough to share a snigger or two and the reason behind Vic's misfortune. "Pat was walking up the 11th when she was struck and I remember tearing strips off her for playing on in an electrical storm when she got home", Vic said. "I couldn't believe she had been so stupid." Whether Vic felt a bit left out, or someone upstairs was getting even for Patricia, it was no more than 7 days later when the Veteran Manly Daily golfing columnist watched in horror as his umbrella was reduced to nothing more than a pile of ashes on Manly's 4th fairway during another electrical storm. "I couldn't believe it when I saw my umbrella disintegrating in my hand", Vic said.

Then came the truly dangerous part of the day, coming home to explain to Patricia that he had not exactly practised what he had preached the week before. Pat greeted the news with a certain amount of worry but "I didn't say anything to Vic about playing on in the storm simply because I didn't have to". "He said it all to me the week before and I just gave him a

look and left it at that. I knew I didn't have to say anything when it happened to him", Patricia quipped.

Having a couple hit by lightning within a week of each other was such a freak occurrence that Sydney Golfing Journalist Terry Smith - now working for the Daily Telegraph Mirror - included the story and a caricature of Vic losing his umbrella in a book of his.

Vic was the first of the Croppers to join Long Reef Golf Club, becoming a member in 1954 following several years of casual weekend rounds when he would travel to the peninsula from his Western Suburbs home. When Pat joined in 1960, the couple took little time to become entrenched in the hierarchy of the club. Pat was there just three years before taking up her first official post on the club committee and later became Associate Captain in 1966 for three years and Associate President in 1969 for another three years. Vic was Club Captain from 1970 to 1975.

But while traffic conditions between their Clontarf home and Collaroy Basin put an end to Vic's post-golf fun (a couple of beers in the club) forcing him to accept an offer of immediate membership at Manly in 1975, his wife carried on her time further up the peninsula. Patricia's dedication to the cause and longevity of membership earned her the ultimate accolade in 1994 when she was awarded one of only four Associate Life Memberships. "That certainly is the highlight of my time at Long Reef," Patricia said. It was a wonderful honour and people will tell you I am not often speechless,

I didn't know what to say when I heard the news of my Life Membership.

Pat is only too familiar with how Long Reef has changed over the years - going from a small club where everyone knew each other to one of the peninsula's largest and finest. In the early days the club was a lot more personal because there were nowhere near the number of members there are today. "I remember when I knew the names of every Associate member, whereas now there are just too many to be able to do that."

Players like Greg Norman have sent the sport through the roof and memberships have really grown, especially over the past five years or so. But there has always been a great atmosphere at Long Reef and the course is a good test for golfers. "I've been there a long time and the Club just has an atmosphere of its own. It has a different type of people to other clubs and where else can you play a round of golf, go for a swim at the basin and then go into the clubhouse for a nice lunch? It's really quite unique." Patricia said she was thrilled with the direction of the club and the changes made to the course over the years. "I am really happy with the way the club has gone, I miss the old days but they were never going to last forever". As for Pat's committee sitting days? "I think I'll just concentrate on my golf now and leave that part of it to others".

Philip Moss

## THE COURSE RECORD

When Peter Withers tapped in for a 67 and secured the Long Reef course record there was no jump for joy, scream of delight or backslap from admiring partners. He did not even realise his tremendous feat himself.

The four marker had cruised around the layout in four under the card in the October 1995 monthly medal and never entertained the thought of his name joining the most sought after honour board on the clubhouse wall. It wasn't until he had settled into a drink at the clubhouse that it was confirmed that his 67 would stand as the new course record.

Checks were made to make sure the tee markers were all placed far enough back and to his astonishment he was the new "King of Long Reef". Not a bad effort for a man who had shot 84-85 the week before in qualifying for the Club Championship. In fact Peter says he was in the middle of a very lean spell when he claimed the course record. "I wasn't playing well at all" he recalled. "Everything just seemed to fall into place and I didn't even know I had broken the course record until someone told me in the clubhouse a few hours later. "Breaking the course record was the furthest thing from my mind, I was trying to win the Monthly Medal".

