

## Golf Tournaments

In 1980 Past Patron David Walker was the Club Captain of Concord Golf Club, the venue of the 1980 NSW Open PGA Tournament.

The promoters, Tuohy Allen & Associates required approximately 8 people a day to assist with Clubhouse Security for which David suggested the Briars.

From the small contribution in 1980, The Briars provided manning for the next 22 years with at least one and sometimes two tournaments each year. All told we were providing usually 60 but up to 110 people a day covering parking, bus driving, leader boards, gate collections, carry boards, Press Centre, driving range, on course radio scoring, Club security and some marshalling.

In those initial couple of years, Bob Bishop, Greg McPhee, Ken Gray, & Ian Richard coordinated the manning until Bill Hooker and John Threlfo took the helm with assistance from George Wright and Ian Richard mustering the older members.

Tournaments included the NSW Open, Australian Open, Australian PGA, Australian Women's Open Championship and the Greg Norman Holden International. Courses included Concord, Royal Sydney, The Australian, The Lakes, Ryde-Parramatta and Manly.

The practice driving range was a week-long commitment for which we required a ball retriever. Long term member Olaf Osterman, an engineer by trade, built and donated a wonderful machine which became affectionately known as "Ollies Trolley".

Apart from the approximate \$220,000 earned from manning these tournaments, they became the catalyst whereby all sports and the older members mixed with each other and appreciated the "Briars Family". At the conclusion of each day was the traditional Briars BBQ whereby all members mixed and socialised over food and drink. The golf helped bind the various sports into a total club of friends.

The Golf tournaments became a wonderful contributor to the Club's finances and to the camaraderie.

*Written by Bill Hooker*