

This event was played at RAAF Darwin Golf Club, where we are always made welcome. A beautiful Darwin August afternoon with ideal conditions and the course in good repair.

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 it as an annual event.

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 dice.

A further trophy was added in 2007 which is smaller but much prized by the serious golfer; those who think they can hit it around a bit! This is the Law Society Northern Territory 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. The *Justice Jocks* won both trophies in 2007 and 2008. That should not be allowed, by legal edict, in future years. To spread the honours, the team should win one or the other, not both!

Having spent time describing the trophies, it has to be confessed that neither was present on the day, let alone presented. The sleuths are out looking for them as you read this. Anyone with information leading to the location of these items will be appropriately rewarded!

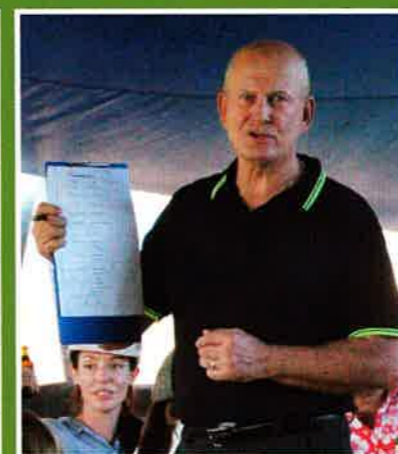
This year sixty-two players from 16 teams assembled at the Club, ready to battle the course, their opponents and their inner demons. This year's competition was contested by perhaps the biggest number since Morrie's days.

Morrie's memory was suitably honoured. 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 our corporate benefactor from Marsh, Cheryl Richardson.

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, although Law Society's President Peggy Cheong, who is a great supporter of such events, was an apology. Never mind, the Law Society was well represented by Megan Lawton and Kellie Grainger. They claim to have enjoyed the day, and are getting the hang of golf, so they say [their score will not be revealed, however]. Barristers 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 Justice Hiley and Master Luppino, who added a touch of class. In fact, the former's team was called **Higher Authority**, which was a quaint touch.

A surprising amount of organisation is 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:

- The sponsors, Marsh Insurance Brokers, Skycity 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.
- Marie Turbill [from William Forster Chambers] who organised the organiser, publicised the event, collected our *gifts*, chased up registrants and did the bookkeeping and accounts. On the day she greeted players, escorted Bill, the head RAAF grounds man and tractor driver, on a mission of mercy to the thirsty players out on the course, and late in the day was on BBQ duties.



- Suzie Simmons from the Law Society who also greeted players, photographed and attended to a myriad of duties from 1 PM to 6 PM [well beyond the call of duty].
- From the Golf Club, Sandy who ran the bar, and Brian Dienelt who accepted our booking and provided sound advice and assistance beforehand
- Mark Johnson, for organisational advice and great help on the day, with scores, counting the dice and the presentation of prizes. His adroit handling of the scoring ensured that the handicapping system worked.
- Alistair Wyvill SC and Bruce Taylor, both of WFC, 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.
- Tim Curran [himself a close friend of Morrie] and his team from Darwin Office Technology [DOT] who generously donated a TV. This was made the subject of a late afternoon Dutch Auction, and realised further funds for our chosen charity. Hunt & Hunt were the winners of the auction and did so graciously.

The accounts have not been completed, as at the time of writing, but it is confidently expected that at least \$2500 has been raised, which will be donated to Variety NT for Children's Cancer. Last year we handed over a cheque for \$1750, but our numbers [and therefore our profit] on the day were well up this year.

The trophies and winners were-

- **Best Gross Score:** *Hunt & Hunt* [Rose Mills, Greg Worden, David Woods & Ralph Sobo-Wilson]
- **Runners-up:** *Justice Jocks* [Craig Smyth, Tom McCrie, Tom Dunham & Ron White]
- **Best Nett Score:** *Regal Legals* [Mark Johnson, Rob Perry, Barry Scott & Rex Wild] (on a count-back)
- **Runners-up:** *Wags* [Bill Piper, John Stewart, Peter McQueen & Jim Drummond]
- **Longest Drive:** Ralph Sobo-Wilson & *Hunt & Hunt*
- **Nearest the Pin [1st shot]:** Bill Piper & *Wags*
- **NTP [second shot] Wags:** [unidentified sharp-shooter]
- **Longest Putt:** Rex Wild & *Regal Legals*
- **NAGA Award:** David Alderman & *I'm on a horse* [a silly name for a team including Cassandra Ellis & Elizabeth Furlonger from DeSilvas]. This team only had three members, and one experienced golfer, so it did well just to complete the nine holes before dark. It must be said, however, that even after the rolling of the dice, this team remained last. That is, **had** there been both nett and gross prizes for this category, the team would have won both!
- **Encouragement award:** This was won by the *Iron Ladies* [Lyn Wild, Sue Bradley, Carol Mansfield & Jan Riley]. With that team membership, the *raison d'être* for its award will be obvious!

Special reference must be made of the Longest Drive award. This was won by Ralph Sobo-Wilson, somewhat of a last moment ring-in for Hunt & Hunt [coming complete with a motorized cart - the only one seen on the course on the day]. For some time, the name on the card was Cheryl Richardson, a mere slip of a lass, and it seemed unfair that Ralph wasn't penalized a 100 metres or so. He was no slip of a lad!

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 2015 on an inevitably pleasant Darwin Friday afternoon. ●

Rex Wild