Remembering back over his record breaking round Peter says he hit the ball "perfectly" but lamented over two putts which lipped out. "I hit the ball really well and hit 14 greens," he said. "I actually think it could have been a little better because I lipped out twice".

"Although I shouldn't really say it could have been better because it was a perfect round of golf. Hitting off at the 11th hole Peter started with a Birdie and followed that with further Birdies at the tough Par 4 14th, the 18th and then the tricky Par 4 3rd.

The bogey free round was made even better by the fact that a North East wind was blowing, exposing the course to the perils every member is accustomed to when the wind shows its teeth. What preparation was put into shooting such a round?

"I hadn't been playing much at all" Peter said with a laugh. "I've got two kids and it makes it hard to get time to play golf, I suppose I was playing about once every three weeks so it was a complete surprise when I started hitting the ball so well".

Peter's feats may have come as a shock to him but the name Withers is no stranger to the honour boards on the clubhouse wall.

His father Bruce, started playing at Long Reef in the early 1950's and took out many titles including the Club Championship three times. "Dad was actually one of the first people I rang with the news" Peter said. "He was a member here for a long time and his name is written all over the walls". "He won virtually everything there is to win at Long Reef but he has never broken the course record." "He's living in Brisbane now so I doubt that he will ever beat my score around Long Reef." Quite a fair statement considering Withers Senior is, ironically, 67 years old, the same magic number that has etched Withers Junior into Long Reef Golf Club history.

## THE BIRDS OF LONG REEF

I was interested in seeing a display at the Warringah Library recently, showing old photographs and a written report dated 1912 by a Mr Bill McLean of Manly, of his walk around Dee Why Lagoon and across Long Reef. This was before it was a Golf Course, and his account of the many birds he saw on Long Reef in particular, I thought may be of interest to our club members. He wrote

"It is only a matter of weeks now when the Narrabeen tram will be running, and Dee Why will be made more accessible to campers and picnickers, with the inevitable result that birds will become as scarce as they are on the lagoons close to Manly.

Leaving Dee Why Lagoon, and walking across the sand hills to Long Reef headland, I passed dozens of Ground Larks foraging amongst the grass. Between the cliffs and the road there is a swamp. Its grassy surroundings and reed and rush lined margins, should in the Springtime be the haunt and breeding ground of the Reed and Grass Warblers. In the Honeysuckle trees surrounding the swamp hundreds of honey eaters, the New Holland, Yellow tufted, white eared and others including the Spinebill, Tawny Crowned chattering and squabbling.

All the birds were remarkably tame, owing no doubt, to the fact they are not molested except at weekends, when campers generally include a rifle or gun in their equipment, and blaze away at them."

An extract from the letter published in the "Sydney Mail" July 3rd, 1912.

## LONG REEF RE-VISITED AFTER 83 YEARS

I took a walk around Long Reef on July 3rd 1995, to compare the bird life seen by Mr Bill McLean 83 years ago. The more common varieties of birds are now present, such as Sparrows, Magpies, Mynahs, Pelicans and Ravens (Crows). On the grassy sand hills along the third and seventieth fairways, Yes! The Ground Larks sighted there 83 years ago in their dozens still exist. The Brown Songlark and Richard's Pipit are still there in small numbers.

Spotted Turtle Doves, Willie Wagtails and the colourful Variegated Fairy Wrens were plentiful at the 3rd hole teeing area. Behind the second green, in the Hedge and Banksia trees of what little remains of the "Coastal Bushland Area", Honey Eaters, New Holland and Red Wattle birds could be seen. A Whipbird and Lorikeets could be heard in the trees together with a colony of Starlings.

Along the 16th fairway adjacent to the cliff riding the air ways, was a Kestrel. Welcome Swallows were following golfers around the course and two Magpies nesting in the bush behind the 9th green, would rocket across the course to chase away any intruding bird.

