

Hole in One!

The only hole in one in the history of The Virginia Trophy was in 1978 when Jimmy Davidson, now sadly recently deceased, aced the 8th hole at Craigie Hill!

Jimmy was seen to be sweating at the prospect of buying 100 whiskies and was relieved when the "Hill" captain, Ian Davidson, assured him that the club would meet the cost!

The first match was played 43 years ago when I was aged 39 years!

Many of the players who played in it no longer play golf and the players (on both sides) who have played in recent matches have little or no knowledge of what "The Virginia Trophy" is all about or its beginnings.

So with Craigie Hill's Captain's and Vice Captain's support I decided to put on paper the story of "The Virginia Trophy's" beginnings.

I did this in the hope that knowing the story of the trophy might re-instil the interest and enthusiasm in both clubs for the annual battle between Perth's two premier clubs.

Ron Clark December 2015



59 Garden Drive
Alexandria
Virginia

Hi Dave Clark,

Would you please do
me a favour? I know you will.
When you get a few moments
opportunity hand around these
cigars from me to the over
60, (over parties) at the Club,
I hope they all enjoy the
smokes, also find enclosed
the snaps I promised to send
you, also please give the
others to the people in the
photos.

Hope you are all well &
with good health, always
hope to see you just wish
in reply.

Once again I thank you.
Yours sincerely
John V.S.

The Origin of the Virginia Trophy

It all began early in 1972, when the steward at Craigie Hill phoned me to say that two Americans had arrived at the clubhouse carrying a large trophy.

It was during the 2nd year of my captaincy of the "Hill", so I met them at the clubhouse. They introduced themselves as John Roy and Henry Vogt from Virginia USA.

Actually John Roy had been born and brought up in Perth and then emigrated to America.

Henry Vogt was American; a lean, 6ft tall Virginian.

John Roy, when he was young in Perth, was friendly with Jack Mathew, who was a member of King James VI Golf Club and later became captain of the club.

He was also friendly with Bill McManus, a policeman who later became an inspector and was a member at Craigie Hill. The two Virginians worked for an American Airway and wanted to present their trophy for competition between the two Perth Golf Clubs.

The visitors stayed for a week in Perth and came up to the clubhouse every evening where the details of the prospective match were worked out over several whiskies!

The match was to be played annually on a home and away basis. We were going to try and get 50 members on each side. For the first game the lists were oversubscribed in the first week!

Because the two donors of the trophy came from Virginia it was decided to call the trophy "The Virginia Trophy"

The first competition for the trophy took place in the first week of May 1972, when an enthusiastic team of "Hill" players matched up to an equally enthusiastic King James VI team of the same number.

It was a day of glorious sunshine and turned out to be a hard fought tussle.

John Roy flew back from USA for this game and enjoyed himself while walking round the course speaking to the players of both teams.

In the first game between Fred Semple (King James Captain) and myself, plus our partners things were very close and I depended on my partner, Jimmy Rennie, to hole a few enormous putts to win by 2 and 1.

During the meal in the clubhouse, the score kept filtering in, and ranged from 4-1 to the "Hill" early on to 5 all later, before the "home" tail enders clinched it at 8 games to 5!