

The Ian Morris Memorial Golf Day 2017

Rex Wild QC

This event was played this year on Friday 18 August 2017, 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 NTBA 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 Law Society NT 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. The trophies have been inscribed and handed to the winners for safe [?] custody.

This year over fifty players from thirteen teams assembled at the club, ready to battle the course, their opponents and their inner demons.

Morie'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. Sadly for us, Jill Morris was unable to attend. Her new employer, NT Airports, held its own corporate golf function on the same day.

The club was very supportive, once again, of the event, with a generous discounting of the green fees. A number of law firms were represented. Law 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 Master Luppino, who added a touch of class to President Roper'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. Thanks also to Lizzy [from William Forster Chambers] who handled the bookkeeping and accounts. Marie also attended on the day, helped greet the players and assisted with the raffle.
- Sandy, from the Golf Club, who ran the bar and assisted in ordering all the liquid refreshments.
- The sponsors, Marsh Insurance Brokers, QBE, NT Airports and Sky City. They were each very generous in their support and the provision of our prizes, cash and handouts. Simon Landrigan of Marsh and Colin Chilcott of QBE also played on the day. That support and encouragement is very much appreciated. Simon Landrigan from Marsh also conducted a pre-competition putting competition for all the players. The Master proved to be the master putter and now has a great bottle of Shiraz to share with dinner guests. Thanks, Simon, for the very generous prize!
- Erin from Law Society NT who took photos and was certainly the most popular lady on the course by driving the green machine, complete with the eskys, around the course throughout the afternoon.
- Alistair Wyvill SC with his Junior Ben O'Loughlin, 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.
- Courtesy of Gary Turbill and Bridgestone, we also had a great golf bag for raffle on the day. This was generously supported and Bill Rogers of DOJ was the successful winner.

The accounts have been completed and an amount of \$1800 will be donated to Variety NT for Children's Cancer.

The trophies and winners were:

Best nett score: **Regal (L) Eagles** [Rob Perry, Matt Hubber, Bruce Leishman & Rex Wild]

Best gross score: **Ball Hunters (Hunt & Hunt 3)]** [Graeme Fox, Dwight Shepherd, David Annesley & Colin Chilcott]

Longest drive: Cassy Kenchington & Law Society **Marshians**

Nearest the pin [1st shot]: Wade Roper's **Sultans of Swing**

NTP [2nd shot]: Greg Shanahan & **Justice Jocks**

Longest putt: Bill Rogers & **The Jungle Cats**

NAGA award: **The Rosettes (Hunt & Hunt 1)**

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 2018 on an inevitably pleasant Darwin Friday afternoon.