The ponds installed by the golf club a few years ago, had attracted two Pacific Black Ducks and a Crow was hovering around looking for any unsuspecting

golfers using yellow balls. Back on the practice fairway were two noisy Plovers.

There are a great variety of birds to be seen on Long Reef, and especially on the rock platform below the cliffs, the wading birds. Because of the abundance of marine life, several kinds of migratory species, use the Reef's nearby beaches as a home base during Spring and Summer. They migrate each year from Australia to China and Arctic areas. Long Reef is so special, this is why it is now a protected marine reserve. It is recommended to visiting "Bird Observers" as Sydney's top observation spot.

Peter Miller - Member  
Long Reef Golf Club and  
NSW Field Ornithologists Club.

NOTE; List of birds recorded 1912 on Long Reef grass lands area,

Ground Lark (Singing Bushlark)  
\*

Reed Warbler  
Grass Warbler (Brown Songlark)  
\*

New Holland Honeyeater  
\*

Yellow Turfed Honeyeater  
\*

White-eared Honeyeater  
Spinebill (Eastern)  
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater

\* Still seen today on Long Reef Golf Course

## WEDDINGS

The first Wedding Reception at Long Reef Golf Club was held on the 2nd October 1946 for well known Collaroy couple, Dennis

and Molly Garland. They live in Pittwater Road overlooking the Golf Course. Dennis's father, Graham (Gum) Garland was a member and one time Honourable Solicitor of the Golf Club and he was able to arrange the reception with the aid V.K (Bill) Lloyd whose daughter Patricia had the second reception. Molly remembers the catering costing six shillings a head. They had 150 guests and Dennis had some difficulty in getting adequate liquid refreshments.

Dennis and his two younger brothers grew up in Collaroy and Dennis still walks around Long Reef every day - unless he is out sailing. Molly is well known for her paintings and in fact one of her paintings hangs in the dining section of the club.

When the Dining Room is functioning they like to dine there with their friends and have celebrated quite a few Wedding Anniversaries that way and hope to do so for their 50th Wedding Anniversary this year.

Judy Murphy  
(Den and Molly are my Brother and Sister in law)

## MISSILES

It was week one of the Iraqi War. Our group stood on the old 14th tee and I hit off. The day was a typical summer Saturday with the temperature around 28 degrees and the guy driving the yellow VW Kombi was at peace with the world letting his vehicle roll down the hill as he looked North over Collaroy's lovely beach he suddenly realised he was heading for the gutter and

turned back to the correct side of the road.

From the time I made contact with my ball, it was never going to miss him. It sailed safely over the fence and at that moment he straightened the car, the north east breeze turned the ball straight back on line through the windscreen shattering it into a million pieces and hit him on the chest with a mighty bang.

The people in the Surf rescue Shed came out to see what had caused the explosion. They informed the driver that they had a fully equipped medical room to attend to him. He queried why he needed it, only to be told he had about 85 cuts all over his face, chest and arms. He didn't even give me back my ball.

A slightly inebriated Long Reef past member came out of the Phone box at Goulbourn Golf Club, complaining bitterly that he could not make contact with Manly cabs to get him back to his Goulburn Motel. Memory loss is common on these weekends.

Signed  
SCUD

## THE ASSOCIATES

One of the highlights of the year has always been the Associates Annual Dinner with its concert. It was Dorothy Leonard who originally suggested that the Women members should have an annual dinner. It takes place in early December and there is an end of season holiday feeling about it. Members of the cast of the Concert rehearse enthusiastically and make costumes during the

preceding weeks and hope that "it will be all right on the night". There have been some wonderful performances over the years and everyone will have her own favourite memories, but for those of you who were in the club during the 1970's and 80's, who can forget Rose Craighead as Marlene Deitrich, Val Freeman singing Nobody loves a Fairy When She's Forty and Mel Parnell as a belly dancer. Mel and Joyce Machar made a wonderful pair of weightlifters in the Commonwealth Games Concert of 1982. In more recent years our 1992 Olympic Bobsled team gave us something to remember, and Bernie Anderssen and Kath Hughes put Jose Carreras and Sarah Brightman to shame with their rendition of Friends For Life. Our younger members are joining in with gusto now, and Tess Wiseman as Cher will be remembered for a long time. With any luck, there will always be a few people willing to make fools of themselves in front of their friends.

