

The Ian Morris Memorial Golf Day 2016

by Rex Wild QC

This event was played this year on Friday 12 August 2016, again at RAAF Darwin Golf Club, where we are always made welcome. The conditions were ideal, with a beautiful Darwin August afternoon.

In recent years' reports, some history of the event has introduced the narrative.

The day has its origins in the Northern Territory Bar Association Quixotic Challenge, which according to the blurb on the big (really big!) trophy, was first competed for on 2 June 2000 at Darwin Golf Club. It was described as a 9 hole Ambrose teams event. Ian Morris was, of course, the driving force behind the introduction of the event and its annual repeat thereafter.

The trophy bears a badge that it was renamed 'The Ian Morris Memorial Golf Day' in 2009. Traditionally the trophy has gone to the team with the best nett score on the day. That is, the gross score, less the total of the roll of the big, fat dices.

A further trophy was added in 2007 which is not as large, but much prized by the serious golfer; those who think they can hit it around a bit! This is the Northern Territory Law Society (the Society) trophy for the best gross score. It also bears a badge that signifies it is to be competed for as part of The Ian Morris Memorial Golf day. Both trophies have been won by assorted legal luminaries and their pals over the years.

This year both trophies were on display during the afternoon and were notionally presented to the victors over drinks at the end of the day. This was due mainly to Marie's careful handling of the trophies during the last twelve months. They will now be inscribed and handed to the winners for safe (?) custody.

This year fifty-six players from fourteen teams assembled

at the club, ready to battle the course, their opponents and their inner demons.

Morrie's memory was suitably honoured. As your correspondent has noted in previous reports, there is a seat adjacent to the 8th Tee, with a plaque which records, as we all know, Ian was a great bloke. His mate, Charlie Carter, who died in 2010 is also recorded there as a real gentleman. You will again be left to ponder the distinction thereby drawn. As usual, Jill Morris graced us with her presence, and her team of four included Marg Carter, Kay Byrne and Lyn Langley (who assisted your host to greet registrants). Bill Piper's team was named Death to the French, one of Morrie's favourite utterings!

The RAAF Darwin Golf Club was very supportive, once again, of the event, waiving the green fees. A number of law firms were represented. The Society's President and barrister Tass Liveris, a great supporter of the event, again participated (and very successfully, too!). Barristers and solicitors of different vintages and ability were sprinkled among the teams along with government lawyers who were able to treat the day as well-earned recreational leave and appropriate networking opportunities. Our event was also graced by the attendance of Justice Hiley and Master Luppino, who added a touch of class. The former was kind enough to join your correspondent's team.

As was noted last year, a surprising amount of organisation seems to be required for what, at face value, appears to be a simple exercise. Thanks are extended to the following people, in particular, who contributed to the day:

- Marie Turbill (from William Forster Chambers) who organised the organiser, ensured the event was publicised, collected our gifts, chased up registrants and did the bookkeeping and accounts. She also attended on the day, helped greet the players and escorted Bill, the head RAAF groundsman and tractor driver, on a mission



of mercy to the thirsty players out on the Course. Late in the day, she was also on BBQ duties.

- Pam Jaenke from the Society helped greet players and photographed events all afternoon (from 1 pm to 6 pm, well-beyond the call of duty). Photos can be viewed on the Society's Facebook page.
- Sandie, from the golf club, who ran the bar and assisted in ordering all the liquid refreshments and Brian for handling our booking.
- The sponsors, Marsh Insurance Brokers, Sky City and QBE. They were each very generous in their support and the provision of our prizes, cash and handouts. That support and encouragement is very much appreciated. Simon Landrigan and Glenn Skelly from Marsh also conducted a pre-competition putting competition for all the players. I am too modest to tell you who won. However, a delightful bottle of 2009 Bin 389 (the poor man's Grange) is now in my cellar! Thanks, fellers, for the very generous prize!
- Alistair Wyvill SC and Tarryn Brown, both of William Forster Chambers, who waved the BBQ wands with aplomb and ensured the players were greeted with the delicious aroma of sausages and onions as they made their weary ways home to the refreshment zone.

The accounts have been completed and an amount of \$2000 has been raised, which will be donated to Variety NT for Children's Cancer.

The trophies and winners were:

- Best nett score **Hunt & Hunt 1** (David Qin, Brad Thompson, David Woods & Stuart McPherson)
- Best gross score **The Law Society Marshians** (Simon Landrigan, Glenn Skelly, Tass Liveris and Angela Perry-Mansell)
- Longest drive Cameron Retallick & **Justice Jocks 2**
- Nearest the pin (1st shot) John Harrison & **Wilds Legals**
- NTP (2nd shot) Hugh Bradley & **Wilds Legals**
- Longest putt Austin Driscoll & **There's always the BBQ!**
- NAGA award David Alderman & **I'm on a horse** (the usual silly name for a team including Cassandra Ellis, Rachel Gleeson [at times] and Jessica Holgersson)

Thank you, of course, to all the players. It was a great day that will, no doubt, be repeated next year. Please encourage your colleagues and friends (they don't have to be lawyers) to join us then. You can assume it will be in August 2017 on an inevitably pleasant Darwin Friday afternoon.