Among the memorable characters we have known was Joan Trevitt who was one of the earliest women members of the Club. Joan played golf until her heart condition made it impossible, but she continued her association with the Club as a member of the Bridge Club where she was a keen competitor. She was always very careful of her appearance and regarded her age as unimportant. One of her contemporaries was heard to say on occasion that she "Knew for a fact" that Joan had been 69 for the past seven years. Once, on a Birthday, she was asked just how old she was. (By this time it was generally thought that she was well into her eighties). "Darling", she

said "I've lied about it for so many years that I've forgotten."

Another of the club's characters was Trudy Bardsley, the widow of Warren Bardsley, opening Batsman for Australia in the 20's and 30's. Trudy was a member of the club for many years, until her declining health made it impossible for her to visit the club. Trudy, also, was a keen card player. She did not like being held up on the golf course, and was suspected by some of wanting to hurry and get into the clubhouse to play cards.

L Gollan

### THE SHOTS WE DIDN'T WANT TO PLAY

He stood on the 14th tee when it was a par 5. The plan was to fade the ball around the light pole and onto the hard ground to gain more distance. Bang, the ball met the light and when he arrived there, was still running around inside the holder.

He stood on the 11th tee, drove the ball, it hit the ladies concrete marker, flew back and landed in the bunker beside the 18th green. Next shot brought him back to the 11th tee.

The 1st tee, Monthly Medal, was set right back near the hedge. The driven ball hit the bucket stand and was last seen disappearing into the car park. Those putting on the green were all bent over and comments being made that no one called FORE.

### HELEN AND THE GLIDER

Helen was putting out on the 12th green. She was bending over to hit her ball. Next moment a toy glider hit her on the elbow. Her husband rushed over, picked up the plane and threw it off the green. It did not break so his putter was used to finish the job.

The glider then became four pieces of match ply just as the owner arrived around the bushes. In the meantime Carl was attending to Helen who now had a bump as big as a Golf ball on her upper arm. Discussions followed, names were taken and the glider removed.

Helen said she couldn't play but was told to exercise her arm by continuing on.

In front of the owners of the plane she stood up and crashed a long straight drive down the 13th. Beautiful shot.

Worse was to come when she hit off the 15th under the eyes of the angry owner of the glider. She laid her ball about 300mm from the flag.

Carl Gunther

### THE SCENE: A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN MAY

The ladies had just walked off the 7th green. A horsewoman had just dismounted and the horse was cropping some of the lush grass above the green. A group of boys were climbing up the northern bank. A face appeared under the horse's head. The horse bolted across the 7th tee, down the 16th fairway, across the green, leapt the

drain on the 17th fairway, then the green up the 3rd tee, last seen bolting down Pittwater Road.

All this bolting was accompanied by Associates yelling out, telling the horse not to run on the greens.

Golf wouldn't be Golf without SLOW PLAY getting a mention. A leading example was Peter Newman, Club Champion in 1987. Perhaps we should be kind and say he was also Club Champion in the not so fast set - certainly he was most deliberate.

One day, standing over his drive on the 17th tee, Peter went through his routine - a picture of still life comes to mind - and eventually unwound with a beautiful blow, right down the middle, his usual good one.

One of his fellow competitors was moved to say "Peter, what do you think about when you are addressing the ball?". Quick as a flash Peter came back "I'm a naturally slow thinker".

### 75 YEARS

Many Golfers have read about how the game has changed. Many have not and there are those who are in the midst of finding the "secret". It is the last group who should perhaps look to the past.

When Long Reef was first constituted as a Club it was organised by those in the area who wanted more than a whack around the paddock against a mate.

I can visualise the first meetings and can imagine the same conflicts of interests that exist today. The

area available only allowed for nine holes on the high side, later on, with months of voluntary labour and very basic horse and cart and lorry equipment, the second nine holes was brought into play. The Wetlands that were reclaimed for the second nine are in the same area that we are now going to restore for our watering system. The clubhouse was a small building that can be seen in the old photographs.

The game was played mostly in two's. Match play was arranged the previous week by challenges in the bar. This led to intense rivalry and the more skilled were always the most sought after opponents. The medal rounds were arranged so as to reward the more consistent players.

The clubs used were named, not numbered - Driver, Brassic, Driving Iron, Check, Mis Iron, Mashie, Niblick and of course the slightly lofted Putter. The shafts were hickory and without warp. It is worthwhile to find and examine an old set. Most players carried a basic set of Driver or Brassie, Check, Mid Iron, Mashie, Niblick and another Chipping club which was individually fashioned. The clubs were carried. The game was played very quickly - under three hours, with many matches over 36 holes. Ties were worn as were jackets and plus fours and plus twos in the winter.

I was privileged to have played with quite a few of the original members and it was inspiring to watch the way in which they used their own individual methods. The most skilled could invent shots that are lost to the game today. Bob Ruckley was perhaps the last of

the old skilled match players. He used a 7 Iron in so many different ways. The ball was played from different stances according to which flight he wanted, from a low pitch and run to an open faced magical shot out of a bunker. He was resurrected into the grade team when in his sixties in order to play his hundredth game for Long Reef. Against a strong player with full equipment he went to the 17th before being beaten.

Sand boxes were on every tee, divided into two, one with sand and one with water. A pinch of sand, dipped in the water was skilfully mounded and the ball placed on it.

Before the Fairways became well grassed the ball inevitably came to rest in cuppy lies. The way in which the skilled players could belt the ball into the air was perhaps the reason they could be so very inventive when playing in the wind and weather.

Long Reef has always appealed to me as a club where the game is played by those who enjoy the challenge of wind and weather. When officiating at a grade game at another club I said that you could tell the Long Reef players. They look as though they have just come over the Himalayas.

Tom Hollingsworth was one character who smoked cigars which he placed next to his ball so as to gauge the direction of the wind. He carried a flask of whiskey which he would share with you but only if he was beating you.

Tom Morton came each Saturday very early. He showered in order

to free up his muscles, went out onto the oval, hit 5 (not 4 or 6) practice balls, and waited on the first tee to be joined by Col Brown. They played the course in about two and a half hours. Afterwards, in the clubhouse, Tom would go through the ritual of having two "Dewars and Water". His car would leave the Car Park at exactly the same time every Saturday.

75 years is not long when measured against the 400 that the game has been played. Long Reef, more than most clubs, has been able to preserve a wonderful piece of golfing country that would otherwise have been destroyed. It must resemble those wonderfully natural courses in the U.K.

The people whose names appear on the honour boards would be happy with what we have done. The pressures of population, the need for more and more money to keep up with the standards required, has meant very careful administration. The improvements have not damaged our headland more than was necessary.

When the wetlands are restored for our water supply, we will be closer perhaps to that which those original members saw 75 years ago.

There are those of us who are fortunate enough to be playing more and more shots per round and enjoying it more. It does not mean that we are not going to come out one day and find that "secret". Perhaps if I went out and hit 6 or 7 practice balls ??

John Hall



YOU'RE RIGHT... WE ARE  
GOING TO HAVE TO DO  
SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THE  
BLOODY RABBITS....

LONG REEF  
GOLF CLUB

GO ON!!  
WHACK IT  
MURDER!!

GIVE US A  
BITE OF YH  
CLARET

HA HA  
HA HA  
HA HA

MEURDM

